Women’s networks and initiatives in the Livestock sector

Nitya Ghotge
For the Gender Working Group IYRP and GASL
2010 : The Global gathering of Women Pastoralists

• In November 2010, over 100 people from 32 countries gathered in Mera, a village in India, for the first Global Gathering of Women Pastoralists.

• The goal of the gathering was to enable women pastoralists to participate equitably in decision-making within their communities, governments and other local, national, regional and international fora, whilst also raising awareness of the specific challenges faced by women pastoralists in quickly changing social, economic and ecological environments.

• At the end of the week in Mera, the participants agreed on the Mera Declaration (https://landportal.org/node/8047), which articulated their combined vision.
The Mera Declaration

• The women pledged to continue to live in a way that is environmentally sustainable and protects biodiversity and common resources for generations to come.

• They committed to continue to network and share best practices and lessons learnt so as to build capacity amongst themselves and within the global community.

• As women, they said that their voices were yet to be fully heard but they had unique and valuable contributions to make to their own communities and to the global community.

• The women agreed to work together with men to build strong equitable pastoralist societies, contributing to greater social equality within their families, their communities, their countries and around the world.
IYRP 2026
International year of rangelands and Pastoralists

Has several working groups of which the Gender Working Group is one.

The GWG works closely with women’s social movements, in Spain, Argentina, India and Mongolia.

Has members from several countries and disciplines, scientists, film makers, researchers, development practitioners, pastoralists
Key message of the Gender Working Group of IYRP

The future of pastoralism depends on:

• A deeper understanding of gender in pastoralism

• Equitable and inalienable rights to access and use of land, natural resources, biodiversity, knowledge and information

• Enhanced and equitable participation of women in research, policymaking and governance related to pastoralism and rangelands
2026 has also been declared the International year of the woman farmer

• The IYRP group is reaching out to groups of women farmers to see how we can collaborate and take these initiatives ahead.

• We believe it is important that the vision and voices of women pastoralists and small farmers are included in the process of exploring new options for sustainable resource use, governance and management.
GASL gender group: The Multi Stakeholder approach

- Works with GASL clusters, seeing how a multi-stakeholder approach can help address issues of gender.
- Works with Action networks, seeing how their work can look at gender concerns more closely.
- Supports the publishing of papers, organizes webinars, networks with other groups and partners to bring focus on gender aspects.

Some resources

https://www.heifer.org/about-us/media-center/resources.html
https://sebi-livestock.org/
https://livestockdata.org/
Thank you

Create an enabling environment for women to surmount existing barriers and find different ways to address their challenges.