



## Regional IYRP Support Group (RISG) South Asia

Afghanistan • Bangladesh • Bhutan • India  
Nepal • Maldives • Pakistan • Sri Lanka

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Dated:\_10.May.2021\_

### Minutes of Meeting of RISG\_SA held on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 [MoM-5]

#### Participants

Dr M Homayoun Ludin	Dr Shah I Mobin Jinnah	Dr Kamal Kishore
Natasha Maru	Aastha Maggu	Dr Manoj Mishra
Aayushi Malhotra	Dr. Nitya Ghotge	Sajal S Kulkarni
Rashmi Singh	Rituja Mitra	P Vivekanandan
Dr. Sadana	Aakriti Srivastava	Mahesh, Shepherd of Himalayas
Dr. Aneet Kour	Anshul Ojha	Aman Singh
Dr. Arjava Sharma	Dr. Arun M Dixit	Ramesh Bhatti
Dr. Dada R Dadas	Dr. Balaram Sahu	Tatsama Motilal
Prof Dr Talat N Pasha	Dr Varinder Raina	

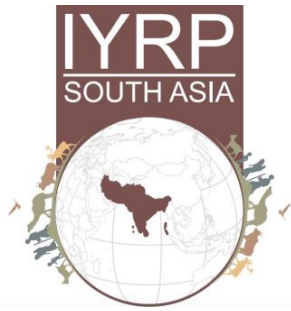
Tatsama Motilal welcomed the participants, revised the pointers from the previous RISG-SA meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. P. Vivekanandan shared the status on follow-up with the government agencies for the Letter of Support from countries not yet submitted for IYRP 2026. Dr. Pasha promised to follow-up and update on the status soon. Dr. Jinnah updated that he has submitted proposals to the Bangladesh Minister of Food and other ministries and secretaries. Ministries of Government of Bangladesh have received the letters but support letters have been delayed due to the Eid holidays. The letter of support would most probably be received in a month. Dr. Jinnah also updated how government initiatives have already incorporated certain measures on livestock farming in rural areas and how success stories pertaining to livestock are being aired on several TV channels, giving more outreach to the causes already being promoted by IYRP. Network members from Nepal were unable to make any progress despite a new letter having been resent from Government of Mongolia, addressed to the new Minister of Agriculture and Livestock.

Dr. Sadana introduced the new members of the group in the core team - Sajal Kulkarni has agreed to lead the sub-theme on Rangelands.

Tatsama Motilal and Dr. Aneet Kour have agreed to join as communication team members. Dr. Dada Dadas has joined Centre for Pastoralism (CfP) as a researcher and would support us on R&P issues for IYRP. P. Vivekanandan and Sadana shared specifics of the Breed Saviour Awards, initiated by SEVA in 2009 with support from National Biodiversity Authority. They have been giving awards to livestock breed keepers in India over the last 10 years. The Awards were extended to neighbouring Pakistan in 2013 when a Sahiwal cattle breeder in Punjab, Pakistan, was chosen for the Awards. SEVA has decided to expand the outreach of

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the awards to all the SA Nations this year with funding support from CfP, a total of 15 Awards or less (INR 10,000/- each awardee), can now be given to at least two members from each country. Additional awards are also possible, subject to sponsorship including ILRI support. The Award has two categories – (a) conservation of local breeds and (b) restoration of pasture land system by communities / individuals.

Tatsama Motilal shared updates on the activities and focus areas of the RISG-SA communications team including its collaboration with the IYRP International Support Group. Tatsama also shared the Contact Sheet prepared for RISG-SA and promised to send out a form to all the members requesting them to enter in their details and propose one name from their organization or group that the Comms Team can collaborate with for the collection of info. and promotional materials.

Sadana individually welcomed all the member participants of the meeting. He shared the WordCloud that is in the making for collecting the regional and colloquial terms synonymous to rangelands and pastoralists for the SA region and showed the form that has been floated for collecting such information from the group. He updated that he has already received 19 responses with as many as 59 unique names for rangelands and 33 names for pastoralists, and expressed gratitude to respondents for valuable contributions.

Natasha Maru presented the themes and taglines that have been decided upon for the global IYRP campaign and requested the team to give their inputs for a more regional adaptation of the themes wherever required. Natasha also shared the Calendar List of Events that can be used for running IYRP-related campaigns and driving regional and international dialogues. Local and regional actors can also envision organizing events based on this calendar. Dr. Pasha agreed to update the group on the details of launch of UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration on World Environment Day (5<sup>th</sup> June, '21) whereby Pakistan is the global host country.

Each member shared their thoughts and ideas during the Open Floor segment. Nitya Ghotge invited the group to contribute to and attend the Food Systems Dialogue on May 26, 2021 – this event would also cover the pastoral food systems of the region. Aman Singh called for increased contribution and volunteerism to customise the themes and taglines shared by Natasha to the regional context. Dr. Aneet Kour explained the research she has been conducting and plans to analyse published literature on pastoralism from different South Asian countries based on keyword searches on the Web of Science platform. She is studying how certain topics are gaining momentum in academia and plans to eventually also figure out ways to use this information to increase visibility on the IYRP website. Dr. Ludin promised to update the Contact Form and update and make aware the delegation of Afghanistan on the upcoming events and engage in advocacy for the contemporary issues related to pastoralism. Sajal Kulkarni vouched for more community participation in these meetings despite language barriers. Dr Kamal Kishore and Dr Varinder discussed the GI Tags and

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planned a study on typical livestock products made by pastoralists. Dr. Jinnah proposed that RISG-SA negotiates with SAARC mechanism for solidarity and information dissemination. He also proposed that more engagement should be with Rural Development Ministries as pastoralism is still very much rural-centered in SA. Dr. Manoj Mishra called for a more focused group discussion on the Breed Saviour Awards. Ramesh Bhatti encouraged the group to share how pastoralists are managing or coping up with the COVID-crisis amidst the lockdowns. Dr. Varinder Raina pointed how despite claims of no specific policies in place focusing on pastoralism, several projects from the North East, especially in Arunachal Pradesh, have been approved by the government for addressing the concerns of pastoralism. The project is developing huts for yak herders along their migration routes He also suggested adding a tagline for promotion of the value addition and marketing being done by pastoralists across the country – with gradual integration of traditional pastoralism-based livelihoods with the modern economy. He exemplified the good work on *khoya* production being done by pastoralists in Kashmir and the Leh and Ladakh region. Dr. Dada Dadas expressed gratitude for being associated with a group like this for updates on the various initiatives being undertaken in the sphere of pastoralism. Anshul Ojha suggested more campaigns and knowledge-share webinars be held for increased outreach. Mahesh from Shepherd of Himalayas pointed how the taglines and themes have missed out on the status of women in pastoralist societies; given that in the Indian perspective, women enjoy equal share of status with the men. He also suggested more coverage be given to the societal dynamics among the various pastoralist communities in India. Aakriti Srivastava promised to contribute to the key messages and taglines of the IYRP campaigns. Dr. Kamal requested Dr. Raina to update the group on the various pastoralist food products that are being envisioned for promotion by the government and on the Food Systems Dialogue event. Mr. Vivekanandan suggested the Comms Team prepare a document of the traditional food recipes for outreach to UN on World Food Summit. He proposed action points for the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration be initiated on 5 June 2021 (World Environment Day). Dr. Arun M. Dixit gave his word for more deep engagement in the upcoming meetings. Tatsama Motilal expressed thanks to all the participants and closed the meeting.

Significant parallel discussions were also held in the chat section of the meeting. Rashmi Singh, Sajal Kulkarni, Tatsama Motilal, Aman Singh and Kamal Kishore provided inputs on the overlapping of wildlife and livestock dynamics. Natasha Maru informed all to check how international campaign members - Kathrine I. Johnsen, Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Abdelkader Bensad and Ann Waters-Bayer – have conducted a study of such a literature at the global level. The knowledge gaps can be found on [www.grida.no/publications/428](http://www.grida.no/publications/428).

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