



Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS)

(Society for Rural Development)

- Special Consultative Status in the UN ECOSOC
- Observer Status with UNCTAD
- Accredited with UNEP
- Accredited with UNCCD

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The Honourable Mendsaikhan Zagdjav
The Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia
Ulaanbaatar MONGOLIA
ariunbayar@mofa.gov.mn

Subject: Designation of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)

Your Excellency,

Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS), Jaipur, India presents its sincere greetings to you. We are glad to learn that the resolution proposal submitted by Government of Mongolia with other supporting countries in support of the designation of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) is included in the agenda of the 27th session of Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in September-October 2020.

In the Indian context there is a common view that the pastoralist communities should turn to technology to protect their traditions and land rights, as they come under growing pressure from the effects of climate change and conflicts over land. There are an estimated 35 million pastoralists in India and most belong to indigenous communities.

Pastoralists are an integral part of India's history, receiving royal patronage and welcomed by farmers because their herds of sheep and cattle would fertilize their land. But with the rise in the use of chemical fertilizers from 1960s onwards, their importance diminished and they have been accused of encroaching land for farming.

Herders around India are coming under pressure from governments and farmers to settle down and stop their livestock roaming, even as they contend with climate change impacts that bring harsher droughts and other extreme weather.

We firmly believe that the designation of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists would provide an opportunity to raise the profile and support for rangelands and pastoral issues globally and nationally, improve understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by rangelands and pastoralists, and direct increased attention and resources to them.

Thus with this opportunity we would like express our commitment to continue our work and allocate funds for conserving pastoralism and rangelands before and during the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Yours sincerely,

Bhawani Shanker Kusum
President

