



GRAM BHARATI SAMITI (GBS)
(Society for Rural Development)

- Accredited under the United Nations INCDC Process
- Special Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC
- Delegate, Programme Coordinating Board UNAIDS

Amber Bhawan
Amber-302028
Jaipur - India
Tel. : 91-141-2531268
Fax : 91-141-2530719
e-mail : gbsbsk@sancharnet.in
website : www.gbsjaipur.org

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Secretariat of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) of the
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

Dear Madams/Sirs,

Subject: Support to the request from the Government of the Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS), Jaipur, India presents its sincere greetings to you and your esteemed office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS) has the honour of writing in support of the request of the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

We 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.

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.

With this in mind, please accept our support for the request of the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Yours sincerely,

Bhawani Shanker Kusum
President