

sahjeevan

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

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

Dear Madams/Sirs,

Sahjeevan- a NGO based at Kachchh-Gujarat State (India) presents its sincere greetings to you and your esteemed office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Sahjeevan along with Yolda Initiative, 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.

There are an estimated 34 million pastoralists in the country, spread principally across the Himalayas, Western India (Rajasthan and Gujarat) and the Deccan Plateau. These communities herd the bulk of India's 34 million sheep, perhaps half of its 135 million goats; its entire camel population and some part of its 190 million cattle. Of particular note is that Indian pastoralists have bred large numbers of India's indigenous breeds, including all indigenous cattle found in Indian dairies (Gir, Sahiwal, Tharparkar, Rathi, the Banni buffalo). At both a micro and a macro level, pastoralist contribution to food security in this country is significant.

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,

P. P. Joshi
25.05.19

Dr. Pankaj Joshi
Executive Director, Sahjeevan