



**SAHJEEVAN**

# ANNUAL REPORT

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# ABOUT SAHJEEVAN

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## VISION

SAHJEEVAN BELIEVES IN CO-EXISTING AND THUS CONTRIBUTING TO THE CREATION OF A SOCIETY WHICH CONSERVES THE NATURAL HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM AND INTEGRATES CULTURE, TRADITION, HUMANITY AND GENDER EQUALITY.

## MISSION

WE EXIST TO HELP THE COMMUNITY PREPARE DEMONSTRATIONS AT GRASS ROOT WHICH HELPS STRENGTHEN THEIR TRADITIONAL OCCUPATION BY CONSERVING THE NATURAL HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM WHICH COMPRISES GENDER EQUALITY, HUMANITY, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE USE OF SIMPLE TECHNIQUES. VALUES

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# LIVELIHOODS

The work on livelihoods focuses on mainstreaming the non-bovine milk and milk bi-products economy across pastoral communities. Also, efforts are made to explore new and viable uses of pastoral wool.

## GOAT MILK & BY-PRODUCTS

### SAURASHTRA & KUTCH

Goats raised by the pastoralists are generally low-producing in terms of milk and offspring but are well-adapted to the climatic conditions and are relatively tolerant of local diseases. Goats herding families spread over 586 villages in Saurashtra (Districts of Surendranagar, Jamnagar, Dev Bhoomi Dwarka and Rajkot in Gujarat) and 404 villages in Kutch.

Goat milk provides valuable products for pastoralists: beyond milk, butter and yoghurt for immediate consumption and storable ghee and dried curds for later use.

Over the last year, market players like MAHI, Vijay Dairy, Jamnagar dairy (district milk union), and Sursagar dairy were identified. Sursagar dairy showed an inclination to procure goat milk in Surendranagar.

Sahjeevan and Sursagar dairy are jointly working on starting the goat milk dairy in the Surendranagar district. Sursagar dairy is to set up a goat milk collection value chain in the village. Milk collection routes and surplus goat milk potential for 10 clusters of Surendranagar are identified.

## PANCHAL PVT. LTD. CHEESE KITCHEN, SURENDRANAGAR

In association with Access Livelihoods, about 20 community individuals were given business development training. Of which two community entrepreneurs went on to set up the Panchal dairy cheese unit. With indigenous milk surpluses, there was a unique opportunity available to enhance pastoral livelihoods. From January 2022, Sahjeevan partnered

with Käse Cheese to train the two young pastoralists in cheese-making and set up the production of goat and sheep cheeses in Sayla, Surendranagar. The introduction to cheese-making is fetching the goat-rearing community better returns. Panchal Dairy is now working with around 20 goat herders.

Similarly, a cheese-making workshop was organised at Urmul Seemant Samiti, Bajju Milk Processing Unit, Rajasthan in association with Kase Cheese, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Attendees learned about the history of cheese, the composition of milk, steps involved in the processing of cheese, the flow of production and standard operating procedures for a successful cheese manufacturing business.



### VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEURS

Bhimsee Rabari and Arpan Hajjabhai Kanotra are the two young community entrepreneurs who decided to launch the cheese unit in Sayla which makes their mark selling artisanal pastoral goat cheese. The enterprise is named Panchal dairy Pvt. Ltd Cheese Kitchen. Bhimsee has completed his higher secondary schooling (12th standard) and owns about 50-60 goats whereas Arpan is in the final year of his graduation. The goat herders face problems like diminishing grazing lands, dependency on farm owners for fodder and no income from goat milk.

*'We still have to buy fodder for the summer season for our goats as there is not enough to graze. 20 years back, milk was sold for Rs. 5-6 and today it is Rs. 15 – 20. Goat milk is not accepted in dairies. It is low in fat so we get less money.'* says Bhimsee.

*'None of my siblings were interested in continuing with pastoralism and so was the case with other young populations of our community. There was not much income in the goat herding profession and people prefer to go out to the cities and work in factories or other professions. I knew that I wanted to do something for my animals (maal) so we are here looking for solutions.'* continues Bhimsee.

*'Bhimsee and I were part of the training program organized by Sahjeevan and ALC to explore the avenues to explore the marketing of goat milk bi-products. There were 28 people from the pastoralist communities of Saurashtra in the training program. After the 9-day training, we had a reason to continue with cheese. Because we have our own goats, we will make a profit and benefit other pastoralists from our community. We will make a name for such a unique product. The problem with selling milk directly is the spoilage issue. The shelf life of products like cheese is more and the transportation is easier.'* says Arpan.

*We decided and did market research with help of google. I had never tasted cheese in my life. I had only seen Amul cheese once or twice. I felt that I wanted to make cheese. Cheese-making is an art. I have seen it used in fast food outlets. Now I eat cheese. Our cheese is artisan cheese while Amul cheese is processed cheese. There are no chemicals in our cheese. We make it with our own hands and on a small scale. It is of the best quality."* expresses Arpan.

*The two community entrepreneurs have presented their cheese to Shri Parshottam Rupala, the Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India.*

## CAMEL MILK & BY-PRODUCTS

### KUTCH & RAJASTHAN

Kutch, with a dynamic ecosystem, has a livestock-based economy as one of the most important sources of livelihood for people. In this arid to semi-arid region, pastoralism has been practised for generations, providing an important source of food and income. In Kutch, Sarhad dairy procures 4000 L of milk daily from the camel herders of Kutch. Sahjeevan is working closely with Kutch Uth Ucherek Maldhari Sangathan to establish new milk collection centres (other than the three, Nakhatrana, Rajpar and Rapar). New milk collection centres were identified at Bhuj, Khavda, and Kotda.

In Rajasthan, in partnership with Urmul Seemant Samithi, consistent work on the ground has yielded an institutional identity for the camel herders of Rajasthan. The 3-camel cluster-based federation has a strong engagement of 2559 members from 280 villages spread across Bajju, Chimana & Pokhran in 3 districts (Jodhpur, Jaisalmer & Bikaner). The federations are governed by an executive committee that consists of 15 members each. Access to vaccination, meetings with government departments for access to grazing rights and a pilot for camel by-products (camel Milk cheese, ghee and biscuits) have been attempted.

A series of training sessions were held by Urmul Seemant Samithi in association with Kase Cheese focused on making and quality-testing of Halloumi, chevre, whey caramel, and Ricotta cheese.

### PASTORAL WOOL: THE DESI OON INITIATIVE

India is home to 74 million sheep and boasts of a rich diversity of indigenous wool and woollens. This variety is a result of the sheep and its wool being nurtured by herders, hand spinners, weavers, felters, knitters and dyers for centuries; including both men and women. CfP's Desi Oon initiative has been working with partnerships across the country aimed at increasing the use of indigenous wool in apparel and furnishings. An initiative with the potential to absorb very large



quantities of wool revolve around the replacement of glass wool with sheep wool as insulation used by housing, automobile and a wide range of other industries. Research undertaken by researchers at MIT and Hunnarshala has provided basic data on the efficacy of wool as an insulation material.

Wool is an excellent insulator of heat and sound and is also fire resistant. Insulation solutions can absorb huge amounts of unprocessed/semi-processed wool, making it a promising wool application. In partnership with Hunnarshala, a not-for-profit organisation based in Bhuj, Gujarat, the innovative non-textile uses of wool - as a thermal and sound insulator for buildings were explored. Tests were conducted to check the efficacy of wool as an insulation material in buildings under construction and wool for thermal insulation. They created prototypes such as mattresses, air-blown solutions and baked panels and installed prototypes for testing at Bhuj (Gujarat) and Leh (Ladakh). The testing has also shown promising results for wool, as an eco-friendly alternative to the currently used materials such as rock and glass wool.

### **WOOL MARKET LINKAGES WITH KHAMIR**

Khamir has been working with young weavers and utilising the neglected and the vastest resource of Kutch pastoralists. The small ruminants and their herders are facing challenges in terms of diversifying their incomes. Sahjeevan encouraged and supported Patanwadi sheep pastoralists from 4 villages of Lakhpat. Khamir buys around 300 kilos of wool annually from these indigenous shepherders. The price of the wool per kilogram was fixed between Rs. 25 to Rs. 37 depending on the quality and purity of the wool. The young weavers have now been engaged in training and they have successfully introduced a new range of products like Kharad carpet, other woollen carpets and tangalia weave cushions.

# VETERINARY CARE

Through the course of the last financial year, animal health care services were provided in the Saurashtra and Kutch districts of Gujarat. In partnership with Urmul Seemant Samiti in Rajasthan camel, vaccination programs were carried on.

A total of 81 health camps were conducted for small ruminants in Gujarat. In the health care services, vaccination, and de-worming camps, 269202 small ruminants were vaccinated. Whereas, a total of 40 health care programs were conducted and 26197 camels were vaccinated in Kutch, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

# SAURASHTRA MALDHARIS SANGATHAN

## COMMUNITY STRENGTH TO RECKON WITH

While market access for goat milk defines an engaging discussion towards consolidation of systems and processes for procurement of milk at any interactive forum by the community institutions, it was felt imperative by the community to also highlight some of the persistent challenges around the upkeep of small ruminants possessed by the pastoral communities. A congregation organised by the Saurashtra Maldharis Sangathan at village Kolki (Block – Upleta, district Rajkot) was marked by the presence of the union minister of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying. The community presented its demand for initiating the procurement of goat milk and also stressed the need to provide space for the upkeep of the small ruminants (viz.; goats and Sheep). Upon advice and instruction of the union minister, the state administration has prioritised the task of identifying the pastoral communities and seeking applications to assess the land area that needs to be made available to the pastoral households after getting back from migration to their respective villages. In the process the Sangathan members offered its petition to the sub-divisional office for expediting the process to be followed for offering designated space to the small ruminants.

Inputs on governance, operational roles, need for liaison with government departments including efforts to mainstream its support for all kinds of issues associated with the livestock production system continued during the dedicated discussions held during several meetings organised with the community institutions across 28 villages in the programme area.

# BREED CONSERVATION

## HALARI DONKEY: CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Halari donkey population has been consistently on the downfall and it has been a point of concern. By March 2022, it was found that only 439 Halari Donkeys are remaining and 154 breeders on the native track. There has been a 39% decline in the donkey population from last year's survey and around an 18% decline was reported amongst the Halari Donkey keepers. Last year, there were 189 donkey pastoralists and 662 Halari donkeys as compared to 154 breeders this year. This called for important intervention activities in this quarter. An immediate need for the formation of the Donkey Breeders Association would take the agenda of Halari donkey conservation and allied domains like livelihood. Activities that would call for awareness around donkey herding. Developing pathways for collaboration with government stakeholders.

## COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS & NGOS

In order to push the conservation of the Halari Donkey breed and save it from extinction a technical discussion was held to look into aspects of in-situ and ex-situ conservation, development of community-based institutions for and by the communities, enhancing livelihoods and incentivizing donkey rearing and research on possible scope and linkages to support the ecosystem. Representatives and officials Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Gujarat, Kamdhenu University, National Research Centre on Equines and National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, National Dairy Development Board, Aadvik Food Private Limited and the pastoral members. The session was fruitful as recommendations were

- Providing Elite male donkeys for breeding from Chanasma Donkey Farm and NRCE, Hisar.
- Short-term monetary incentives to the breeders by the State Animal Husbandry Department on the birth of each foal.
- Extension services around the development of vernacular IEC materials, and research allied to donkey rearing by Kamdhenu University.
- Annual and semi-annual Health camps through the help of the State Department and NRCE.
- Putting thrust to conservation by supporting the Breeders association.
- Milk allied research and ex-situ conservation technology-related work.
- Training of breeders in terms of in-situ conservation through livelihood linkages was proposed

### DONKEY GODHBHARAI: CONSERVATION THROUGH AWARENESS

GodhBharai (Baby shower) is a traditional Indian ritual to bless the mother and welcome & celebrate the 'to be born'. The Halari Donkey conservation can only commence when each of the donkey breeders welcomes the foal with immense happiness and hope in their families. Soon after the monitoring of the breed was completed, the association members conceptualized the GodhBharai Event with the following objectives: to help the donkey breeders to celebrate the birth of the foals in their home; to make aware of the conservation of the donkey breed for the livelihood security of the rearers; to help the breeders understand the aspects of pre and post-natal care for the conservation of livelihood breed.

## **BHAGARI GOAT: BREED REGISTRATION PROCESS**

The registration and recognition programme of Bhagari goats began in Upleta, Saurashtra. Meetings were held at Lalpur, Jamjodhpur and Kalavad to tract the indigenous native breeds. From the extensive survey, 33 flocks of goats were selected as purebred and a total of 155 indigenous Bhagari goats were shortlisted. The new registered breed is monitored for a year for an interval of 3 months.

Sahjeevan team is closely working with the Animal Husbandry Department, the government of Gujarat. NBAGR has been the nodal agency to support the process of registration. Sahjeevan team liaison with Kamdhenu University is discussing the scope of work for the new registered breed of Bhagri goat.

# FOREST RIGHTS ACT

Despite clear provisions for grazing in the Forest Rights Act (2006), pastoralists have largely been unable to facilitate legal recognition of these rights in the country. Constantly on the move, the pastoralists have a lesser influence on village commons. In 2019, the Centre for Pastoralism took the initiative to ensure legal access to grazing for the Van Gujjars in Uttarakhand. Over the course of the next 3 years, similar efforts were initiated in 5 states, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Telangana and Maharashtra.

A key achievement this year has been that on 22 October 2021, 43 families of Long Ykullu Fullu Thatch village, in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand have received CFR titles. This is the first CFR title received by the Van Gujjars and the first instance of recognition of Van Gujjars as "Other Traditional Forest Dwellers". A total of 35 Community Forest Rights (CFR) claims across all states. In all states, recognising the lack of awareness regarding the FRA, 675 orientation village level meetings and training have been organised. In all 78 Paralegal trainings were also held in all the states with 4 cohorts- Hindi, Gujarat, Marathi and Telugu. Since these trainings usually involve experience sharing of resource people from other states, we have found that the youth have utilised these experiences to modify their own operational plans.

In the coming year, we plan on addressing some of the key challenges we have faced last year. The first major challenge has been the lack of women's participation in FRC meetings and training programmes. The second challenge has been the unsupportive response of the state administration in the processing of claims. There are undue and prolonged delays in the time taken by the SDLC and DLC to respond to claims.

# BANNI GRASSLAND

The grassland of Banni is the second-largest tropical grassland in Asia. Along with being home to about 7000 pastoral families, the grassland also hosts various species of flora, fauna and avifauna including migratory birds. Invasive species like *Prosopis juliflora* locally known as Gando bawad have drastically altered the landscape. The Forest Rights Act 2006, section 5 gives the rights to Gram Sabha to conserve and manage their common property resources through biodiversity conservation, water harvesting and other allied activities.

**Restoration of Banni Grassland.**

In Banni, grassland becomes an important part of Community Property Rights (CPR) that requires restoration for availing fodder services for the pastoral communities along with developing water structures for the migrating livestock population. BPUMS filed an appeal with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) against the unchecked encroachments in Banni. Joint commissioner and DCF were given the direction for creating a plan for removal of encroachments. The Forest Department and Revenue department mobilised a team for the removal of the encroachments. *Prosopis juliflora* was removed from 21 villages and a total of 1778 hectares were restored this year.

The work was carried out by Banni Breeder's Association i.e., Banni Pashu Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan (BPUMS) in liaison with SETU and Sahjeevan by initiating the formation of Community Forest Management Committees (CFMCs). In this quarter, after conducting meetings with CFMCs and other members of the village it was decided to excavate a waterscape for (wild) animals as part of the restoration of the ecosystem under the convergence of another project. The program was under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, Section 5. Meetings were held with 16 villages namely Ghoradiyo, Gorevali, Pannavari, Adhiyang, Chachla, Sherva, Vad,



Lakhabo, JhimriVand, Vagura, Dedhiya, NaniDadhar, Dumado, Nava Sargu, Kharod and Bhagadiya. Before the start of implementation, meetings were organised with CFMC to arrive at a resolution for the maintaining and regular monitoring system of the habitat and waterscape. Gugardhui area under Bagadiya village was finalised for waterscape structure. People from the Jat community (active pastoralists) stay in this village. This area is one of the potential habitats for many Threatened species. Wildlife species and livestock face water crises in the summer.

### **LONG TERM MONITORING: GANDO BAWAD**

In Banni, as mentioned above *Prosopis juliflora* was removed. The area is now under observation. Plots (10\*10 m) created in 20 villages are maintained and demarcated for the survey of vegetation, grasses and herb species. A post-monsoon survey of new saplings of *Prosopis juliflora* was measured. The RAMBLE team started a collection of post-monsoon data on biomass, vegetation covers etc. In this quarter, the monitoring of plots was on a halt as there is no visible grass.

# RESEARCH & PUBLICATION

## RESEARCH UNDER JI THAKAR FELLOWSHIP, RAMBLE

Applications from researchers on the interactions amongst pastoral practices, ecological responses, social context and economic outcomes in the Banni ecosystem were invited. The JI Thaker Research fellowship supports researchers who wish to work in the Banni landscape. Four research fellowships were granted. The research fellowships were given to 1. understand the role of various stakeholders and institutions involved in the management of Banni grasslands in Kutch, Gujarat. 2. Biodiversity assessments and long-term vegetation monitoring programmes under changing climate and land dynamics in Banni Grassland. 3. Participatory research and conservation of three key species i.e., Spiny-tailed Lizard, Houbara Bustard and Chinkara deer in Banni Grassland and 4. Explore areas of invasive species management and livelihood improvement. The research dealt with scenario analysis of the present models of Prosopis use, utilisation for energy demand, and livelihood generation. Household-level energy consumption was realised during the preliminary field visits resulting in two mechanisms of biochar development being proposed.

## RESEARCH UNDER CFP

CfP is currently supporting 1 PhD student (working on pastoral mobility in Maharashtra) and one independent researcher (working on questions of pastoralist access to grazing in J&K). CfP has completed a nationwide study of the wool economy of India. The study has led to comprehending macro patterns across India: diminishing value of wool; the decision by herders to move towards non-native meat-producing breeds; easing of import duties leading to foreign wool flooding our markets and craftsmen exiting their trade.

## RESEARCH UNDER RAMBLE, SURENDRANAGAR

In Surendranagar, RAMBLE conducted research focusing on vidis (grazing lands) and grazing routes to understand the relationship between landscape, palatable Plant Species and Grazing Management which adds more Nutrition to Goat Milk. A comprehensive report was prepared to include all the species of grass a goat consumes which makes goat milk healthy and nutritious. Based on the study, a grazing route map and 'a goat nutrition thali', a plate representing all the grasses that goats browse were prepared.

## PUBLICATIONS

In August last year, recognising a lack of relevant pastoral Community Forest Right process guidance material, an FRA Facilitator guide book was developed by CfP. It is written and structured to act as a reference to our field coordinators in processing claims. This has been translated into 4 languages; Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi and Telugu.

The breed of India book is compiled by DR SK Sadana, (Rtd Scientist, ICAR – National Bureau of Animal Genetics Resources). The publication represents the first ever compilation of the pastoral breeds of India, those animal populations that have been bred and managed by nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralist communities. The report identifies 73 such populations – including goats, sheep, cows, buffaloes, camels and horses, donkeys, yak and pigs.

Pastoralism in Kachchh's book (The PinK report) was published to showcase Sahjeevan's work with communities and dives into the changes effected by such interventions.

# EDUCATION

## **SALIM NODE CERTIFICATE COURSE ON PASTORAL ECOLOGY**

The course is conducted by Sahjeevan in association with The Earth Science Department, Kachchh University and is supported by Banni Pashu Ucherak Maldhari Sangathan (BPUMS) & Research and Monitoring in Banni Landscape (RAMBLE). Banni is the largest tropical grassland in Asia, about 2500 sq. km. Over the years their mismanagement has reduced its biodiversity and regenerative capacity. About 7000 pastoral families have applied for Community Forest Rights under FRA to ensure they have the powers to restore, manage and use the grasslands. The objective of the course is to help students understand the connections between pastoralism and their ecosystems and develop their skills so that they feel equipped to regenerate their ecologies. Also to developers a sense of responsibility and sensitivity toward the conservation of Banni Grassland and its ecosystem.

In March 2021 commenced the second batch of 'Salim Node Certificate course on Pastoral Ecology'. Recognition of traditional skills of the local community and their connection with modern education. 20 students graduated from the first batch whereas about 15 students are registered for the second batch.

The sessions taught in the course include Banni Grassland Ecosystem and Ecology (Grassland Ecology, History of Banni, Soils of Banni, Vegetation of Banni, Invasive Species and Prosopis Juliflora in Banni, Fauna and Avifauna of Banni, Climate Change and Banni, Climate Change and Banni, Environmental crisis and toxicology), Pastoralism (Pastoral History, Pastoral Communities, Pastoral Economies, Pastoral Breeds, Animal Health), Pastoral Cultures (Cultural Expressions of Banni), Skill Training (Management, Resource Mapping, Photography, Computers), reflecting the fact that pastoral lives and livelihoods fall at the interface of each of these thematises.

# OUTREACH

## PEOPLE IN BIODIVERSITY, CONFERENCE

Sahjeevan and RAMBLE with the objective of recognizing the participation of all stakeholders in the conservation organised conference- 'People in Conservation'. The event is marked by discussion and recognition of the efforts by the local communities of Kutch, researchers, the forest department and civil society organisations for biodiversity conservation over years in the context of Kutch's varied ecosystem. The event was marked by the presence of forest department officials, Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Kachchh University, Kyoto University, and Institute of Development Studies (Sussex), research fellows and conservation organisations like Corbett Foundation and local communities.

## THE CHEESE-MEET: PRESENTING ARTISANAL PASTORAL CHEESE



Sahjeevan in association with Kase cheese organized a cheese-meet event in Ahmedabad. The event 'Pastoral Taste of India' was organised for commercial cheesemakers, chefs and influencers to evaluate the pastoral cheese. During the day-long event, the pastoral milk value chain, significance and benefits of different milk and by-products were explored. The event was to showcase the cheese produced by Panchal dairy Pvt. Ltd. The pastoral artisanal cheese was paired with unique Indian snacks & sauces.

## **PALATABLE SPECIES IN GOAT'S DIET, AWARENESS PROGRAM**

Sahjeevan conducted an awareness program with about 100 maaldahris of Surendranagar, in Muli, Surendranagar. The program was held with pastoralists to disseminate RAMBLE's research on the high nutritional value of goat milk and the need for a community-based organization to streamline the sale of goat milk. There are reservations among dairies and people about drinking goat milk. Along with the pastoralists, District Veterinary Health Officers, Range Forest Officers (RFOs), Botanists, and Ayurvedic Doctors participated and presented their views on the correlation between plant species and nutrition. This will provide an incentive to communicate the idea of conservation of such palatable species.

## **MACHINE WOOL SHEARING, WORKSHOP**

The wool of the sheep is sheared twice or thrice in a year. A goat-sheep pastoralist does not shear the wool himself but invites a shearer and he would pay Rs. 10-15 per animal. The additional logistics cost of the shear is also taken up by the pastoralist. The costs are too much to bear and as a solution to the problem, it was decided that the young pastoralists must be trained in using machine shearers. Prof. Devendra Singh of IIT Delhi and his associates were invited to demonstrate the wool shearing machine developed in IIT-D and train the youth for the same. Sahjeevan, IIT Delhi in association with GUSHIL organized a 2-day workshop in Kutch where young sheep pastoralists from Lakhpat, Abdasa and Nakhatrana joined. Machine-operated shearing has never been practised among the herders. The workshop was organized to educate the herders about the workings of the machine, reduce the fear among the herders about machine shearing and train the young herders to eventually use the machine.

## **THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF CAMEL MILK, CONFERENCE**

Sahjeevan conducted a workshop to create awareness and discuss the research around the therapeutic value of milk and the nutritional value of camel milk held on 30th March 2022 in Ahmedabad. The workshop was organised by Sahjeevan and Kutch Uth Ucherakh Maldhari Sangathan. A free grazing camel browses on multiple plant species in a day and all the nutrients are present in the camel milk. Camel milk is lactose-free and can be consumed by diabetic patients as well. Among the invitees were the Deputy Director of the Ayush Department, the Government of Gujarat, the Professor of Kamdhenu University, representatives of Dairy Science, National Dairy Development Board and Gujarat and Gujarat Ayurvedic Manufacturing Association.

## **LIVING LIGHTLY, EXHIBITION**

In the month of March 2022, Living Lightly organised the 'Gujjaran-go-Kaarj: A Living Lightly Utsav and Exhibition' at the Rajaji National Park, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, in partnership with the Van Gujjar Yuva Tribal Sangthan. The event was attended by over 500 members from the Van Gujjar community, pastoralists from Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Gujarat as well as members from civil society organisations, activists, academics, and students, artists as well as members of the local press.

Apart from the travelling LL exhibition, the Utsav also included an installation on Van Gujjar material culture, a cheese-making workshop, traditional Gojri music performances and a range of consultations on issues such as Gujjar history, traditional knowledge of biodiversity, the Forest Rights Act and the economics of herding. The first ever Pashu Mela (animal fair) in the region was conducted on the final day of the event during which discussions on the Gojri breed and the formation of a Breeders Association were initiated. The key constitution included sessions on the history and culture of Gujjars, biodiversity, FRA, livelihood and breeds.

## **FOSTERING PASTORALISM IN SAURASHTRA: ITS CONSERVATION AND SUSTENANCE, CONFERENCE**

On 12th March 2022, Sahjeevan and Maldhari Sangathan Saurashtra organised a one-day event in Upleta Taluka of Rajkot. The event was essentially divided into two conclaves: that pondered upon drafting recommendations for putting thrust towards the conservation of near-extinct livestock breed; the Halari donkey and latter to develop necessary policy pathways to dialogue around the scope for fostering pastoralism. The event commenced with the objective to develop framework for safeguarding endemic livestock breeds from extinction, evolve recommendations for veterinary health care and pastoral ecosystem and chalk out policy guidelines for strategizing sustainable livelihood options for pastoral productions.

The event marked the presence of Purshottam Rupala, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandary and Dairying, Government of India and representatives and officials from the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandary and Dairying, Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Gujarat, Kamdhenu University, National Research Centre on Equines and National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, National Dairy Development Board.



# OUR TEAM

We welcome new members to the Sahjeevan-CfP team this year

- Aniruddh Sheth contributes to CfP's research agenda. He has a master's degree in Environment and Development from Ambedkar University Delhi.
- Anurag Kushwaha has joined as the Rajasthan state coordinator for CfP's Livelihoods work on the milk. He has M.A. in Development Studies from IGNOU, New Delhi and a one-year PG Diploma in Rural Development Studies from NIRD & PR, Hyderabad. He has also done B-Tech in Dairy Technology from ICAR-NDRI, Karnal and is a Certified Project Management professional from NMIMS, Mumbai.
- Chhani Bungsut is a member of the Communications team as a content writer and the editor of Pastoral Times. She has studied Sociology and Anthropology at Ashoka University.
- Dhanush Ramasubramanian is a part of CfP's research team as a Cartographer. He has a Master of Technology degree in Remote Sensing and GIS with a specialisation in Forest Resources and Ecosystem analysis from the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun.
- Gunjan Satjia anchors CfP's indigenous wool programme. She has studied economics and has a postgraduate degree from JNU.
- Hiren Dabhi works as a Community Mobiliser for Forest Rights Act in the Saurashtra region. He also works with paralegal youth cadres and forest rights committees.
- Jigna Mori, hailing from the pastoral community herself in Dev Bhoomi Dwarka has joined Sahjeevan as a community Mobiliser for Dev Bhoomi Dwarka and the Jamnagar region in Saurashtra. She has completed her HSC.

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- **Krutika Haraniya** has joined Sahjeevan at the position of coordinator monitoring & communications. She has a master's degree in Ancient Indian Culture, Heritage & Archaeology from Deccan College, Pune.
- **Manya Singh** has joined Sahjeevan as project coordinator for the Biodiversity Unit. She has a master's degree in Ecology and Environment Studies from Nalanda University.
- **Mehul Rabari**, hailing from the pastoral community himself, has joined as a community Mobiliser for the Forest Rights Act Unit in Kutch. He is pursuing bachelors in Arts.
- **Muneer Ahemad** has joined as an Assistant Accounts Officer. He has a bachelor's degree in commerce from KSKV Kachchh University.
- **Savita Batta** is a community mobiliser for the Banni region focusing her efforts to work with pastoral women and their issues.
- **Valji Jepal** has joined Sahjeevan as office assistant. He has a master's degree in commerce from HN, Gujarat University, Palanpur.
- **Varsha Chhanga** is a community mobiliser for the Banni region focusing her efforts to work with pastoral women and their issues.
- **Vikar Thumar** has joined as the project coordinator for Forest Rights Act unit in Saurashtra. He has a master's degree in social work.
- **Vishnu Gor** works with CfP as administrator and acts as the interface between Sahjeevan and CfP. He has an MBA degree in finance and HR from KSKV Kutch University.
- **Vishwa Thacker** has joined Sahjeevan as FRA coordinator, Kutch. She has a master's degree in Social work from KSKV Kachchh University.
- **Viyona Mohan** coordinates the Forest Rights and Governance Programme at CfP. She has completed her graduation in Public Policy and Environmental Studies at FLAME University and completed her post-graduation in Public Policy and Governance at Azim Premji University.



