



SELCO Foundation



# PASTORALISM

## The Challenges

### Reviving Traditional PASTURE Routes in Dry and Arid Parts of the Country

In western Rajasthan, scarcity of water and harsh summers exacerbates the daily struggles of the people here. The desert and its people are at the mercy of weather conditions and have to depend on barely sustainable resources. For centuries, the farmers and their families have relied on nomadic pastoralism as a means of livelihood safety-net. It has supported the locals during deficit rainfall, droughts, and crop failures. The result is a regional pastoral population on the move. Pastoralism can be considered as an essential mechanism for ensuring sustenance in the harsh desert ecosystem.

Unfortunately, due to rapid urbanization and increased industrialization pastoralists

are in a losing battle with industry and urban sprawl. Pastoralism is facing a severe crisis in India. What threatens this way of life are the development strategies and neglect by the modern-state. These pastoralists are facing pressure due to shrinking fodder and water sources, the collapse of veterinary services, the absence of streamlined markets for their animal-based products, and scanty state support along these pastoral routes. The community is marginalized and excluded from the decisions that affect them. Thus, it becomes imperative to voice their concerns and ensure that they receive the support services that are essential to their ecosystem.

# REVAMPING the ECOSYSTEM

In its efforts to strengthen traditional livelihoods across the desert, Urmul through a set of focused interventions envisions to revive and support this forgotten ecosystem. These strategic interventions through collaborations with varied stakeholders and domain experts would ensure the resurgence of this vibrant ecosystem. Through the journey of strengthening this ecosystem support from the community, state agencies, academia, and non-profit organizations would be included.

The four regions that have been identified for primary interventions are **Kalu Gram Panchayat, Kelan Gram Panchayat, Rajasar Bhatiyar, Dhani Bhopalaram,**

**Lunkaransar.** These areas have been chosen as they host a large number of pastoralists traveling to Punjab and Haryana. The project interventions would focus on strengthening the necessary infrastructure, enable the capacity building of the pastoralists, and launch policy advocacy efforts that enable sensitive responses to their concerns. This revamped pastoral ecosystem would ensure that the animals get timely forage, water resources, healthcare services, and other necessary support services. In addition to strengthening the services, the interventions aim to empower and motivate the pastoralists to adopt this traditional livelihood.

#### Pastoral Routes - Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Ganganagar

The main route and support routes of the long journeys pastoralists undertake towards green pastures in Punjab and Haryana



### The Three Pronged Solution

#### Infrastructure Support

Strengthening and building access to basic infrastructure across pastoral routes

#### Capacity Building

Focusing on improving the knowledge and capabilities for enhanced livestock management

#### Policy Advocacy

Launching advocacy measures that focus on building a sensitive pastoralist policy ecosystem



# As we move **FORWARD**

The project aims to mobilize the pastoral community, infrastructure, knowledge, and potential. Ensuring management of inputs like water, fodder, veterinary health, and also support services for safety and social upliftment of pastoralists in selected clusters of traditional route is essential.

Urmul Rural Health Research & Development Trust through a set of focused interventions would work

towards the pilot management of these pastoral routes.

We aspire to facilitate pastoralists to take charge of their livelihood and drive an inclusive, accountable, collaborative, and, sustainable enterprise ecosystem. This project with the resources, technology and knowledge support from multiple stakeholders would develop a resilient pastoral derivative ecosystem in western Rajasthan.



*Reviving traditional pasture routes in dry and arid parts of the country*

To enable the revival of the nomadic pastoral ecosystem, focused interventions across key three verticals are being implemented. Key focused activities include:

## **Towards improving infrastructure and access to services**

- Identify and develop feasible package of support services for improved livestock management
- Establish two Common Facility Centres to enable direct access to quality veterinary care, forage support and resting place
- Develop one fodder nursery in the cluster and the fodder seeds/root slips would be distributed among the pastoralists so that they could be planted in their farmlands and CPRs.
- Improve four Common Property Resources to ensure greater fodder coverage and construct water recharge pits to harvest rainwater.
- Enhance water availability on pastoral routes by constructing new or renovating existing four community-owned water structures.
- Organise Animal Health camps to ensure that the animals remain disease-free.

## **Towards capacity enhancement of pastoralists for wider adoption of improved livestock management**

- Convergence with other Urmul interventions for supporting pastoralists for improved sustainable livestock management.
- Pastoral Community Mobilization for diverse animal based business opportunities orientation.
- Demonstrations to ensure improved livestock management for knowledge dissemination amongst pastoralists.
- Educating the pastoralists by producing IEC material for knowledge sharing and training on animal management, best practices and data.
- Baseline knowledge management of identifying and collating the existing policies and schemes and managing knowledge to enhance the input services of the animals.

## **Towards Enabling environment for better policy support for pastoralists in place**

- Organise state level workshops to ensure state level consensus for mobilising resources and support.
- Policy white papers reflecting on current pastoralist related policies, pastoral challenges, opportunities, and policy recommendations.
- Engagement with policy makers promote adoption of the CFC model and enable the provision of support services to pastoralists.

