

**LEAD India Networking Workshop  
25-27 February, 2004**

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## Acknowledgements

This report is the output of a “LEAD India Networking” workshop organized by CALPI on 25-27 February, 2004 at Darewadi, Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra. This is meant to be a reference document for the participants and other interested parties (CALPI Report Series No. 6).

We wish to express our sincere thanks to WOTR for their excellent support in organizing the workshop at their training centre, arranging visits to the watersheds and making the stay comfortable.

We would like to place on record our gratitude to Ms Annette Kolff (Intercooperation, Bern) for ably moderating the workshop and for taking considerable pains to coach CALPI in moderating such events.

Last but not the least, we acknowledge all the participants for their creative contributions and support for making the workshop fruitful and enjoyable.



## LEAD India Networking Workshop 25-27 February, 2004

### Introduction

SDC-IC has been instrumental in sensitizing stakeholders in the livestock sector on the positive and negative environmental impacts of livestock production in India since 1996. This included training of government personnel (policy makers and technocrats) on Livestock Environment Interactions (LEI), field testing of LEI tool box, conducting a desk study, organizing workshops, preparation of training curriculum for animal husbandry staff etc.

SDC-IC through its CALPI programme organized a workshop at Darewadi, Maharashtra with the participation of selected partners and stakeholders associated with Livestock Environment and Development (LEAD) activities in India.



### Workshop Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To provide the selected partners and stakeholders an overview of the developments since the Hyderabad workshop on LEAD held in 2002.
- To share experiences of partners and stakeholders on integration of livestock environment interaction in state policies, vocational training curriculum of Animal Husbandry staff etc.
- To develop ideas and strategies to exchange and spread information on livestock environment interaction
- To generate ideas to reach out to policy makers
- To identify current issues on the topic of LEAD in India and generate new ideas for addressing them

### Workshop processes

The workshop attended by 22 participants and moderated by Ms Annette Kolff (Intercooperation, Bern) was highly interactive in nature. There were key presentations, field visits and group discussions. The workshop processes are detailed in Annexure 1. The programme and list of participants at the workshop are available in Annexure 2 and 3 respectively.

## **Key Issues/topics and Outputs**

The key topics/issues discussed in the workshop and the outputs are given below:

### **1. Evolution SDC-IC's LEAD activities in India**

The workshop started with a reflection by participants on various SDC-IC LEAD events in India.

SDC-IC supported LEAD events started in India in 1996, when a few participants from partner organizations were deputed to attend an international workshop held in Wageningen. In 1999 FAO, together with SDC contracted BAIF to field test their LEI Tool Box in India. It was tested in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Following this, in 2000, a national workshop on LEI was organized jointly by SDC and FAO at BAIF, Pune. The purpose was to expose the participants on livestock environment interactions and to share the outcome of LEI toolbox tested in India. The tool box was very general and broad based. The idea of a Desk study in the watersheds in India came up in this workshop. Watershed is a small, compact and manageable unit where livestock environment interactions can be clearly understood. Besides, government of India has been seriously implementing watershed programmes on a large scale considering watersheds as key units for rural development. In 2000, a team led by Dr Mangurkar was contracted to undertake the Desk study.

In 2001, another workshop was organized in Bangalore to present the findings of the Desk study. After reviewing the Desk study, the workshop concluded that livestock has not been included systematically as an active component in watershed development programmes. The participants suggested to carry out an in-depth research to fill information gaps identified through the Desk study and to develop tools for policy makers, planners and watershed practitioners to critically understand LEI so that appropriate measures can be taken to promote livestock while preserving our natural resource base.

In the same year (2001), as a spin off of the Pune national workshop, a trainer's training on LEI was organized by SDC-IC for the officers of department of animal husbandry in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. The first part of the training (orientation on LEI) was held in Puri (Orissa) and the second part (preparation of curriculum, training modules, teaching aids etc.) in Hyderabad (for officers from AP) and Bhubaneswar (for officers from Orissa).

In 2002, a workshop was organized in Hyderabad to develop the research design and methodology and identify a potential research partner for the in-depth LEAD research. In the same year SDC-IC through its CALPI programme and FAO through its LEAD programme contracted IWMI to conduct the LEAD research in selected watersheds in India. This is expected to be completed in September 2004.

In 2004, to ensure continuity of the LEAD research by IWMI after September and to look at LEAD related issues on broader perspective, CALPI contracted a Working Group. This is an ad-hoc / temporary group of four consultants.

Lastly, the Darewadi workshop is organized (February 2004) to provide the selected partners and stakeholders an overview of the developments since the LEAD workshop at Hyderabad to identify current issues on the topic of LEAD in India and generate new ideas for addressing them.

## 2. Feedback on IWMI LEAD Research

Dr Ranjitha Pusukar, Coordinator of the LEAD India study presented the interim findings of the research. The research was carried out based on the understanding that though livestock play a central role in natural resource-based livelihood strategies, there is no articulation of meaningful policy, programmatic approaches, or applied research to improve environmentally sustainable livestock production.

Through the study it is envisaged to enhance the knowledge on the following in the livestock-environment-watershed triad:

- Livelihood dependence on livestock in watersheds
- Biophysical interactions among water, land and vegetation in watersheds, as these relate to livestock systems
- Potential of livestock for reducing poverty through intensification of watershed resource use.
- Use, access, and management of common property in watersheds
- Socio-economic and biophysical inter-linkages as determinants of watershed and farm productivity and environmental sustainability
- Watershed context-specifically rural-urban dynamics, markets, credit, capacity building, and institutional arrangements-and its role in enhancing or limiting the poverty impacts of livestock-environment interactions

The research has been carried out in five selected watersheds (one each in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh).

The hydrological and bio-physical data collection and its analysis are in progress. Collection and analysis of base line information on socio-economic and institutional aspects are making headway. The research is expected to complete before September 2004. Policy advocacy and dissemination of findings will also be part of the research. (For more details please refer to Annexure 3). Participants after a thorough discussion gave the following feedback on the research:

- (1) The current study should establish strong linkage to the 2000 desk study. Those hypotheses that could not be tested by the desk study (5 out of 16) for want of data need to be attended to.
- (2) Look at the livestock production system as a whole and the dynamics involved; not mere numbers.
- (3) Besides the biophysical and hydrological aspects, which are easy to record, the socio-political issues should be seriously kept in mind, especially as we aim at policy influencing
- (4) The study covers only five watersheds /states. The results are watershed specific and hence cannot be extrapolated or generalized. But certain elements common to all watersheds can be drawn up for mainstreaming for the country. So make sure that the policy makers understand these aspects
- (5) The study results are to be analysed against LEI for different liv. production systems
- (6) Since the study is being carried out in an exceptional drought year the results might get skewed (but it helps to understand the coping mechanisms very well). So it is utmost important to analyse the past trends / changes.
- (7) In some watersheds there is a phenomenal flow of animals (sheep and goats) from outside during monsoon season. The number of animals becomes almost double during this period. So the study should consider methods to capture these dynamics.

### **3. Working Group**

Dr Mangurkar, lead consultant of the working Group (WG) made a presentation on sustainable approaches for effective utilization of livestock resources in the context of watersheds (Annexure 5). This was mainly focused on broad inferences based on a rapid assessment conducted in one of the watersheds in Tamil Nadu. The WG expressed their plans to develop approach papers on different themes such as:

- Matching of the livestock and natural resources
- Watershed designs for improved water and fodder availability
- Watershed Rules, regulations and policies for promoting livestock
- Forest and CPR development for sustainable livestock development
- Improving Livestock Services for sustainable development
- Social Issues- Equity, gender etc.- in Livestock Development
- Watershed institutions and sustainability of livestock development
- Coping strategies for scarcity conditions
- Traditional knowledge in sustainable mixed farming
- Rural IT Centre for livestock producers

The workshop opined that the WG at the moment is raising only issues and the methodologies planned to be used by them in achieving the objectives are not clear. The WG should focus on a few issues. They should also establish a link with the earlier Desk study and the IWMI study. When doing rapid appraisal, look also at the external factors

### **4. Impact of watershed interventions on the livelihood of small and marginal livestock keepers, farm women and on the environment**

The participants visited four watersheds in the region, namely Gunjalwadi, Mahswandi, Darewadi and Savarkhol. The field visit and consequent discussions revealed the following:

- Watershed development undoubtedly has improved the lives of many people in the region. (There is no alternative to famine than watersheds !!). Before the interventions started, a number of people in the area had been moving to other places because of lack of rains.
- The interventions though helped a lot in improving the soil moisture level and agricultural production, it also caused in-equitable distribution of water and livestock. Cross breeds are promoted, grazing is banned and cut and carry is advocated. This caused further marginalization of the marginalised. The landless, the marginal and the migratory group of livestock keepers who depended on common land, bunds, open wells, road sides etc. for feeding their animals got affected. Banning open grazing also caused ecological imbalance (no recycling of nutrients to the soil) and increased workload for women. Studies (IGFRI) have shown that biomass regeneration is higher under grazing. Decisions were made mainly by the community. Some decisions like 'no grazing' and 'no bore wells' were made as a condition by the project (WOTR). While the decision on 'zero bore wells' helped in preventing over exploitation of water, that on 'no grazing' disabled marginalised groups. Leaving all decisions to the community / gramasabha has the danger of lopsided decision making in favour of dominant groups, especially when people in some societies are still treated based on caste, economic status etc. Hence this requires an external facilitation process.

- Increase in cross breeds is not due to conversion from goats and sheep but new entrants (out of an increase of 100 CB farmers only 20-30 are converted from goat or sheep rearing). Cropping pattern changed from bajra to water intensive and nutrient pullers like vegetables. So more extraction of water rather than conservation.
- Because of awareness creation and education by the project, people are extremely conscious about every drop of water.

### 5. LEAD India platform

Dr Joseph, Senior Programme coordinator, CALPI explained FAO's recent plans to launch a LEAD platform in India through CALPI as part of their Global LEAD Virtual Research and Development Centre. The LEAD Virtual Research and Development Centre (<http://lead.virtualcentre.org>) is a part of the Global LEAD initiative which aims at increasing the awareness among key stakeholders of the complex interactions of human needs, animal production and sustainability of global natural resources.

The objectives of the Virtual Centre are achieved through (i) LEAD Platforms and (ii) LEAD Research Network. LEAD Platforms are internet based tools for collaborative Research and Development on LEAD. It connects people and institutions working on livestock and environment issues across the globe. At the moment there are four platforms, each with a different thematic focus:

- Spanish Platform (<http://lead-es.virtualcentre.org>)  
(Theme: Livestock associated deforestation).
- French Platform (<http://lead-fr.virtualcentre.org>)  
(Theme: dry lands and inter-action with wild life in sub-Saharan Africa )
- Chinese Platform (<http://lead-cn.virtualcentre.org>)  
(PTheme: pollution from animal production, dry lands & overgrazing)
- Russian Platform (<http://lead-ru.virtualcentre.org>)  
(Theme: pollution from industrial animal production and degradation of livestock production systems)

The theme of the English Platform (the proposed India platform) is "LEAD in watersheds". The Virtual Centre has already launched a web site on the theme ([www.virtualcentre.org/watershed](http://www.virtualcentre.org/watershed)).

It was explained that CALPI, being a facilitator (not an implementer) is not in a position to run the proposed India platform but can outsource / support local Indian partner/s to do the same, provided the organisation has mandate to run such knowledge resource centre, and possesses competence in managing the LEAD contents. CALPI is on the look out for a such an organisation to anchor the LEAD India platform. Concerns were also expressed regarding sustainability of the platform after the initial support by CALPI.

Participants expressed their concern that currently the focus given by FAO is on "negative impacts of livestock on environment" or "livestock and environmental degradation". The idea should not be to tell the world that we have serious problems because of livestock but to show positive experiences and create awareness on LEI. The ecologically beneficial aspects should also be very clearly acknowledged.

The following doubts expressed by the participants were clarified by CALPI / SDC-IC representatives:

(a) Why the platforms are based mainly in developing countries though negative impacts of livestock production are the most in developed countries?

*Clarification: platforms are not based on regions / countries but on language where various studies have been conducted. In the case of developed countries a lot of studies had been conducted and plenty of information is available.*

(b) Each platform has a different theme. But the same theme could also be relevant in other countries. So how to make sure that the information of all platforms can be accessed by everybody?

*Clarification: The Virtual Centre has plans to ensure access to all platforms by all.*

## **6. Policy advocacy**

As part of group exercise, one group discussed and then shared their deliberations on policy advocacy. They opined that for policy advocacy sensitisation plans need to be developed at different levels - national, state, PRIs and farmers as main stakeholders. At the national level two important bodies to be considered for sensitization and advocacy are the planning commission and inter ministerial coordination committee. At the state level different related programmes and departments like DPAP, agriculture, AHD, Forestry etc. are to be properly oriented to avoid duplication and pooling of resources. Livestock development can work in tandem with other related organizations. The PRIs can act as potential entry points. Similarly, synergies among different bilateral and multi lateral donors, NABARD, PIAs, NGOs (where actual dissemination takes place) etc. can be brought in for effective utilization of resources. At stakeholder level (including shepherds, landless, migratory groups etc.) awareness on water rights, grazing rights, fodder rights and access to CPR should be created.

## **7. Information management / communication / dissemination**

In the group exercise a second group deliberated on the topic information management / communication / dissemination. The group suggested four steps for effective management of information. They are:

(1) archiving available information (experience in testing LEI tool box, desk study, workshops, project experiences, trainings, IWMI results, WG results etc.)

(2) defining the recipients

(3) defining the purpose of communication (awareness, policy, HID, networking) and

(4) media of dissemination (digital library, printed literature, multimedia, web etc.). A communication strategy needs to be developed.

Information management undertaken by PRIA Resource Centre would be a model worth studying. Linkage between policy advocacy and communication is very essential and it should be seen that only filtered information reaches the policy makers. It is to be ensured that information is easy to access and demand driven (initially it could be proactive). The planners and policy makers are to be linked with information sources. The experiences should not be limited to SDC-IC experiences. It can be organized as LEAD global experience, SDC experience and non SDC experience.

## 8. Learning on LEI and Internalisation

Four of the staff members from SMILDA and AHD Andhra Pradesh were exposed to the concepts of LEI in 2001. Dr A J Nell from IAC, Netherlands had facilitated the process of curriculum development on LEI. SMILDA conducted similar training for the field staff (Veterinary Assistant Surgeons working at the cutting edge). But, to digest the concepts of LEI and for using them as part of training by the field staff, required working experience. Hence these trainings could not be replicated. However the exposure has benefited the curriculum developers at SMILDA and the Regional Animal Health Training Centres. The knowledge and skills acquired were useful in a fire fighting exercise to minimize the hazards of disastrous drought AP has experienced during the summer in 2003 (See Annexure 6) .

VOTI staff members presented their experience on integration of LEI learning in livestock policy and training of animal husbandry staff. Ideas on environment friendly livestock development have been incorporated in the new Orissa livestock sector policy. Also, a training curriculum has been prepared for vocational training of AH staff. Though there has not been much progress in implementation as contemplated, plans are in the pipeline to take the activities forward.

It was indicated that the LEAD training content is highly euro-centered, focusing mainly on negative impacts of livestock on environment. Where as, in India, at the moment the positive impacts are more than the negative ones since livestock is very well integrated with farming. But this is found ignored in the curriculum, lesson plans, dissemination materials etc. Modification based on the local context was not considered at all.

It was observed that, internalization of learnings and translation into action (e.g. training on LEAD for VOTI and SMILDA) are still an issue to be addressed. When persons, change priorities also change. It is the problem of institutional arrangement. This is mainly a design problem.

## 9. Carrousel

After the main discussions, there were three short presentations in different groups on topics not directly related to Livestock and environment. The topics are:

- (1) Farming system based approaches in improving feeding situation in Andhra Pradesh presented by Dr Venkataramaiah, DAH, AP (Please see Annexure 6)
- (2) Concept, approach and basic principles of Foundation for Ecological Security - presented by Mr Dinesh Reddy, FES, Anand (please see Annexure 7)
- (3) Influencing watershed policy on livestock issues - Presented by Mr Raveendra, WASSAN (please see Annexure 8)



## **Conclusion and Next steps**

The workshop provided a good opportunity to update a larger group on the recent activities in the field of LEAD. Through the exchange of experiences in analyzing livestock environment interactions, all could deepen their understanding on LEI in the context of watershed development and gained insights in the difficulties to address livestock – livelihood issues. In this context, the field visit formed one of the highlights of the workshop.

The participants effectively contributed in the group discussions and plenary sessions with ideas on the dissemination of information that is being generated through the ongoing in-depth study and possible other interventions supported by CALPI. This will enable the project to further develop strategies to reach out to policy makers. The workshop moreover provided constructive feedback to IMWI as well as the working group on how to further improve their work. The discussions underlined the difficulties development projects face when supporting the internalization of new concepts.

Several participants expressed during the rounding up of the workshop their interest to be further involved in SDC/IC's efforts to LEAD in India and committed themselves to:

- Be involved in communication and policy follow up
- Be involved in advocacy and campaigning at different levels (to challenge orthodoxy.....!!)
- Contribute to policy analysis to the working group
- Make aware / influence local bodies on LEI
- Form a resource group (livestock + watershed experience) to advise and support Small Ruminant Development Project in AP

The next challenge for CALPI will be to ensure continuity of the LEAD focus after the in-depth study is finalized by supporting knowledge management, networking and policy influencing. The envisaged next steps are:

- ☐ Reinforce the IWMI LEAD Research based on the feedback of the larger group
- ☐ Fortify the WG efforts by providing a focused mandate
- ☐ Identify a local organisation to anchor the LEAD thrust of CALPI
- ☐ Sensitisation plans need to be developed at different levels (national, state, PRIs and farmers) for policy advocacy (through the above organisation, if possible)
- ☐ Identify the above organisation or a new one to anchor the LEAD India platform. This includes the development of the modalities of a demand driven Indian LEAD platform, which has changes to be internalised after the withdrawal of project support
- ☐ Develop information management plans on LEAD (through the above organisation, if possible) in line with PRIA Resource Centre
- ☐ Outcome of IWMI /WG /other relevant studies should be fed into ongoing projects for corrective action and for internalization of LEI in the local context

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