

LEAD Advocacy Network (LAN)



January 2008

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Executive Summary

Livestock and watershed development have long been considered in isolation of each other. Yet, each depends on the other and are an integral part of the environment.

Following a study conducted by IWMI " Livestock- Environment Interactions in watersheds (LEAD) : A study in Semi arid India" and together with the NGO partners that were involved, the LEAD Advocacy Network (LAN) was initiated to take forward these LLEI concerns and to contribute to the LEAD India Platform. 6 partner NGOs took up the coordination of LAN in their respective states and WOTR was the Anchor at the national level. Initiated in April 2005, this network, funded by SDC/ IC – CALPI, brought to the forefront the issues of concern regarding livestock in watershed development projects. Various state level workshops involving the different stakeholders including village and Gram Panchayat members played a role in voicing the real concerns as viewed by these primary stakeholders. Pilot studies gave a space to experiment new ideas and study new concepts. Documentation of small tested initiatives by various individuals, organizations and even villagers in the different states is now being shared between other states.

The coordination meetings at the national level and the capacity building of the LAN partners have been beneficial in building the network (within the state and between the partner states) and creating a platform for learning, sharing and exchange.

1. Introduction

Watershed development has emerged as an important tool to reverse the land and water degradation in the rain fed areas. Initially, watershed development was started as merely soil conservation in catchments with an emphasis on arresting siltation of dams and reservoirs. This was followed by development of micro watersheds through in-situ soil and water conservation and watershed guidelines envisaged participation of stakeholders in implementation and management of watersheds based successful experiences. In course of time other activities related to agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry were added to it expanding the objective of watershed development as a multi sectoral rural development initiative. In recent times, while watershed development is seen as an important means to promote rural livelihood, nevertheless, very little attention has been paid to livestock environment interactions. Thus watershed development programs largely failed to recognize the range of contribution made by the livestock towards the livelihood of the poor and the environmental services it provides.

Livestock production is traditional and one of the important sources of livelihood of farmers in India, especially of the poor. The increasing contribution of livestock in poverty reduction is very well recognised, in the semi-arid and arid regions of India where crop husbandry has limited possibility. India has 20% of world's livestock population. India's livestock population of 450 million large and small animals depends on a very meagre area for green fodder. The large livestock population has put tremendous pressure on the land available. Farmers mainly make use of common property resources to feed their animals. Demographic pressure contributes to conversion of grazing areas into croplands and has accelerated degradation of many grazing areas.

A number of national and international initiatives have recognised these trends and identified 'sustainable management of natural resources as a pre-requisite for sustainable livelihoods'. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Intercooperation (IC), under the NRM sector mandate, have been taking up various livestock – environment – development related activities in India since 1999. The work of the initiative targets the protection and enhancement of natural resources as affected by livestock production while alleviating poverty.

2. Genesis of LAN and Rationale

The CALPI programme of SDC and IC in collaboration of LEAD initiative of FAO, Rome organized a study through IWMI, south Asia office Hyderabad, titled " Livestock-Environment Interactions in watersheds (LEAD) : A study in Semi arid India". It was conducted involving five partner NGOs; Sampark in Madhya Pradesh, Samuha in Karnataka, Seva Mandir in Rajasthan, WASSAN in Andhra Pradesh, WOTR in Maharashtra. The study was conducted to identify research needs and document livestock-environment-livelihood related issues. To further disseminate the findings of the LEAD study and to work on the actionable research suggested in the study, the five partners involved in the LEAD India study and CEE, Ahmedabad promoted a LEAD Advocacy Network (LAN). This initiative was supported by CALPI.

The Global LEAD initiative has a Virtual Research and Development Centre formed to promote and conduct multi-disciplinary research and development, increase awareness among key stakeholders, and support decision makers by providing specific decision making tools. It had five language based Regional level Platforms, which generate knowledge and content, provide information, decision support tools and networking facilities around particular thematic issues important to a specific region. The Virtual Centre established the sixth platform (LEAD India Platform) for India with funding from SDC-IC / CALPI. The LEAD India Platform is hosted by CEE and works in close collaboration with LAN.

Goal and Objectives:

Goal: To enhance pro-poor livestock related / based livelihoods by strengthening practices of sustainable NRM and promoting enabling environment.

This is achieved through generation of knowledge base, facilitation of informed choices among key stakeholders and influencing policies on livestock–livelihood–environmental issues. Networking and effective communication will be the strategic elements of this approach.

Objectives: (i) To enhance the knowledge base on Livestock-Livelihoods-Environment issues with a special focus on watershed development, among practitioners, researchers, policy makers. (ii) To facilitate networking, feedback and information sharing for advocacy purposes. (iii) To facilitate and support pilot learning experiences among the network's research and development institutions. (iv) To assist facilitators & practitioners with knowledge, processes and tools evolved from experiences. (v) To document and disseminate experiences and the lessons learnt. (vi) To facilitate promotion of informed debates / choices / policy options at various levels.

The LEAD Advocacy Network (LAN) is the key player in the identification and generation of information, knowledge and experience to influence practice and policy. It also takes the initiative in widening the network at state and national levels.

The LEAD India Platform managed by CEE is responsible for the dissemination of relevant information and that generated by LAN through the LEAD India Platform by electronic as well as print media. Besides, each will contribute to the other's roles in terms of content and dissemination.

The Joint Project Committee The JPC is a committee set up to review, provide feedback and guidance, in short, to steer LAN and the Communications Platform in realizing the goal and objectives.

The JPC consists of (i) the 5 members of LAN; (ii) CEE (iii) Working Group representative (iv) 2 experts (v) representative of CALPI (vi) representative of IWMI (vii) representative of Global LEAD Platform (FAO) and special invitees on request. The JPC is a steering committee which would review and provide feedback and guidance to the partner organisation on platform activities.

LAN as a national network and its advocacy function

The LAN took up the following **Action Areas** to address the LEAD needs:

1. **Generation of Content:** Identify, research and high-light 'hotspots' related to Livestock, Environment and Livelihoods. Study successful practices and generate working experience required.
2. **Contribution to Policy:** (a) To propose measures to fill the gap of LEI in operational guidelines of mainstream watershed programs. (b) Provide basic information, Decision Support & Analytical Tools for communities, facilitators, administrators and policy makers.
3. **Expansion of the Network:** (a) Within the 6 Partner States to include institutions and individuals from among practitioners, researchers, administrators and policy makers. (b) To states other than the 6 mentioned.

Outputs of the project: The Outputs considered for this network action were broad and required time for realization and is ongoing. Moving towards realizing the outcomes, were phase wise outputs: (i) Identification of Hotspots of the LAN member states, and sharing the same with decision makers and practitioners. (ii) Identification, analysis, documentation and dissemination of relevant experiences/practices and learnings. (iii) Undertaking of pilot projects to test and identify promising approaches that can later be up scaled or incorporated into on-going efforts by the main stakeholders. (iv) To develop and disseminate 'Upscaling Strategies' and Operational Guidelines incorporating proven practices, as well as Decision Support and Analytical Tools for communities, practitioners and policy makers. (v) Expansion of the network within the LAN member states and to two other states during this project period. (vi) Advocacy initiatives to be taken up in the partner states involving policy makers and practitioners. (vii) Conducting National and State level workshops and trainings involving academicians, researchers, practitioners, planners and village communities. Virtual Conferences will also be conducted. (ix) Databases on publications, literature, experts and institutions etc. will be developed and disseminated. (x) Various publications, including the platform newsletter, in non-electronic and electronic formats (including in local languages).

Expected Outcomes: (a) Increased awareness on the need for sustainable use of natural resources for generating sustainable livelihoods. (b) Processes set in motion that facilitate an enabling environment and that promotes sustainable livestock management practices especially for the poor. (c) Contribution to environmentally sound, sustainable production systems where livestock play an important role especially in NRM and watershed development programmes / projects. (d) Development of a knowledge and skill base that supports wide spread dissemination and replication.

While the Expected Outcomes were considered on a long term basis, the project period (April 2005 to December 2007) considered initiating the process and taking it as far as it can go, given the limitations and constraints in the different states.

3. LAN as state level networks and its activities:

Based on the phase in the project, the conditions and the context of the different states, the following were the activities conducted.

i. Awareness Creation

The livestock sector was a 'taken for granted' issue and little or no attention was given to it in watershed development. Hence, creating awareness was crucial in all states. In order to achieve this, various **Regional level practitioners' workshops** were conducted in different partner states by the respective state coordinating organisations.

The following table presents the overall picture of the Regional workshops/ consultation

Sr. No.	States	No. of workshop	Participants	Regions
1	Andhra Pradesh	3	158	Costal, Telengana and Rayalsema of AP
2.	Gujarat	5	669	Saurashtra, South and central Gujarat,
3.	Karnataka	3	105	North, West and Southern Karnataka
4.	Madhya Pradesh	5	244	Chindwara, Jhabua, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Indore Of MP
5	Maharashtra	9	395	Marathwada, North and western Maharashtra and Vidarbha One workshop was conducted in KKID Coimbatore for various NGOs of the southern states
6.	Rajasthan	5	199	South/eastern, North/eastern and Western Rajasthan

A brief report of the outputs at the state level:

Andhra Pradesh:

NGOs, Departments of Animal Husbandry, Forest, DRDA, DWMA, NABARD, livestock reares union, community groups and women's organisations participated in the consultation. A working group was organized for each region to carry forward the issues

The main issues that emerged were related to (a) animal health - lack of availability of health care requirements, preventive animal health care plans and effective functioning of existing committees /Boards. (b) Credit especially for the poor t is still a major problem

to poor livestock holders. (c) Insurance and extension services (health and breed improvement) especially for the small ruminant holders. (d) Water and Fodder are the major issues, because of the continuous drought and declining in the common lands and grazing lands (CPRs). (e) Marketing of livestock produce and livelihoods. Distress sale of animals in the drought situations are very common and dependent on middlemen. (f) Productivity Enhancement and (g) access to feed and fodder was also a major issue in improving the productivity.

The workshop achieved the following outcomes: (i) Sensitization of the field level practitioners regarding issues of livestock and issues regarding sustainability of rehabilitated watersheds. (ii) Identifying local hotspots and locating approaches and strategies for addressing those issues. (iii) Creation of a platform to discuss existing policies, approaches and find suggestions for improvement (iv) Identification of topics for small pilot experiments and of practitioners willing to try new experiences.

Gujarat:

Participants from Line Depts. KVKs, Cooperatives, Livestock rearers, research institutes took part in the workshops. In Saurashtra the major issues revolved around pastoralism, pasture management, Cooperatives and pricing (Questioning the Amul Pattern). This is an area where dairy business is strong and the issue of small ruminants and poor livestock holders not getting much attention in the Govt. programmes. Paucity of extension staff also is considered as an issue. In South Gujarat, a predominantly tribal area, the major issues emerged are conflict on resources especially with forest dept. and the issue of small ruminants. Regional diversity in livestock related issues are very high in the state hence it is difficult to pin point common hotspots/concern. Tribal bill on Forestland Right has lot of implication for the tribal community. There is no clear-cut policy on livestock in the state. Privatisation of common lands and creation of special economic zones also as well as high tech agriculture on wastelands figured in the discussion.

In the 2nd Phase workshops were conducted on, [1] "Pastoralist: Present and Future"

(a) Pastoralist : Status and Direction; (b) Changing global scenario and need in traditional animal husbandry: Where, What, How much and How? (c) Review and need of change in present Policy and Programmes in the context of Pastoralist; (d) Environmental changes and its impact on Pastoralists. (e). Changing global economical and social scenario and its impact on pastoralist.

Discussions on the existing schemes, policies, approaches and strategies were discussed as also suggestions for improvement were received regarding core issues of pastoralists and possible solution in the framework of policy and programmes. On the second day, the identified core issues were presented to the policy makers, decision makers and programme implementers.

[2] The Second workshop was on "Young Mardhari Samvaad" (Dialogue among young Pastoralists). The main purpose of the dialogue was to have an exchange of ideas and experiences about organising, development, awareness raising, economic activities and environmental preservation in the context of Livestock-livelihood and Environment interface. The outcomes were: an understanding about the problems of the maldhari community. (b) An exchange of views on livestock management and livelihood opportunities. (c) Understanding the current views of pastoralists on education and health.

Karnataka:

Participants were from universities and academic institutions, government line depts, KVKs, NGOs, Insurance, NABARD, VDS etc. CEE Bangalore was actively involved in the programme.

Observations, outcomes and learnings of the workshops: Small ruminant holders didn't feel comfortable (separate workshops required). It was difficult to get the participation of Government officials (persistence essential). Major issues emerged are, invisibility of small ruminants in the govt. system, high cost of insurance for small ruminants, credit and marketing issues, Fodder purchase from outside (in Malnad area), credit for small ruminants mostly by SHGs and absence of institutional credit, short term strategies on fodder during drought, market chain/middle man in livestock marketing, absence of clear information on grazing land etc. In Karnataka the regional variation is quite predominant in issues related to livestock.

Madhya Pradesh

Persons from Govt. depts, NGOs, research institutions, village communities etc. participated in the workshops. Issues studied were - historical trends of livestock ownership and management, current challenges of livestock based livelihoods, implementation of programmes at district level, common and fodder issues and policy matters were discussed. Major issues emerged were rapid reduction in common land, apathy and failure of govt. programmes, shortage of budget/budget not spending, importance of upgrading local varieties etc. It was also felt that researchers are not in tune with community requirement. Another issue came up is lack of integration between research, extension and community needs. Changing agricultural practices such as mechanical harvesting, introduction of GM crops, promotion of Castor on a large scale etc also are being identified as having a bearing on livestock rearing. Issue of pastorals and migration of them on a large scale from Rajasthan is also identified as issue by the participants.

Maharashtra

Departments of Agriculture, Forest, Social Forestry, Animal Husbandry, DRDA, NGOs, NABARD, Insurance Agencies, Research institutes etc participated in the workshop. As in other states there are considerable variations in the concerns and issues across these regions. Major concerns emerged were - animal drinking water, fodder issues in general and particularly in times of drought (Western Maharashtra and Marathwada); fodder storage where there is sufficiency (Northern Maharashtra); institutional credit; small ruminants as coping mechanism in times of drought; availability of technology and services (Vidharba & Northern Maharashtra); Govt. response at the times drought, the issue of CPR, ban on grazing in watersheds and forest etc.

Following up in the 2nd Phase, 2 workshops cum trainings were organized in Marathwada and Western Maharashtra regions on, 'Planning for livestock in watershed development programmes'. The participants included stakeholders – livestock owners, Village development Committees, Gram Panchayat members, govt. line departments, NGOs. One workshop was also conducted at Coimbatore for NGOs of the southern states on 'Planning for Livestock in watershed development Projects'. Two other workshops were organized as part of an ILRI action research project to initiate discussions on fodder issues. The workshops were appreciated as livestock were completely neglected. And the Fodder issues were particularly of interest in drought prone Maharashtra.

Rajasthan:

Govt. staff, NGOs, civilians, professionals, researchers, community members etc, attended the workshop. Each workshop addressed a major theme pertaining to the specific area – (i) Udaipur: Tribal farming system and livestock issues - the issue of commons, interventions for coping mechanisms, mainstreaming livestock issues in WSDS, making WSD mandatory and as part of ToR with livestock dept.etc. (ii) Jaipur: the now popular dairy development; an urgent need of service providers as currently both quacks and private professionals are filling that gap. In this context the issue of GOPAL yojana was discussed in detail. It is found that in most cases '*gopals*' become defunct after the project, they cease to exist even though it is a great need in the area. (iii) Western Rajasthan - pastoralism and migration became prominent. The issue of 'locality' in livestock insurance is also became an issue. The relief (Famine Code) does not include goats, sheep and camels. It is observed that there is great degree of regional variation in issues and hotspots. Sensitizing PRIs on livestock issues and addressing livestock needs through EGA is also felt as important.

Other observations from the workshop were: (a) No policy / vision regarding livestock in general (b) Rajasthan has the largest population of goats (even though 40% of the goats are slaughtered each year). (c) Live goats are being promoted for the external market. The small SR owners should not be left out from the market, which can be taken up by corporate sector. (d) Insurance for SR (insurance not provided if the SR / LR are over 100 (kms) away from site of insurance, no insurance for pastoralists.

During the 2nd Phase 2 regional workshops were organized at Udaipur and Sardarsahar (Dist. Churu). The main objective of these workshop was to sensitize the participants about local hotspots, concerns and emerging issues regarding livestock in watershed development, Livestock and Environment interrelationship and; the common land protection and management. 1st workshop: Major issues: 1. Role of village institutions in NREGS. 2. Integration of NREGS and livestock devp 3. Integrating livestock in WSD. The 2nd major theme taken up was 'Encroachments on common lands. Poor productivity of common land and livestock'

(ii) Capacity Building (state-wise)

While Capacity building (trainings) are required, these were taken up in selected states according to the context. The objective was to improve the skills and knowledge of the practioners with respect to livestock livelihood interaction.

Gujarat: A fifty-day training programme for livestock entrepreneurs was conducted where 8 persons from five district participated.

In Phase II A three days training programme was organised on "Sustainable Livestock Production" where 28 farmers/pastoralists participated in the training programme. The participants were pastoralists, a mix farmers and livestock rearers and village cooperative members. Assuming basic practical knowledge and skills regarding animal keeping, the course included fodder management, local natural resources, grasslands, and local institutions & linkages.

Karnataka: Two Grass root level workshops / trainings involving livestock rearer's nizedat Tavaragera. The training on 'sheep and goats rearing' was organised jointly with Sujala Watershed Project, Govt. of Karnataka. 20 sheep and goats rearers from 14 villages participated in the programme.

Maharashtra:

Two workshop cum training on Planning for Livestock in watershed development projects was conducted in the Marathwada and Western Maharashtra regions.

(iii) Pilot Studies

The objective of this activity was to facilitate and support pilot learning experiences among network partners and other collaborating research and development institutions and document and scale the processes wherever possible. Activities implemented by the partners in the different states are mentioned below:

In Andhra Pradesh: A pilot was initiated on Livestock Related Support Systems for Single Women Households.' The wage-dependent single women households have a unique problem of living off-their wage incomes and the options for livelihood asset building are very poor. They cannot keep livestock beyond a certain size holding as it competes for their time (wage labour), and there is no family back up. A detailed analysis in this regard was done earlier in one of WASSAN's study on fodder options with the International Livestock Research Institute.

WASSAN in partnership with the Kosgi Mandal Mahila Samakhya has taken up this pilot initiative in Muktipad village (Mahabubnagar district). This pilot experiment changed the way livestock programs related to livelihoods are generally planned. Instead of distributing livestock assets through provision of credit, this initiative creates access to fodder, water, housing and collective grazer services to these poor households and they in turn access credit through regular channels to get livestock.

Gujarat: CEE initiated 4 pilot interventions, which are Azzola as cattle feed, Jivan tikka, Goat unit for Vaghari community and value addition of livestock products through collective marketing by SHGs.

Some of the activities undertaken in this component of the project require more time to show results and outcomes

Maharashtra: Using various waste crop residues effectively to improve the production performance of animal with minimum inputs was taken up as a pilot in a drought prone district of Maharashtra. " Efficient Utilisation of Fodder by Urea Jaggery Treatment" While known in other areas, this was new to the area. From this experience it was found to be a drought mitigation strategy to meet the nutrition requirement of animals when green fodder is scarce or not available.

Rajasthan initiated a small pilot experiment to study and document the lopping practices in silvi-pastoral sites to understand the feeding practices of small ruminants by the Rabari community. The learning from the study can be used as inputs for management of old pastures, *mini-chaks* (pooled) etc. in the sense that whether the needs of small ruminants can be addressed through lopping. Seasonality of lopping, preference of fodder trees, method of lopping, etc were studied.

Small ruminants are the main purpose for the lopping of trees. Lopping practice has resulted in Better milk production and conservation of trees and shrubs.

(iv) Documentation of Experiences:

There are much un-documented small experiences that go unseen and learnings from the same are missed out. Hence this activity was creating an inventory of information on experiences in livestock- livelihood and environment interaction and to assist facilitators and practitioners with knowledge, processes and tools evolved from practical experience

As part of this activity each organisation has undertaken some exercises covering documentation of cases, creation of tool booklets for practitioners, audiovisual materials on community practice, documentation of pilot studies etc. Brief description of these activities as per organisation is as follows;

Andhra Pradesh: A Write-Shop: (Documentation Workshop) was organized - a five-day event. Several case examples were identified before and during the multi-stakeholder consultations. This was followed by special scouting exercise to identify appropriate case examples for documentation. Documentation took place in two ways: (a) A team of resource persons visited few sites for closer analysis of three experiences and (b) A Write-Shop was organised by inviting representatives of the organisation and the community for a documentation workshop. Journalists and an artist to document their experiences in detail supported these persons. Expert facilitation in terms of deriving processes was also provided.

Different issues have been covered in the case studies documentation process like Fodder development through CBOs, community based health services, institutions and role of primary stakeholders, development of CPRs, Protection of common grazing lands, dairy through SHGs, credit linkages, sheep and goat units, marketing issues like Bulk Milk Cooling centers, etc. Experiences of NGOs, CBOs, Government departments, programs like Indira Kranthi Patham (IKP-DRDA), APRLP, watershed development, forestry and also primary stakeholders were part of this writ-shop

The case studies have been documented in telegu in the book titled, "Pasu-jeevalu-batuku nestalu -- Livestock-the friends of livelihoods". 1000 copies are published with support from the Government (Commissioner, Rural Development as a part of APRLP).

Gujarat: As Part of documentation of experiences CEE Gujarat has undertaken 3 case studies. The cases were Gir Cows, a famous indigenous breed of Gujarat; Bopa Rabaris (pastoral community) dependent on mangrove for camel herding and the impact of converting this mangrove area into a conservation marine park and a Community managed fodder cooperatives being run by local fodder specific institution. These case studies have contributed in better understanding of different livestock related issues for informed policy advocacy and assisting the practitioners.

Karnataka: Samuha has documented 3 market studies of small and marginal ruminants in Koppal, Sindhaur and Raichur Districts.

Madhya Pradesh: Sampark has documented the "local practices in livestock health management" in an audio visual and print format. It is based on systems and practices of livestock management systems existing among the tribal communities of Jhabua.

Maharashtra WOTR has documented the Maharashtra experience of "Large ruminants management with Dry Fodder and Concentrate" applicable in the field. The

documentation was with the purpose of addressing the cattle camps that the government provides during droughts, where dry and even green fodder is provided to animals (a good but expensive approach). This study was documented to reduce costs and at the same time provide nutritive supplements to livestock during summer and drought periods.

Another case study was documented on Integration of Livestock with commercial unit of Citronella Extraction Plant implemented by a small entrepreneurial farmer in drought prone Parthadi taluka of Ahmednagar district.

Rajasthan: Seva Mandir has compiled a booklet in Hindi titled " *Paltu Pashon ka vyavharik gharelu upchar avam unnat prabandhan*", on diagnosis of ailments and local traditions of treatment. While academic institutions have carried out substantial work on treatment of common livestock ailments and diseases, the prescription form of recommendation prevents extension and multiplication of these techniques. The book stresses an early diagnosis of the diseases on the basis of mentioned symptoms. The treatment of the diseases is recommended through locally available home remedies. The book also suggests hygienic rearing of animals following improved management practices, inclusive of an annual calendar of month wise animal husbandry activities and vaccination schedules.

(d) Advocacy for Reforms

State level Workshops; The LAN coordinating organization for each organized a state level workshop on issues, themes and hotspots of LLEI involving multiple stakeholders from Govt. departments, research institutes and universities, NGOs, primary stakeholders from the villages.

State level workshops were organized in all 6 partner states. The following is the consolidation of issues that emerged, observations made and recommended suggestions from all 6 workshops: (a) there is hardly any policy prescription on livestock sector. (b) Livestock should be seen from an overall natural resource and livelihood angle and not merely as an income generating activity. (c) In watershed development, enough groundwork should be done for factual analysis of overall farming systems involving both agriculture and animal husbandry. Based on this reality check one should try to prepare programs to strengthen the farm based livelihood of the people. (d) In the areas with predominance of non-descript animals with poor livestock holders we must try to enhance the productivity of non descript animals through better animal husbandry practices.

(e) Due to problem of unclear entitlements, the common lands are usually dropped from the action plan in most of the watersheds. There are examples where community with facilitation from NGOs, have negotiated with the encroachers to vacate the common lands from their possession. In such watersheds, the common lands have been successfully integrated into the watersheds. In this process the local livestock sector has been a particular gainer. Thus the development of common lands through altering property relation must be priority of the watershed programme. (f) Systems and technologies to develop and manage CPRs need careful attention. Increasingly CPRs are either getting encroached or privatized. (g) The ecological impact of small ruminants should be analyzed with care and caution.

Both ecological and economic aspects of small ruminant husbandry and its contribution to the livelihood of the poor must be taken into account while working out any policy option. (h) Institutional mechanisms and arrangements for managing common resources and integration of livestock concerns in watershed management need further attention and policy direction is required. (i) Capacity building and awareness generation requires more attention and resources, capabilities, educational materials etc needs further attention. There should be satellite resource centers at local level dealing with all issues related to livestock production, economy and environmental issues. (j) Access to services like health (both preventive and curative) and breeding are the major issues, which should be focused. Traditional health and management practices need to be integrated in to mainstream systems. Health services are not accessible to livestock holders except in case of large ruminants. Small ruminant holders are not able to access the services from the departments. NGOs and Government provide breeding services also but the service provisioning should be shifted to community-managed services. (k) Productivity can be improved by intervening in the areas like fodder and provide sufficient water to the livestock. There is no such policy exists to extend services in the areas of fodder and water. Water is no ones issue to provide livestock. (l) Financial services - Credit is available to purchase livestock but it should go beyond asset creation process. The credit should be available to feed, manage and access services like health, breeding and insurance. (m) Marketing is one of the major issues, in terms of marketing of livestock produce. Except in case of dairy, other produce it is totally neglected. Systems to be established for marketing of meat, wool, leather, etc. (n) There should be a convergence platform for the departments to share their programs and activities; no coordination exists between the departments, which works for similar objectives. (o) Strategies should be evolved to integrate livestock issues in the mainstream programs, particularly the programs, which aim at poverty alleviation and livelihood enhancement, would have support systems for livestock development and productivity enhancement. There should be a regular reality check on the relevance and effectiveness of different livestock related programmes. (p) While implementing watershed development, in order to minimize the negative effects on the livelihoods of poor we have to take care of fodder requirements of animals and may have to supplement the fodder. Promoting feed supplementation in these cases would reduce the problem of temporary resource alienation. During the planning of watershed projects special attention should be given towards participatory livestock planning. During the planning phase fodder scarcity and requirements should be calculated on sound basis. Special measures such as change in cropping pattern, plantation of fodder trees, seeding of grasses, common fodder production and storage are to be encouraged to meet fodder requirement. (q) To ensure that small, marginal, landless livestock keepers and migrants can enjoy their traditional rights and can contribute to development and management of CPRs, poor livestock owners may be given preferential access to fodder resources. (r) Self help groups or local CBOs can be called upon to help and manage CPRs. Separate mechanism to ensure access to poor need to be developed. Creation of rotating corpus, share in a produce and subsidiary payments may be some alternatives. (s) Special water allocation for fodder production is required. This may be a collective activity with common investment and common fodder production. Budget support may be given for performing these common activities.

(e) Policy Advocacy

Madhya Pradesh: SAMPARK during the 2nd Phase of the project prepared recommendations for a Pro-Poor Livestock Policy for Madhya Pradesh on based on the field situation of Madhya Pradesh.

A state level workshop was conducted on policy requirements for the livestock sector at the state level at Bhopal.

Interventions at the National level: LAN anchor and members have undertaken different policy related work formally and as representation/participation in other forums and workshop organized around related themes. LAN made a presentation on issues related to pro poor livestock concerns in watershed development to the “ Technical Committee on Watershed Development in India” appointed by the Ministry Of Rural Development, GoI and chaired by Mr. Parthasarathi. The concerns and issues raised by the LAN platform are incorporated in the report. Besides this LAN members have actively contributed on issues of livestock-livelihood and environment in different workshops and platforms.

National Workshop: A two day national workshop on the theme, “Integrating Livestock in Watershed Development: Beyond Concerns and Rhetoric’ was organized in Pune in the month of May. The major objectives of the workshop were: (1) To consolidate conceptual clarity and crystallize thinking on how to effectively integrate livestock issues in watershed development for environmentally sustainable development. (2) To identify gaps and recommend strategies for operationalizing effective interventions for sustainable livestock based livelihoods in WS programmes.

The workshop was attended by 60 participants from across the country belonging to different state governments, members of academics and research and training institutes, NGOs, funders, activist, practitioners, researchers. Thematic areas related to LEI were discussed and different presentation on issues of policy and practice were presented in the workshop. Through group work strategic and operational issues of integrating livestock in watershed development were analysed and recommendations were made. Three major issues were covered in this section such as planning system at micro and macro level for integrating livestock issues; institutional mechanisms for integrating livestock agenda in WSD programmes and issues of capacity building for institutions/stakeholders. A detailed report of the proceedings if the workshop was distributed to concerned stakeholders related to policy and practice, which was well appreciated. The workshop was well covered in the print and electronic media.

5. LAN – governance

LAN was managed at the level by the respective state coordinating organization – WASSAN for Andhra Pradesh; CEE in Gujarat, Samuha for Karnataka, Sampark in Madhya Pradesh, WOTR in Maharashtra and Seva mandir in Rajasthan. The overall coordination at the national level was planned on a rotational level. WOTR held the National Anchor post during this project period 2005 to 2007.

LAN worked in close coordination with The LEAD India Platform managed by CEE.

The Joint Project Committee set up to review, provide feedback and guidance, in short, to steer LAN and the Communications Platform in realizing the goal and objectives was formed by the (i) 6 members of LAN and the Platform (ii) Working Group representative

(iii) 2 experts (iv) representative of CALPI (v) representative of IWMI (vi) representative of Global LEAD Platform (FAO) and special invitees on request.

National Level Activities:

(a) Coordination meetings of LAN partners: Four coordination meetings in the 1st phase and 3 meetings in the 2nd phase and two subgroup meetings have been conducted during the project period. Meetings were generally to review and plan, reorganization of activities and budget, information sharing and strategizing LAN work for improved effectiveness of the platform. Operation and management of the platform and issues related to network relations were also part of the proceedings. The meetings were conducted in different partner states.

One meeting was organized in March 2007 as part of the assessment by the FAO of the LEAD India initiative.

Besides the formal coordination meetings, there were many interactions between the LAN partners at the state levels, such as – participating in other state activities, workshops, learning and collaborating with one another.

Joint Project Committee (JPC) meeting:

A JPC was formed at the initiation of the project consisting of individuals and persons having experience in the area of watershed and livestock development issues. The members of the JPC included besides LAN members, Dr. NK Sanghi, Mr. VB Easwaran and Dr. Nitya Ghotge. The JPC met once during the project period and deliberated on issues related to project activities providing critical guidance, steering and support.

Capacity building of the LAN member organizations:

(1) A training on, ‘Environmental Impact Assessment and planning ecologically sustainable livestock production’ was organized from the 23-27 April 2007, at Ahmedabad. Dr. Hans Schiere (Netherlands) was the facilitator. This workshop benefited 18 persons from the LAN network.

Contents and Learning(s) The workshop put into perspective the economic, ecological social aspects, in relation to livestock. The Global trend and the rapidly changing food habits impact the economic growth and demand for livestock products which have various repercussions e.g. demand for milk and meat are growing and are associated with the economic growth rate and at the same time there is a corresponding increase in the water and energy. The most important learning was the importance of looking at livestock in the context of the environment – always missed.

An important element newly introduced was addressing LLEI from the Systems thinking point of view. The relationship between system drivers, mode changes and land-use patterns; differences between hard-, soft- and complexity issues in system analysis and design; the importance of differentiating between the realistic web-like systems versus the simplistic linear system in mixed farming and its linkage with sustainability.

(2) The Importance of education in addressing Livestock Environment and Development Issues was part of the Pre-Tbilisi + 30 International conference organized

in Ahmedabad. Some of the LAN members were panalists and presented important issues related to LLEI. Discussions on the pressure on water from humans and livestock, grazing and forest rights, livestock productivity, natural resources, bio-diversity and the tribal bill were discussed from the point of view of policy issues.

Following the pre-conference workshop, the LAN members also participated in the international conference to benefit from the important and related aspects of education for the environment. This was part of the capacity building of the LAN members.

6. Linkage with LEAD Communication platform

Representatives of The LEAD India Platform and LAN participated regularly in all the coordination meetings to better understand the initiatives and understand the local contexts and responses. Reports of the various workshops, studies and pilot projects were shared through the Platform.

7. Outputs and impacts

Major outcomes: Given the short period of the project, at the state level as also at the national level, the major outcomes were the following: (1) Sensitization to issues related to LLEI to a wider and more influential section. (2) Hotspots were identified for the different states and awareness has been created regarding these. (3) The concerns of the marginal small ruminant holders has been initiated, though very much more needs to be done and consistently to the mainstream these. (4) A platform for dialogue has begun and probably for the first time the primary stakeholders were involved and their voices were heard by government line departments. (5) Networks have been initiated within the states and between the 6 partner states that bring individuals and organizations and sharing of information and knowledge has been initiated. Collaboration between different institutions and networks have been initiated. (5) Learnings from good practices have been documented and are now being shared. (6) Livestock issues have been highlighted and are now being considered at least by the network partners while making plans for NRM activities. (7) Issues regarding LLEI have been included in the Parthasarathi committee report. (8) A policy dialogue has been in progress in Madhya Pradesh.

National level workshop: Some of the major outcomes of the national workshop are that different stakeholders could be familiarized with issues, hotspots and concerns of livestock, livelihood and environment interaction in semi arid and resource fragile areas of the country which helped in focused analysis and evolving systems and strategies of integrating livestock concerns in NRM projects. Participation of a wide spectrum of stakeholders in the workshop helped in understanding the issues from different perspectives with inputs related to policy issues/implications, research findings, practical experiences and learnings.

8. Sustainability of the Network

LAN was initiated with the support of the SDC/IC-CALPI funding. Each of the states initiated the activities with much enthusiasm during the 1st phase. As the funding reduced, sufficient attention could not be given, although the interest was there. Yet, during the 2nd Phase, some of the activities implemented were from other funding sources and have been reported here.

Most of the LAN member states still commit to continue the work initiated although in a subdued manner (networking and coordination meetings), depending on their ability to generate funds. But all are committed to integrate the LLEI issues in their routine work as well as with their network partners as and where possible.

9. Learnings

(1) An understanding that LLEI cannot be addressed in a linear manner but rather sustainability has to be looked at by a web-like systems thinking, if sustainability of the ecosystems has to be achieved. And the sustainability of the natural resources and livestock has to be considered in a broader manner than just in terms of economic returns. This has been one of the most important learnings. (2) Bringing the various stakeholders and especially the primary stakeholders throw new light on the issues as they have the realistic picture. And bringing different stakeholders including government departments together is possible. (3) While there is motivation and interest in the different states, the state level coordinating NGOs could not give sufficient time to focus on this important issue. If funds are allocated for a full time coordinator at the state levels then there would have been a better response.

10. Key Message

Livestock issues cannot be looked at only from the economic point of view. A holistic Systems Thinking approach, involving all stakeholders is essential for sustainability of our regenerated watersheds and our natural resources for today and tomorrow.