

Training Programme

Developing Biocultural Protocols: Saving indigenous livestock breeds, livestock keepers and ecosystems



*Held at WOTR Training Centre in Darewadi
July 4th-6th, 2013*

DOCUMENTATION



Introduction

Biocultural Community protocols (BCPs) are an exciting new tool for communities that manage and conserve biodiversity, including domestic plants and animals that they have developed and are stewarding, agro-ecosystems that they have managed and conserved, as well as customary rules that they adhere to. BCPs are an approach conceived and developed in the context of implementing the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and ensuring that benefits trickle down to the people that are stewarding the world's biodiversity in-situ. Communities that are managing their resources traditionally are entitled to support under various international and national legal agreements, such as the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), the Right to Food, the Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources, the Nagoya protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, and many others. By establishing a BCP, a community documents and makes visible its role and contribution in biodiversity conservation.

India's indigenous livestock breeds are also the product of the traditional knowledge of their keepers. They can only be saved if two conditions obtain: livestock keepers that take care of them and their secure access to the land/environment in which the breeds were developed. BCPs can achieve two things: making visible the connection between livestock breeds and particular communities, as well as identifying the resource base and customary rights and practices that sustain the breed. BCPs can also be oriented to indicating the potential of breeds for specialty products and new income and business opportunities.

For the purpose of spreading the approach of developing BCPs, a three day training programme was organised by LPPS and WOTR at WOTR's training centre in Darewadi, Maharashtra. The programme was supported by the Rainfed Livestock Network (RLN) and also represented an activity of LIFE Network India.

Process

4th JULY

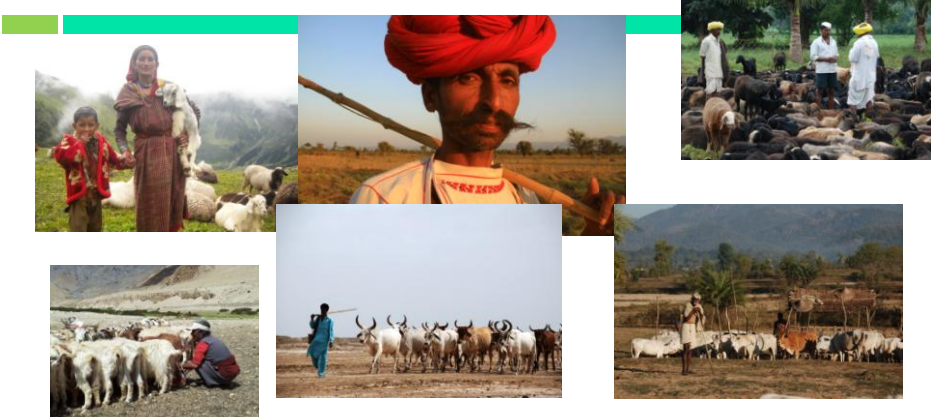
The training was opened by Kamal Kishore as representative of RLN and by Hanwant Singh as representative of LPPS, the nodal agency for the training.

This was followed by a round of introductions by all participants.



Workshop resource person, Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson provided an introduction to BCPs, their history and purpose.

India's Livestock Cultures



India's livestock keepers

- Have developed a large number of breeds
- Convert local bio-mass into a range of products and services
- Make sustainable use of the environment
- Breeds and keepers are integral part of eco-systems

Indian livestock keepers

- Conserve breeds

- Maintain eco-systems
- Livestock keepers: Guardians of biological diversity (FAO, 2010)

Advantages of pastoralist breeds

- Ability to roam far from water resources prevents overgrazing
- Access to remote areas
- food security
- Food products with health benefits

Problems

- Lack of awareness about the benefits of local breeds, TK and local systems
- Pastoralists continue to have a bad reputation as destroyers of the environment in many (policy making) circles.
- Linkages between breeds and livestock keeping communities often remains invisible to outsiders.
- Governments give preference/provide funds to ex-situ conservation.

Questions :

- How do we change perceptions among policy makers, bureaucrats and even livestock keepers that local breeds and associated traditional knowledge are valuable assets?
- How do we counter threats such as shrinking grazing lands, disintegration of traditional institutions and knowledge, lack of respect by outsiders?
- How can pastoralists claim their stake and fight for their assets?

A new tool: Biocultural Community Protocols

- Backed by the Nagoya Protocol of the UN-Convention on Biological Diversity
- Tool for claiming status as „indigenous or local community....“
- Biocultural Protocols document the role of a community in conserving animal genetic resources and eco-systems, contribute to visibility and awareness

Who has done BCPs?

- Raika of Rajasthan (India)
- Banni Maldhari of Gujarat (India)
- Bargur Hill Cattle Breeders (Lingayat) of Tamil Nadu (India)
- Samburu and the Red Maasai Sheep (Kenya)
- Pashtoon Pastoralists (Pakistan)

Process and Lessons learnt

- The process is not easy, is time-consuming, and requires much hand-holding.
- BCPs are an extremely valuable visibility tool and contribute to empowerment
- BCPs can be expected to be very valuable, as and when the Nagoya Protocol will be implemented with respect to Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Next, Ramesh Bhatti of Sahjeevan and Hanwant Singh of LPPS shared their experiences with developing BCPs.

Discussion

After these three presentations, there was lively discussion about the scope and legal issue. The points made were summarized by means of cards:



SCOPE

Not limited to breeds ecosystem approach, holistic

Breed based BCPs – can they be linked to agrobiodiversity as a whole?

More info on tools and process of BCP preparation required.

Expectation – A legally sound document endogenously developed by the community bringing up details i.e. traditions, cultures, customs on AnGR, agriculture, ecology and livelihood aspects

Burning question: how to comprehensively bring in all above aspects? Are we to take up a bottom up approach e.g. start with local breed?

LEGAL ISSUES

Legal backing, support, ABS

Is BCP a threat to traditional knowledge systems in our times where corporate are searching for patents for new ideas? Are we putting all eggs in one basket?

Are BCPs a binding document before the law if a conflict arises?

Resources required and technology used

Legal background and the reason behind why legal authorities do not allow the pastoralists to graze

What is the legal experience of BCPs in different countries?

Develop inner depth on developing biocultural protocol including legalities involved.

BCP for other things/aspects (other than pastoralism)

Legal status/provision/acts/laws of BCP

Existing national policies/acts which provides livestock keepers in claiming their LKRs

Process of Inking BCPs with NREGA on CPR improvement.

In the afternoon and evening, participants were given free time to reflect on the types of BCPs they might like to initiate. They each put together small presentations covering the following communities and eco-systems.

State	Organisation	BCP focus
Karnataka	Future Greens	Moolagi buffalo, Yelga sheep, Madygyal sheep
Rajasthan	FES	Eco-system, Communities (Gameti), Livelihoods
Gujarat	MARAG	Maldhari Community
Karnataka AP Maharashtra	Mithan (Kurba) WOTR (Golla) WOTR (Dhangar)	Deccan Plateau and Deccani sheep
Orissa	Innovate orissa	Hajrat deshi poultry Chilika buffalo Ganjam goats
Kutch	Sahjeevan	Goats, sheep

In the evening, the participants met some (non-traditional) shepherds that lived within walking distance from the training centre.



July 5th

Field Visit

The second day of the training was devoted to a field visit to a village in which WOTR is working. Discussions were held with local cattle and goat keepers to demonstrate the “LIFE method” and determine whether the livestock in the village represented a distinct breed.



Do these cattle represent a distinct breed?



Participants tried to find the answer by interviewing the owner about his breeding practices.

In the afternoon, the presentations by participants on possible BPs were continued.

This was followed by a presentation by the resource person explaining the concept of Access and Benefit-Sharing for Animal Genetic Resources:

Access and Benefit-Sharing for Animal Genetic Resources : How it could work for livestock keepers

Small-scale livestock keepers provide a collective service by maintaining breeds “in-situ” and stewarding eco-systems. They should be rewarded for this service that they provide for the future of humankind.

How could this be done under the ABS system?

- Possible entry point: The Nagoya Protocol
- This requires countries to support the development of community protocols for ABS by indigenous and local communities.
- It will also need to be implemented with respect to animal genetic resources, unless an alternative sui-generis system is developed.

Experiences with Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs)

- Over the last couple of years, several livestock keeping communities have developed BCPs.
- While the methodology still needs to be improved, they make visible the linkages between breeds and the communities that have developed them.
- BCPs establish breeds as the “prior art” of communities and they therefore represent community claims over animal genetic resources.

Communities that have developed BCPs

- Raika of Rajasthan (India)
- Banni Maldhari of Gujarat (India)
- Bargur Hill Cattle Breeders (Lingayat) of Tamil Nadu (India)
- Samburu and the Red Maasai Sheep
- Pashtoon Pastoralists of Pakistan

Advantages of BCPs

(according to practitioners at Livestock Futures Conference held in Bonn in 09/2012)

- are a tool for documenting bio-assets, production systems, products.
- give a voice to pastoralists and other small-scale livestock keepers.
- raise awareness about culture and tradition to address challenges, such as cross breeding and product innovations
- Invoke rights (grazing, breeding)
- Generate information exchange and communication with other stakeholders

Desireable Benefits identified by livestock keepers

- Monetary rewards at national level through payments for environmental services, such as carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation.
- Provision of an enabling environment that supports them to continue their livelihood and breed conservation activities (livestock keepers rights, grazing rights, services).
- Support for developing a special label for livestock products from bio-diversity based production systems (“Ark of Bio-diversity”)

Benefit sharing fund/pool at international level ?

- Could be financed through
- Livestock genetics companies in the context of Corporate Social Responsibility ?
- The GPA funding strategy ?
- Companies interested in marketing the products from local breeds ?

Use of Benefit-Sharing Fund for

- Education and awareness raising about local breeds, fairs
 - Product development and marketing
 - Research on local breeds and production systems
 - Women empowerment, food security and breed management
 - For conservation breeding
 - Legal support for rights (grazing, breeding, etc.)
- **Conditions for receipt of funds would be that the beneficiaries have a BCP in place.**
Furthermore, communities should have direct access to the Benefit-sharing fund.

Discussion by participants:

- We need a grand overarching plan!
- For obtaining legitimacy, we need to liaise with the National Biodiversity Authority
- Funding is available from State Biodiversity Board for Peoples' Biodiversity Register (1 lakh per village in Maharashtra)
- Money will go the village biodiversity board
- Could be used for meetings
- Push for PBRs (Peoples' Biodiversity Register)
- Maharashtra could become model for other states
- WOTR will push BCP into PBRs in Maharashtra



Some conclusions:

1. We need a global regulatory body
2. We need to register all BCPs in a website /agency
3. Funding for developing BCPS for individuals
4. NGO role : facilitator
5. Need base questionnaire or tool to document /elicit is required
6. Process of collecting information – varied methods
7. Endorsement of local panchayat , resolution in Gram sabha ... (official approval will be beneficial) move to district collector
8. Breed based/or community based : which one ??
9. Overall objective : ecosystem /tract /geographic location protection : as the AGR and communities cant exist without this base

July 6th

On 6th morning, the group wrapped up the workshop by defining the “grand overarching plan”:

The Grand Overarching Plan

Goal : supporting (dynamic) sustainable use and development of Indias livestock oriented agro-ecosystems through BCPs

Project: Conservation and sustainable use of India’s dynamic livestock oriented ecosystems through BCPs

Steps :

1. Identify major ecosystems , AnGR and communities
2. Identify facilitating agencies in these areas identified
3. Methodology workshop – evolve, refine and standardise
4. Coordination body : facilitating fund raising ,training, implementation, communication , advocacy etc
5. Facilitation through PBR at village level
6. Advisory body/approval board: community leaders , NBA/SBBA , NBAGR, NGOs, legal experts, International Agencies on AnGR etc ... purpose : sanctioning for development and ensure integrity, legitimacy and approval of final BCP , steering the whole process

Requirements for facilitating agency level :

1. Expert on documentation
2. 2 field staff
3. Travel costs

4. Meetings at different levels with communities
5. Publication costs
6. Documentation expenses (maps, review of literature , photography etc)
7. Networking costs
8. Other expenses
9. Admin costs

Requirements at Coordination body level:

1. Resource person fee
2. Workshops
3. Trainings
4. Communication material development and maintenance
5. Advocacy work charges
6. Participation in national and international events
7. Staff 2 persons
8. Admin costs

After lunch, the participants left by bus for Pune from where they dispersed to their respective destinations.



Appendix I. Schedule

July 3rd		
17:00	Meeting point Aga Khan Palace in Pune	
17:00-20:00	Transfer to WOTR Training Center	
July 4th		
9:00-9:30	Opening and Welcomes	Kamal Kishore, RLN Hanwant Singh, LPPS
9.30-10:00	Introductions to BCPs: history and purpose	Ilse Köhler-Rollefson (IKR)
10.00-11.00	Why we developed BCPs and what has been their impact?	Experience Sharing by Sahjeevan and LPPS
11.00-11.15	Tea Break	
11:15 – 11.30	Expectations for the training	Participants
11.30 – 12.00	Legal and Institutional Background of BCPs	Input by IKR
12.00-13:00	Q&A Session with Participants	IKR, LPPS, Sahjeevan
13.00 -13.45	Lunch Break	
13:45-15.00	About the BCP process and what do we protect? – breeds, traditional knowledge, natural resources,	Input by IKR
15.00 -15.30	Tea break	
15.30 – 17.30	Group 1: reflecting on how BCPs might be useful for us – developing individual case-studies	
	Group 2: how to work together productively (only for SEVA, LPPS, Vechur Trust, Sahjeevan and project advisory group)	
17:00-19:00	Free time / extension of meeting for Group 2	
19:00-20:00	Short presentations on possible BCPs by Group 1	Participants
21:00	Dinner, with background on field trip	
July 5th		
11.00 am – 18.00 pm	Group 1: Field trip	Akole region of Ahmednagar district
8.00 – 11.00 am	Group 2: Determining indicators, survey methodology, and other open questions on FAO project	
19.00 – 20.00	Reflections of field visit – discussion & Q & A session	
21.00	Dinner	
July 6th		
8:30-9:30	More on the legal background of BCPs	Arpitha/Natural Justice
9.30 – 10.30	Innovative project on " Pastoralists & communication mechanisms "	Dinesh & Team
10.30-10.45	Tea Break	

10.45 – 13.00	Analysis of the field trip: what did we see? Opportunities for BCPs?	Participants
	“Is this a breed?” – how do we know that certain livestock represents a breed?	IKR, with support from Prof. Kandasamy, Kamal Kishore,
	Q & A session	
13.00- 13.30	Discussion: What are our next steps – developing plan of action	Bhavana Rao
14.00 -14.15	Summing up & Closure	Workshop Rapporteur
14:15 – 14.45	Lunch	
15.00	Departure to Pune	

Appendix II - Participants

S.No	Participants	Organisation
1	Abhinash Pradhan	Innovate Orissa
2	Krishna Chandra Pathro	
3	Bhavana Rao	WOTR
4	Girish Jhatar	
5	Dinesh Reddy	FES
6	Mr Sushil Oraon	
7	Ms Snigdha Borah	
8	Mr C. Saneesh	
9	Participant 1	MARAG
10	Participant 2	
11	Ramesh Bhatti	Sahajeevan
12	Mahendra Bhannani	
13	Arti Halbe	
14	Vivekanandan	SEVA
15	Alagumalai	
16	Dr. Atani	Mitan
17	Neelkant mama	
18	K.C Jayan	Vechur Trust
19	Hanuvant Singh	LPPS
20	Ilse Rolfeffson	LPPS
21	Arpita	NJ
22	Chanda Nimbkar	Nimbkar Inst.
23	kamal Kishor	RLN
24	D.K. Sadana	NBAGR
25	P.Kandasamy	LIFE Network