



## Convention on Tamil Nadu Pastoralism 2024

**Theme: Workshop on Protection of Pasture lands, Commons and Pastoralism: Issues, Challenges and Way forward**

October, 18 - 19, 2024

Venue: Agronomy Seminar Hall, Agricultural College, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

**Introduction:** Two days' workshop on Protection of Pasture lands, Commons and Pastoralism: Issues, Challenges and Way forward has been organised on October, 18-19, 2024 at Agronomy Seminar Hall, Agricultural College, Madurai, jointly by Thozhuvam Farmer Producer Company Ltd., SEVA and International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 (IYRP) support group, Tamil Nadu Federation of Pastoralist People Sangams, Tamil Nadu, NABARD - MABIF, Government departments with the main objective of understanding the present status of pastoralism, commons, leveraging ongoing government programmes and schemes of different departments for sustainable rangeland management and pastoralism. The workshop includes an inaugural ceremony, technical sessions (including the participation of experts through online) and group discussions attended by about 200 pastoralists, CSOs., Academics, Govt. officials and volunteers.

In the inaugural ceremony a book on "Inclusive and Sustainable management of Rangelands" (proceedings of workshop held at Srinagar on 29 - 31 July 2024) and a book on Preconference papers on: 'Pastoralism in Tamil Nadu towards a green economy' has been released by Honourable Minister of Commercial Tax and Registration Mr.P.Moorthy Special address by dignitaries on history of Pastoralism in Tamil Nadu, natural farming along with of local livestock breeds and role of gramasabha in protection of commons were given by Mr. Pamayan, Prof. Palanithurai, and Madurai Member of Parliament Mr. Su.Venkadesan.

Technical sessions include pastoral census, claiming rights under Forest Rights Act 2006, promotion of association with tank famers in southern states and link of water bodies and livestock, sustainable models created in managing common lands, livestock grazing, caring under MGNREGA in Telengana, Chatisgarh, Korangadu pasture land, importance of conserving local grass species and need for Pasture land policy by Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi. Community / Pastoralists representatives from different districts presented their issues faced during seasonal migration and stressed need for coordinating role at Govt. level between different line departments for solving their grievances. In the final sessions the following recommendations were proposed by the participants.

## **Recommendations of 2 days' Convention on Tamil Nadu Pastoralism 2024**

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu has to form a separate policy on pastoralism.
2. The ecological and culture rich places such as Korangadu pasture land and livestock keeping and Transhumance pastoralism of Bargur, Pulikulam, Malaimadu cattle herders, Toda buffalo, Sheep herders in Tamil Nadu are to be included under Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO / Globally Ingenious Agricultural Heritage System of FAO.
3. The traditional knowledge of pastoral communities and their practices including indigenous herbal medicine must be documented, and government funding should be allocated for this purpose.
4. Exotic species found in commons such as *Prosopis juliflora*, *Lantana camara* are to be eradicated as per directions of Madras High court judgement. Eucalyptus plantations in commons are to be stopped as it affects the grazing resources of local livestock.
5. Special Plan under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) for development of pastureland and drinking water and facilities for stay of pastoralists and livestock during migration.
6. Traditional grazing rights in forests must be recognized as per Forest Rights Act 2006 and this process should be completed by 2026.
7. The term “wasteland” under land classification must be removed and replaced with specific terms such as natural grass land, Rangeland etc.
8. Tree planting activities in common lands or grazing land / grassland should be avoided. If at all undertaken then local dependant / pastoral communities are to be involved in selection of species suitable for planting.
9. A Pastoral Cell at state level shall be created under the Department of Animal Husbandry to coordinate various line departments for the protection and regeneration of rangelands while ensuring livelihoods for pastoral communities.
10. Awareness on the importance of International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 (IYRP) should organize through various workshops or events by Govt. departments to celebrate pastoralist's culture and local institutions in sustainable management of commons.
11. Local livestock breeds maintained by communities should be encouraged and protected. Incentives are to be given to those who perform natural services using indigenous bulls through veterinary services viz. Regular vaccination, animal feed etc.

12. The Tamil Nadu government should establish a Pastoral Economy Development Board to support the economic advancement of pastoral communities and their livestock-based livelihoods.

13. Special insurance scheme should be formulated for pastoral livestock to compensate sudden death of livestock.

14. Indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides has resulted a decline in soil fertility and health. To preserve the soil fertility, the Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the Chief Minister's "Mannuyiur Kaathu Mannuyiur Kappom Scheme" (CM MK MKS) through various interventions. The Government of Tamil Nadu has to include cattle/sheep penning in farmers field as component of CM MK MKS scheme to protect soil fertility and enhance soil biodiversity.

15. Carbon credit incentives are to be given for pastoralists based on size of herd, extent of grazing land managed by them.

16. The construction of separate corridors viz. overpasses and underpasses across highways and railway tracks included under the projects of Highway or Railway authorities.

17. Diversion of rangelands, grasslands, and pasturelands in turn being allotted for other development purpose shall be stopped and included for regeneration of healthy pastureland under various Govt. schemes including MGNREGA.

18. Any development initiatives on protection and retrieval of commons by local communities or individuals shall be recognised through awards.

19. To encourage the extensive use of ICT technology for protection of village common property resources through digitalisation of land data and for access to Government schemes for economic development of pastoral communities.

20. Special scheme is to be formulated to encourage youth to undertake their traditional profession and entrepreneurship in pastoralism.

**Organised by THOZHUVAM in association with SEVA**

**India's First Pastoralist Company**

**Thozhuvam Farmer Producer Company Ltd.**

8, Nabard - Mabif, Madurai Agricultural College & Research Institute,  
Madurai - 625104. TamilNadu, India. thozhuvam@gmail.com, M: 9894406111

**Sustainable - agriculture & Environmental Voluntary Action (SEVA),**

No.45, T.P.M. Nagar, Virattipathu, Madurai – 625 016. Tamilnadu, India.  
vivekseva@gmail.com, M: 7708852334

## Tamil Nadu Pastoralism 2024 – Photo's





