

A Side Event on Community Level Conservation of Indigenous Animal Breeds by LIFE Network in India

Date: 6 Sept.2007
Time : 13.15 – 14.45
Organiser : SEVA, India

The side event has been presided by Dr. Ilse Kohler Rollefson, League for Pastoral Peoples, Germany. The first speaker Mr. P. Vivekanandan, SEVA, India presented case studies on community level conservation animal breeds in Tamil Nadu State, India. It highlighted the status of animal breeds including decline of population, process of organizing breeders / herders into association, participatory planning in 6 breeding tract of the state. In addition it includes training and awareness, distribution of indigenous calves to members, supply of breeding bulls, removal of encroachment of grazing land, providing drinking water facilities for animals, Govt. collaboration and constraints (conflicts with Forest Department and negotiation process for conflict resolution) while conserving the following breeds :

- 1) Umbalacherry Cattle
- 2) Malaimadu Cattle
- 3) Pulikkulam Cattle
- 4) Katchakatty Black Sheep
- 5) Vembur Sheep
- 6) Toda Buffalo

Sri.P. Vivekanandan also highlighted lobbying work of LIFE Network over the last 7 years by involving other NGOs and pastoralists groups, political leaders, parliamentarians which materialized the following achievements at policy level in India :

- Pastoralists grazing rights included in the newly enacted “The Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Rights Act) 2006”.
- The Draft National Policy for Farmers (April 2006) circulated by Ministry of Agriculture recognizes traditional grazing rights of pastoral communities.

The second speaker Dr. D.K. Sadana, Principal Scientist, National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, KARNAL 132 001 (India) presented a case study on **Gaushala** [Cow-Herd] for *in situ* Conservation of Indigenous Cattle Breeds. At the end a film on “**Keepers of Genes**” Directed by Mr. Sanjay Barnela has been shown. After the presentation there was interaction on the technical aspects of community level conservation with Scientists from ILRI, Nairobi.

