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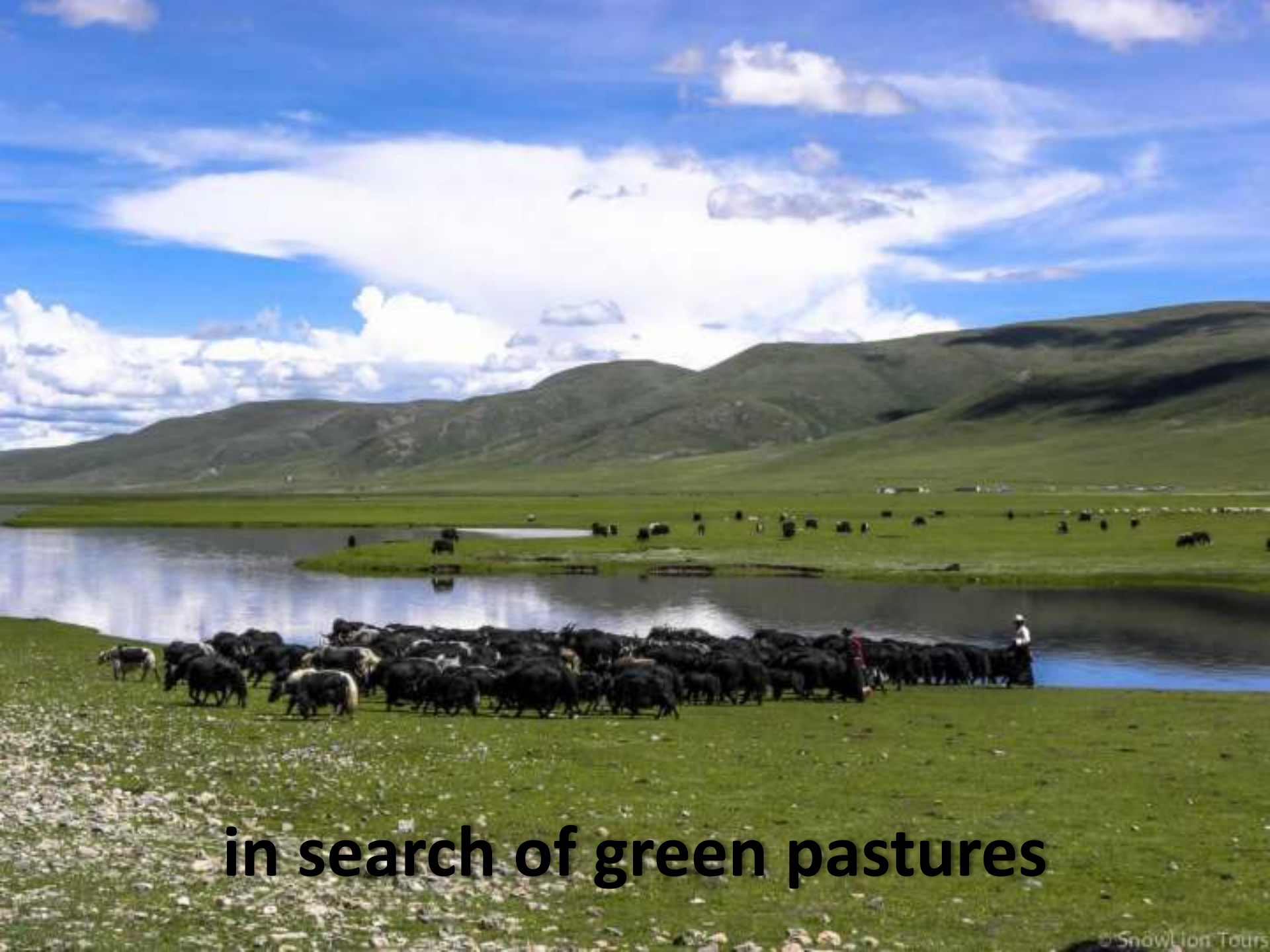
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Dying Institution of Pastoralism

Can rangeland laws protect pastoral livelihoods?





in search of green pastures

Pastoralist communities

- >1 billion people depend on livestock;
- Asia, Africa, Nordic Region, Andean mountains, Eastern Europe
- India: Gujjar, Gaddi, Bakarwal, Bhotia, Bhuttia, Raika, Bharwad, Dhangar, Golla, Kurum, Monpa, Toda, Duck



Jammu & Kashmir

CHINA



Legend

- Chief Headquarter
- Boundary of District
- > Migratory routes/tracks
- - - Potential migratory routes/tracks
- Boundary of Himachal Pradesh
- Dwelling
- Transitional zone
- Winter pasture
- Summer pasture

MIGRATION ROUTES OF TRANSHUMANT PEOPLES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH





Pastoralism





- Pastoralism as the coexistence of dependence on livestock with spatial mobility.
- Nomadic or mobile pastoralism a sustainable livelihood in a diverse range of countries
- Herders' ability to move manages risk in marginal landscapes where domesticated animals efficiently convert limited ecological productivity into sustenance.
- Extensive (not intensive) livestock grazing is an excellent example of managing biodiversity and soil fertility.
- Transport of seeds and insects by livestock, the migration of pastoralists and their flocks supports habitat connectivity and biodiversity

Productive lifestyles



- Pastoral production occurs in 25% of global land area from dry lands of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula to the highlands of Asia, Latin America and the Arctic parts of Fennoscandia and Russia ;
- In sub-Saharan Africa alone, > 50 million people live as nomadic pastoralists;
- Main livestock species kept by pastoralists are cattle, donkeys, goats, sheep, alpaca and llamas (in Andes), camels, horses, buffalo, reindeer and yak;
- Reindeer can only successfully be herded in the tundra, camels in the desert, and yaks only in high altitude regions.

- Simel (2009) and Hesse (2009) have shown that pastoralism is more productive per hectare than commercial ranching or sedentary livestock keeping in similar environmental conditions.
- High productivity of livestock in pastoral systems not only supports millions of pastoralists but also contributes significantly to other sectors of national and regional economies



- 200 million pastoral households produce 10% of the world's meat
- Compared to settled farmers in Africa, pastoralists produce 50-70% of all the milk, beef and mutton
- In Iran, pastoralists keep 25% of the national herd. Economies of countries like Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan depend on livestock herders



Resilient, sustainable lifestyles



- Pastoralism is an adaptation to arid and semi-arid lands;
- Farming is not possible in such lands, otherwise;
- When there is drought, pastoralists disperse herds or move them to new areas. Farmers rarely have such option.
- A pastoral subsistence pattern reduces the risk when there is an irregular climatic pattern.
- Pastoralism is a complex adaptation to environments marked by extreme variability in temperature and precipitation.
- The key to pastoralism is mobility, which permits temporary exploitation of resources
- Animals convert the energy stored in grasses to the milk and meat that feed the human population.
- Such societies commonly develop a conscious and explicit nomadic ethos
- They avoid settlement, cultivation of earth, accumulation of object

- Mobile livestock grazing is a traditional mechanism developed by herders to cope with changes in the availability of water and grass at different places and times induced by climate variability.
- Aridity is not a limiting factor in livestock rearing; rather it reflects the embedded resilience the pastoralists have in their lifestyles.
- Tibetan nomads deal with blizzards and cold weather.

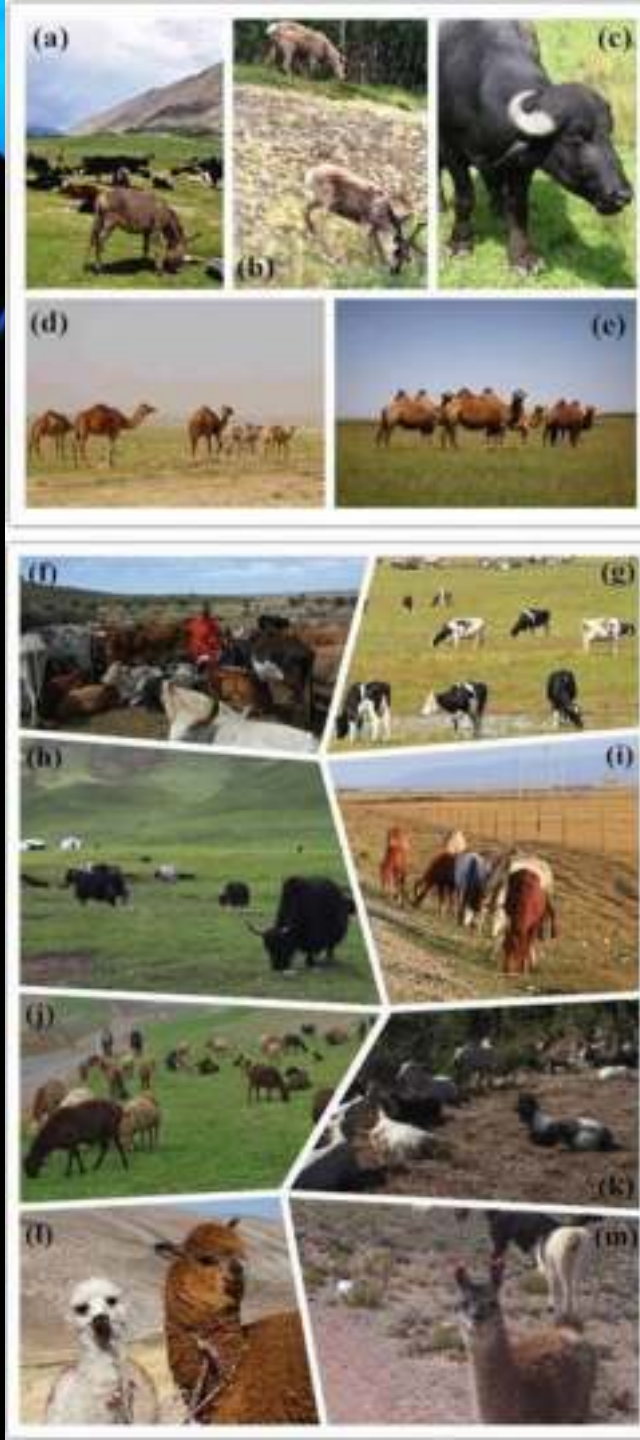




- According to Galaty and Johnson (1990), essential pastoral strategy is “risk aversion”, which is an attempt to decrease uncertainty by anticipation.
- Pastoralists are believed to be the experts at maximizing the use of rangelands.
- Pastoralists are **ONLY** able to utilize marginal lands and they take only temporary advantage of richer areas with high rainfall, high nutrient forage or both.

Social Institution of Pastoralist Communities

- Like Indigenous Peoples, clan and sub-clan social structure with patrilineal genealogy. In some cases, matrilineal, e.g. Saami, Chukchi, Koryak. Age-sect in Boran.
- Management of livestock depends on size of herds and labour engagement. Varying arrangements in different pastoralist groups. Intra-group Identities*



Dying Institution of Pastoralism





2005-06: Our Understanding of Issues Challenging Pastoralists

- (1) subjugation of pastoralists by state policies,
- (2) civilized ideology encourages the sedentarization,
- (3) military pacification and political control, and
- (4) recent phenomenon of globalization.

- Borders closed for landscapes and grassland ecosystems
- Hostile attitude of governments to pastoralism
- Marginalization, Social Exclusion and Disenfranchisement
- Non-Recognition of Customary Land Rights
- Violation of Existing Policies and Laws on Pasturelands



- Fragmentation of Rangeland Habitats and Disturbed Migratory Routes
- Massive Conversion of Rangelands to Industrial/Urban Uses
- Enclosure of Common Lands, incl. forests, meadows, parks
- Encroachment of Pasturelands by powerful elites, mining, factories, government departments, politicians, etc.
- Breakdown of Traditional Village Institutions protecting the commons e.g. Oran, Gochar, Bilanaam
- Atrocities, Exploitation, Prosecution of Nomads by Police



- Changing Weathers and Increasing Uncertainties
- Increased Veterinary Diseases and Lack of Animal Care
- Changing Occupations and Declining Population of Herders (Invisibility, Unrepresentation, Deliberate Exclusion)

Sara Randall (2015). **Where have all the nomads gone? Fifty years of statistical and demographic invisibilities of African mobile pastoralists.** *[Pastoralism](#)* 5 (2015).

Can rangeland laws protect pastoral livelihoods?



Rangelands

How much grazing lands available?

- Grazing lands cover 61.2 million km² or 45% of the earth's surface
- Grazing land is 1.5 times more than forests
- Grazing land is 2.8 times more than cropland
- Grazing land is 17 times more than urban settlement
- Grazing land covers 77% of Australia, 61% of Africa, 49% of Asia and 18% of Europe
- Dry pastoral lands of East Africa occupy 70% of Horn of Africa.
- Pastures occupy 95% of Somalia and Djibouti, 80% of Kenya, 60% of Uganda and 30-60% of Tanzania.
- India's rangelands about 121 mha, about 18 mha of which lie in Hindu Kush region (Seth, 1997).

- **Afghanistan:** Law on Pasture and Grazing Land
- **Uzbekistan:** (Pastures) Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 29.09.2020 No. ZRU-639 (amended)
- **Kyrgyzstan:** Law of the Kyrgyz Republic no. 30 “On pastures” 2009
- **Mongolia:** Mongolian Land Law 2002; Policy on Herders and Herding Households 2009 ; Pastureland Law (Mongolian Government 2007).
- **Kenya:** Community Land Act, 2016
- **Ethiopia:** Pastoral Land Management *Policies* and Proclamations
- **Iran:** Law on the Conservation and Use of Forests and Rangelands



- There is no federal level policy on common lands or pasture lands
- Pasturelands are dealt usually under state revenue laws
- Case Study of Reclaiming Pasturelands in Ajmer (Rajasthan)





- Rajasthan Tenancy Act, 1955
- Rajasthan Land Revenue Act, 1956
- Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act, 1994
- Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996
- Supreme Court Order, No. F-10(3)-Raj-6/2001/7 dt. 25.4.11
- Various Orders of Government of Rajasthan, RDPR Dept.

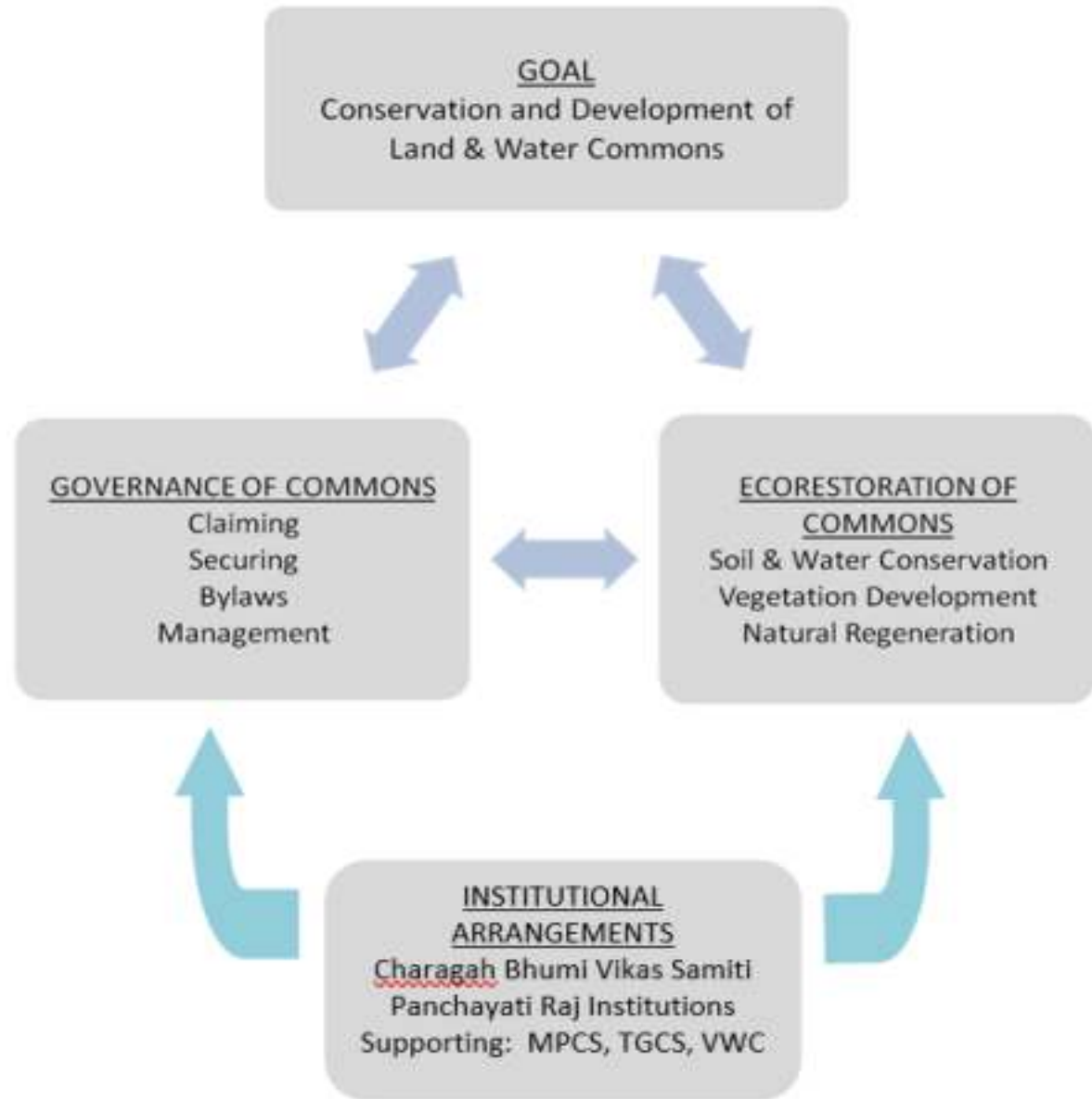
AJMER COMMONS INITIATIVE | FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY | 2013-16

- Organized agro-pastoralist communities in 987 villages of Ajmer district
- Used legal provisions and procedures for series of action in GS, GP, Tehsil & SDM offices
- 1017 community collectives (village institutions) reclaimed 30,000 hectares of pasturelands
- Institutional ownership of pastoral communities was ensured
- Local governance was democratized and strengthened



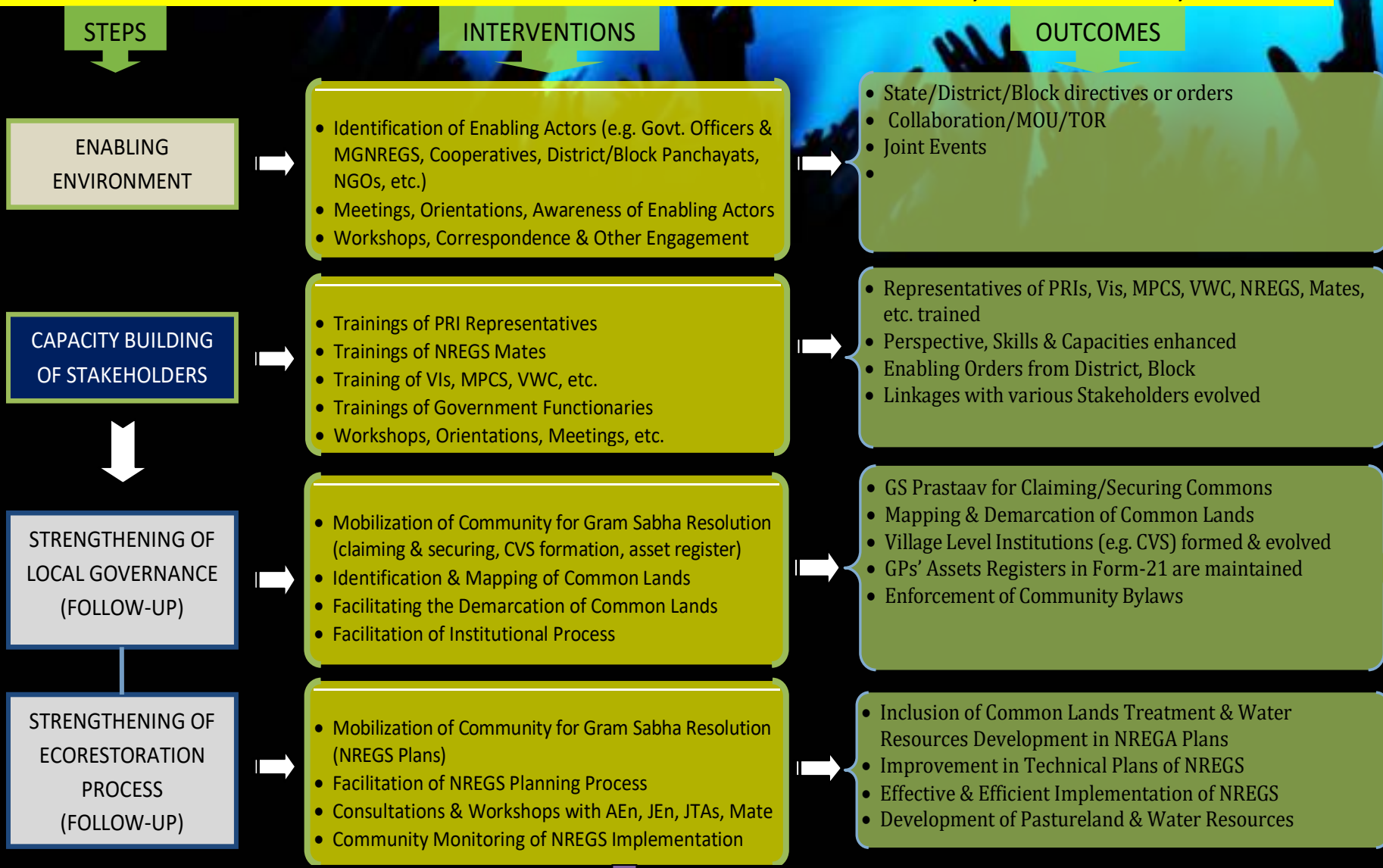


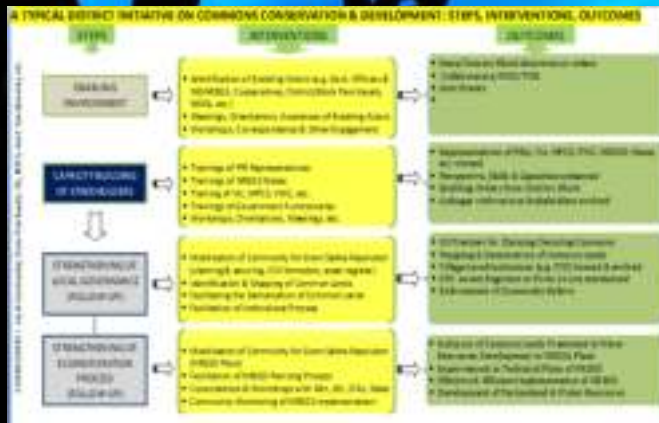
AJMER DISTRICT COMMONS INITIATIVE



A TYPICAL DISTRICT INITIATIVE ON COMMONS CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT: STEPS, INTERVENTIONS, OUTCOMES

STAKEHOLDERS > Local Community, Gram Panchayats, Vis, MPCs, Govt. Functionaries, etc.







Thank you very much