**PASTORALISM TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Pastoralism is a livelihood system that supports more than 250 million people worldwide. It is based on free-grazing animals and is practiced on almost 1/3 of the world’s land surface, mainly in rangelands, drylands, meadows and other marginal areas.

**PASTORALISM IS AN ADAPTED AND RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD**

- To control-owned livestock
- Assumes human mobility
- Impacts community-based land tenure and access rights
- Builds on traditional knowledge
- Involves strategies to effectively manage risks such as cyclical variability

**PASTORALISM HAS MANY BENEFITS**

- Improves livestock husbandry
- Improves livestock health and productivity
- Improves food security
- Improves human nutrition
- Improves income stability
- Improves access to water
- Improves access to energy
- Improves access to land

**GIVING VOICE TO PASTORALISTS**

**PASTORALISTS FACE MARKET CHALLENGES**

- Land and water scarcity
- Climate change and extreme weather
- Economic downturns and droughts
- Increased competition and degradation

**URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN PASTORALISM**

- Support pastoralists through development policies and pastoralist programs
- Promote community-based livestock improvement and diversification
- Promote pastoralist-led initiatives for sustainable land use
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- Support pastoralists in decision-making and environmental conservation

**DO YOU KNOW?**

- 70% of the earth’s drylands are managed by pastoralists
- 30% of the world’s biodiversity is managed by pastoralists
- Pastoralists are critical to conservation and biodiversity
- Most pastoralists are smallholder farmers
- Many pastoralists are marginalized and vulnerable

**MORE INFORMATION:**

www.vsf-international.org/pastoralism