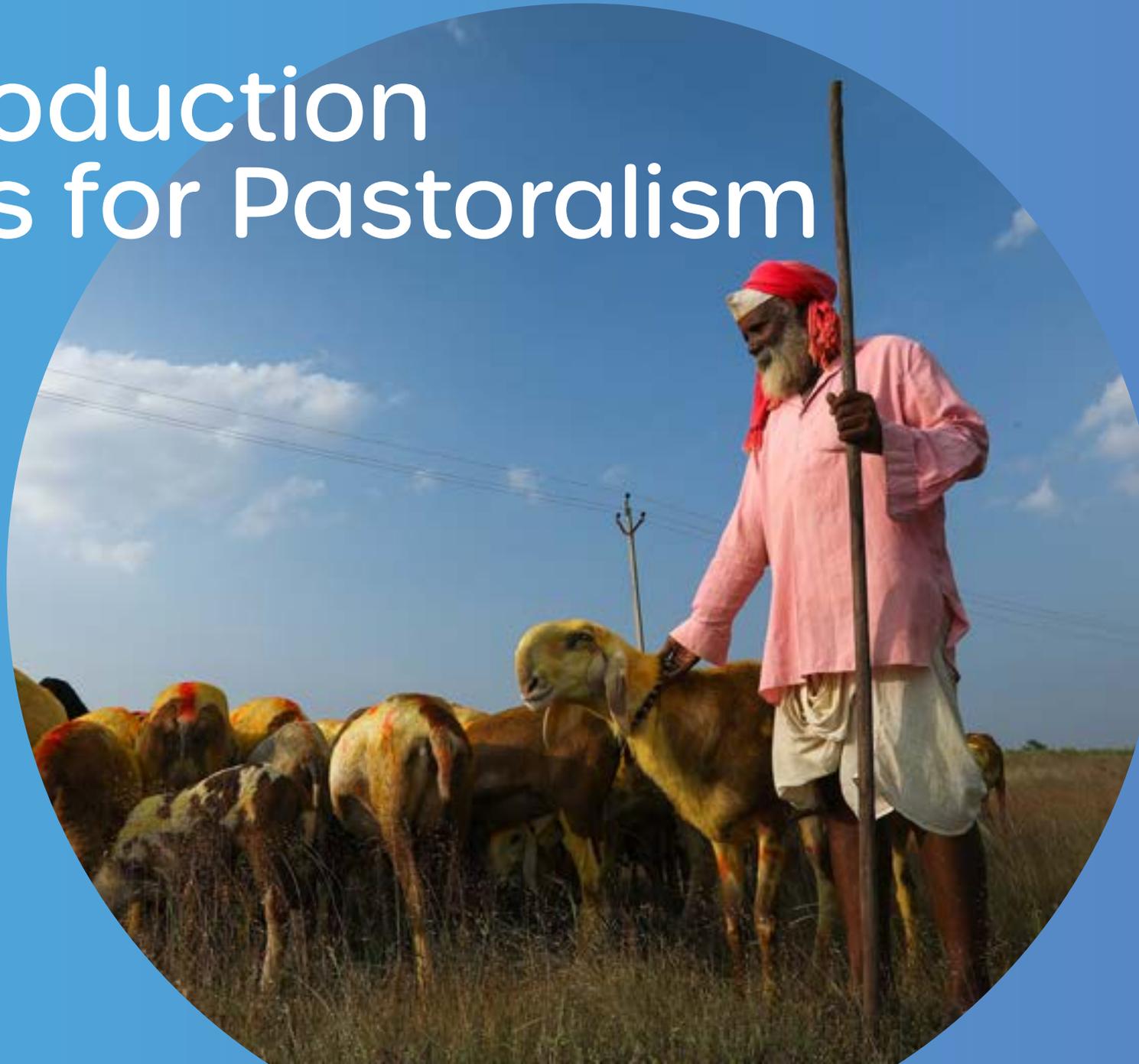
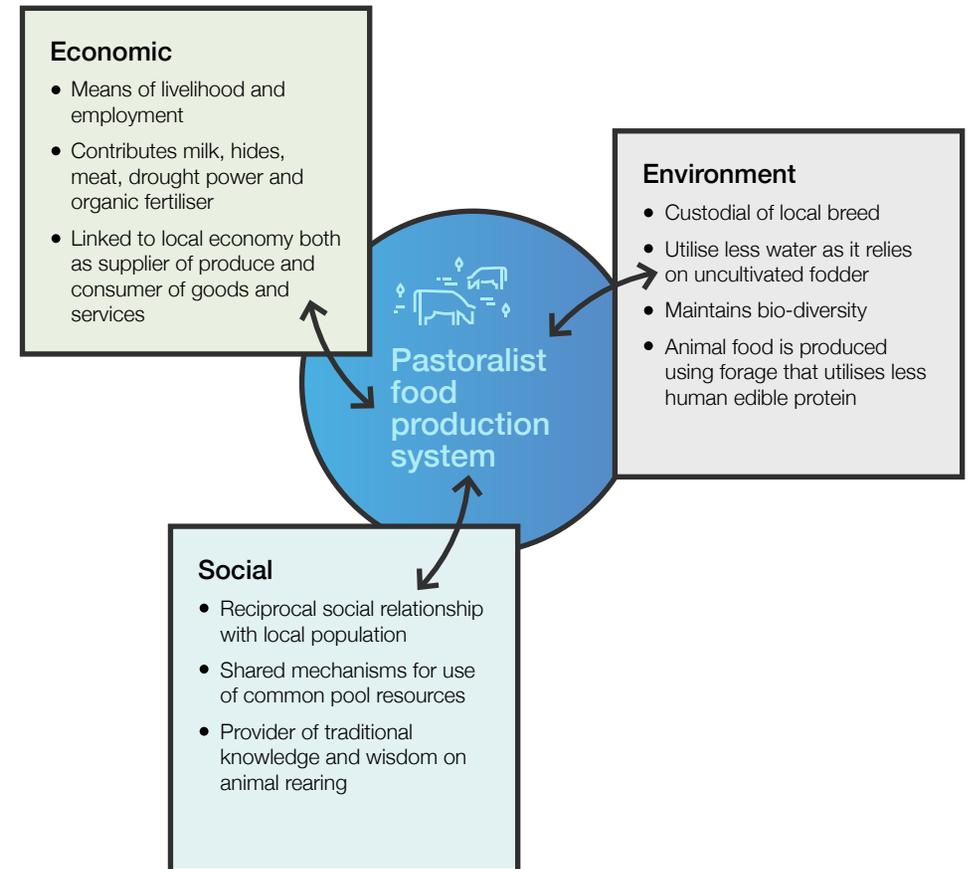


# Food Production Systems for Pastoralism





- A variety of pastoralist systems in India include transhumance, nomadic, semi-nomadic, and village-based herding. Studies have documented that 46 caste communities have specialized pastoralists identities.
- The core elements of pastoralism include (a) sharing of a common resource pool (range or common lands for grazing and water); (b) herd comprising of indigenous breed of animals (e.g. pastoralists of Banni grasslands in Kutch maintain original bloodline of their buffaloes and every buffalo is marked and identifiable);(c) a closely interlinked relationship with farmers and local population (e.g. reciprocity in the sale of manure and fodder to farmers); and (d) a deep understanding of different ecosystems that determine their migratory routes and movements and thus represent a sustainable method of utilizing micro-ecosystems.
- Lack of recognition and appreciation of pastoralists' contribution as a sustainable food production system at the policy level is a major issue the pastoralist food production system faces. This has led to a common perception that they threaten conservative environmental measures, and hence their decentralisation often emerges as the only policy option.

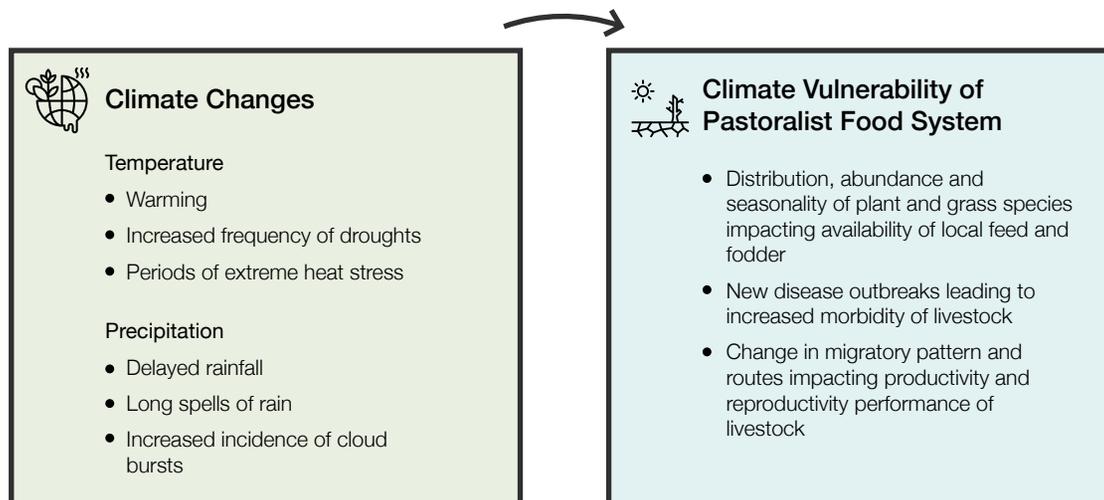


- The main institutional issues marginalising them in legal and development programs are the lack of tenure rights of pastoralists, especially on common lands and water, and their lack of representation in economic and political decision-making processes.

- Climate vulnerabilities for pastoralists appear both because of warming and changing rainfall patterns across the geographical terrain where they migrate to and move within. The direct impact these changes have on the pastoralist food production system are related to the availability, quality and abundance of fodder and water for their livestock, the two critical factors that determine the health and productivity of the herd.
- Shrinking of common lands, construction of urban landscape, changing cropping pattern and varieties, earmarking of protected areas (forest and national parks), multiple demands on water, and decrease in local biodiversity indirectly impact the sustainability of pastoralist's food production system.

# Vision 2030

- **Make the Pastoralism system a significant food system and focus on transforming food systems in the country.**



# Pathways

## POLICY



**Acknowledge pastoralism in national policies** to provide recognition and protection to pastoralists at the national level. A policy framework will impart institutional legal and administrative protection to pastoralists across regions.

**Recognise rights and entitlements** of pastoralists to allow them to practice their livelihoods across regions and geo-economic regions. Align the rights of pastoralists with the rights of local self-government bodies that determine land-use patterns.

## IMPLEMENTATION



**Develop and implement menu based development programmes** for pastoralists that encompasses their linkages with veterinary services, animal gene pools for cross-breeding, market-based safety nets, grading of their produce/product, linkages with financial institutions and crafting of space in market and market institutions.

**Conserve and sustain common lands** for ensuring the availability of fodder. Such efforts would be well complemented with better crop residue as fodder for the pastoralist's livestock.

# Pathways



**Record pastoralism through series** of layered micro studies that also map their migratory routes and grazing lands along with the traditional mechanisms for sharing common pool resources.

**Document traditional knowledge of pastoralists** on ecology, animal care and breeding to add value to the knowledge aimed at developing climate-resilient pastoralist food systems.

**Incorporate pastoralism in State Action Plans** for Climate Change as a distinct food system and undertake nuanced studies on the impact of climate variability on pastoralist food systems.

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