

## **Fellowship opportunities:**

CfP is inviting applications from researchers with an interest in participating in the following two studies:

**National survey of pastoralism:** We have struggled to answer two questions that are routinely asked of us: Just how many people are we talking about? And the associated, Just how many animals are we talking about? While there are some localized estimates on both counts, there is a surprising absence of basic information on pastoralism in the country. There is even less data on demographic and other trends in pastoralist societies – is a younger generation of herders still herding? Is absentee-herding a growing phenomenon? Are educational levels influencing career choices within pastoral communities? CfP is seeking to understand the nature of such churn within pastoral societies across the country. Researchers are invited to submit expressions of interest in working on this project. Any experience in conducting large scale surveys would be useful.

**Emerging trends in Maldhari pastoralism in Kutch:** A short-term study is expected to generate learning on the impacts of a major livelihood intervention that took place amongst the buffalo herding Maldhari pastoralists of Kutch. In 2008, Sahjeevan worked with NDDB to operationalize centralized collection of milk, including the extensive use of bulk chillers that extends the shelf-life of milk. In response to growing revenues from milk, pastoralists now truck in both water and feed, particularly to tide over seasonal periods of shortage.

These developments are thought to have led to dramatic financial gains for the Maldharis, but the magnitude of such gain at a household or regional level has yet to be fully computed. It is also unclear as to how Maldharis are using enhanced household revenues, and whether the dairyfication of the region has opened up additional opportunities to herding and non-herding communities.

At a micro-level are there associated changes in herd size or composition? Is there a noticeable shift in Maldhari breeding objectives -- from one of resilience to drought to maximizing on milk production? And finally, what are the ecological impacts of what appears to be an intensification of buffalo herding in the grassland? CfP is initiating research around these broad sets of questions as a means of bringing greater analytical clarity to possible livelihood interventions amongst pastoral societies. It welcomes an expression of interest from young researchers wishing to participate in the study. A background in economics would be useful.