

# L PP moves with Pathe Paathshaalaa (PP) for scouting animal genetic resources and pastoral groups in Orissa, India

Dr Ilse Kohler- Rollefson of LPP (League for Pastoral People), Germany visited Orissa, (an eastern state of India) from 15.1.2011 to 19.1.2011. During her visit, she met some pastoralist groups and livestock keepers living in villages of Orissa in district of Puri, Khurdha, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Kendrapara during the programmes of “Pathe Paathshaalaa- the moving class for pastoralists.

“Pathe Paathshaalaa”(PP) meaning road side class, is conducted by Dr Balaram Sahu, a veterinarian from Orissa, India. Dr Sahu conducts Pathe Paathshaalaa for pastoralists to provide 1) skills and knowledge to pastoral people on low cost based animal herbal healing, 2) tips to pastoral people on sustainable livestock rearing using indigenous and traditional knowledge system, 3) awareness among pastoralists on livestock keepers right, 4) “Simple Solutions” to local problems with use of local natural resources and to 5) scout local animal genetic resources with local innovations and knowledge system and to 6) felicitate local initiatives/individuals who conserve and promote indigenous breeds of domestic animals.



PP, the moving class is conducted “in Peoples’ Time”, “at Peoples’ Place” “with Peoples’ Language” for benefit of the pastoral people. These classes are mostly of informal types comprising grazing gossips, experience sharing and question answering. Pathe Paathshaalaa (PP) has been started by Balaram Sahu since year 2005 and was first formally launched on 18.11.2008 with Golla pastoral community of Ganjam district, Orissa.

## The Move

### Day 1

A village museum on pastoralism: on 15.1.2011, a village museum relating to pastoralists' activities was inaugurated by Dr Ilse in village Kaushalyapur in Puri district.



The idea of establishing a pastoralists' museum came while conducting Pathe Paathshaalaas in deep rural areas. During "Pathe Paathshaalaa" many old and useful articles, practices, folk stories on pastoralists came to notice.



These articles used by traditional pastoralists are being forgotten day by day and are becoming matters of rare for the young pastoralists. So the genesis of establishing a museum on pastoralism came.



The event went along with a Pathe Paathshaalaa in village Kaushalyapur where senior animal keepers of “Dhobi” and “Khaira” community were felicitated.



During this Pathe Paathshaalaa, kids of Black Bengal as well as mixed variety goats were shown by women livestock keepers. Livestock keepers were trained on simple water purification skills, preparation of low cost deworming agents, emergency treatment of tympani, constipation and indigestion etc for their animals.



## Day2

**Pathe Paathshaalaa with farmers-cum- erstwhile warriors: On16.1.2011 a Pathe Paathshaalaa was conducted in village Bolagarh in Khurdha district.**



The village is famous for a warrior community called “Paika” who earned name for their bravery in wars wages by erstwhile Kings.Desendants of this warrior community are also good farmers and livestock keepers. During Pathe Paathshaalaa, tips on safe drinking water preparation by herbal method, treatment of scabies, controlling lice infestation in cattle and other simple solutions in animal keeping was given. A rural museum established 30 years back by farmer Akshaya Pattnaik was visited.



**“Ghumasari” goats are in peace with forest people: On 16.1.2011, village “Minagadia” a site of insitu conservation of Ghumsari breed of goats by farmers of Nayagarh district was visited.**



**Ghumasari breed of goats are givers of good tasting meat and are famous for having the skills to get twigs in forests.**



**During Pathe Paathshaala, an interesting story was told by villagers that, villagers frame their own rules to protect their forests so that their animals have sustainable grazing opportunity in forests. Farmers enunciate rules for protection of village forests on the walls of village common house called “Kotha Ghara”. Farmers obey the common forest rules, like not to cut trees, not to put forests into fire, extinguish fire, maintain water sheds in forests etc**



**A Pathe Paathshaalaa was conducted in front of “Kotha Ghara” in village Minagadia and simple solutions in goat rearing were given to farmers, mostly belonging to Gouda Community.**



**Six numbers of ITK (Indigenous Traditional Knowledge) relating to animal husbandry practices of Gouda community was scouted during Pathe Paathshaalaa.**



**A rare but good story was heard from keepers who graze their animals peacefully in local forests, obviously due to rules framed by the pastoralists in line with the forest department.**



## Day 3

**“Ghumsari” Cattle-The disease and heat resisting breed: On 17.1.2010 six herds of Ghumsari breed of cattle was visited in village Khariguda of Bhanjanagar subdivision in Ganjam district. Ghumsari cattle are disease and heat resistant and are capable to adapt climate change.**



**There are six villages in the area where these Ghumsari breed of cattle are reared mostly by Gouda community of pastoralists. A Pathe Paathshaalaa was conducted in the village and low cost herbal healing skills, tips on animal rearing; animal keepers’ right was conveyed to the Ghumsari Keepers.**



**Seven numbers of Indigenous traditional knowledge of Ghumsari cattle breeders were documented.**



**Talk with school students on Biodiversity Conservation:** On 17<sup>th</sup> Jan, the team conducted a Pathe Paathshaalaa in Sri Aurobindo Integral School, Chhatrapur in Ganjam district. Dr Ilse gave a talk to a gathering of 150 students and teachers on essentiality of conserving biodiversity including plants and animals. Balaram Sahu presented a talk on innovations to students.



Later a quiz on biodiversity conservation was conducted for students on behalf of Pathe Paathshaalaa and 20 students were awarded with small gifts by Dr Ilse.



## Day 4

**Pathe Paathshaalaa with nomadic Pig Pastoralists:** On 18.1.2010 a group of nomadic pig pastoralists were met in village Surendrapada of Pattamundai in Kendrapara district. These pig pastoralists belong to “Kela” community who grazes their animals in paddy fields after crop cutting. They camp in the vicinity for 3-4 months and change to a different place afterward for grazing. Every day they move 15-20 km while grazing these animals and come back to the camp by evening.



For grazing their animals they don't pay to the crop field owners as they do not demand for the same.

**Book Release amidst nomadic pig pastoralists:** A book entitled “Gotie Jarmany Gaonre Dasa Dina” meaning “Ten days In A Germany Village”, written by Balaram Sahu in Oriya language was released by Dr Ilse in the Pathe Paathshaalaa for pig pastoralists.



During Pathe Paathshaalaa an interesting feature came out. A local breed of pig called “Gila” was scouted which has two wattles near the neck like goats. This interesting feature of Gila pigs is rarely seen.



## Day 5

**Pathe Paathshaalaa with duck farmers:** On 19.1.2011 a Pathe Paathshaala was conducted in village Khamarsahi, Bhitarkanika of Kendrapara district. The area is near Bhitarkanika wild life sanctuary famous for Mangrove Forests. Farmers own ponds in their house backyard and rear ducks.



During Pathe Paathshaalaa, it was known that the local breed of duck which is being reared by local farmers since time immemorial, gives 120-150 eggs per year. There is no external input required by the keepers in terms of food and medicines. There is no disease of these local ducks and are free foragers.



During visit to farmers' house it was revealed that duck eggs are hatched by broody hens. Farmers use these broody hens since time immemorial to hatch ducklings from duck eggs.

