Lessons From Pastoralists

Uncertain Worlds

Pastoralists are used to facing uncertain futures - around things like drought, floods, fires, disease or conflict. Pastoral areas are often marked by marginalisation.

2. Mobility and Movements

Pastoralists move animals across a range of different environments, making use of them at different times to assure production. This ranges from day-to-day movements to seasonal patterns.

2. Herding, Breeding and Trading

Extending a herd requires a diversity of animal species that can travel with the animals. Herders must also manage the relationships between animals in their herd.

3. Using ‘Mosaics’ & ‘Patchworks’ of Land

Some pastoralists work in large, open rangeland, and distribute animals widely to assure production. Others make use of multiple grazing sites in a “mosaic” over time.

3. Using ‘Mosaics’ & ‘Patchworks’ of Land

Some pastoralists work in large, open rangeland, and distribute animals widely to assure production. Others make use of multiple grazing sites in a “mosaic” over time.


Connections, networking, collaboration & praxis. Support are all features of pastoral systems.


Connections, networking, collaboration & praxis. Support are all features of pastoral systems.

5. Restoration, can help keep people in place!

Development policies have often left pastoralists down by depending on ‘settle’ or ‘enclose’ them. But instead, they should respond to the ways they actually move, care for animals, manage land and operate through networks and social relations.

5. Restoration, can help keep people in place!

Development policies have often left pastoralists down by depending on ‘settle’ or ‘enclose’ them. But instead, they should respond to the ways they actually move, care for animals, manage land and operate through networks and social relations.

6. Uncertainty is a Big Deal for Pastoralists, but Not Just for Them! It’s a Feature of Many Livelihoods and Situations Worldwide.

Moving towards more ‘cash-based’ approaches might help us respond to uncertainty. Re-thinking how policies are developed and carried out.

6. Uncertainty is a Big Deal for Pastoralists, but Not Just for Them! It’s a Feature of Many Livelihoods and Situations Worldwide.

Moving towards more ‘cash-based’ approaches might help us respond to uncertainty. Re-thinking how policies are developed and carried out.

Use this QR code to learn more.