

A photograph of a man sitting in a field of sheep. The man is wearing a striped shirt and is holding a small object in his hand. He is surrounded by a large number of sheep, some of which are white and some are brown. The background is a dense forest of green trees.

# **Climate Change and Seasonal Pasture Use**

## **Adapting traditional pastoral systems to a changing climate**

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# Seasonal Pasture Systems

- Movement of herds between lowland winter and mountain summer pastures
- Ensures natural regeneration of vegetation
- Deeply linked to heritage, identity, and local economies

# Why Seasonal Pastures Matter

- Provide fodder security for livestock
- Maintain ecosystem balance and prevent overgrazing
- Support rural livelihoods and preserve landscapes

# Climate Change Impacts

- Rising temperatures: shorten growing seasons
- Rainfall variability: droughts and floods affect grass growth
- Extreme weather: heatwaves, frosts, storms
- Vegetation shifts: loss of traditional forage species

# Consequences for Pastoralists

- Less forage and water availability
- Reduced livestock productivity (milk, meat)
- Greater pressure on grazing lands and conflicts
- Erosion of traditional knowledge as practices change

# Adaptation in Practice

- Combine traditional knowledge with modern tools (GIS, weather data)
- Promote rotational grazing and collective pasture rules
- Restore degraded pastures and protect water sources
- Diversify livelihoods – eco-tourism, local food labels (GIs)

# Policy and Cooperation

- Recognize pastoral mobility in national climate strategies
- Support local pasture user associations/farmers group
- Promote cross-border collaboration for shared ecosystems

# Conclusion

- Climate change challenges centuries-old systems
- Adaptation is possible through knowledge, innovation, and policy
- Protecting pastures = protecting people, culture, and biodiversity