



Centre for
Pastoralism

Senior Research Associate for a study on the Dung Economy.

August 2023

Centre for Pastoralism (CfP) works on a range of pastoralists' issues across the country. One of our overarching goals is to facilitate big-picture research that aims at interrogating mainstream positions on grassland management and pastoral mobility. Pastoralists and their livestock are major contributors to our agrarian, meat, dairy and leather economies. However, data representing the scale and impact of this economy is not currently being measured. We believe that in the absence of such data, the varied economic contributions of the pastoral economy will remain under the radar, with significant absences in the visibility of pastoralism or support made available. Towards this end, we are interested in studying the dung economy of India.

The pastoral manure economy holds notable significance in the Deccan region of India, especially in areas where nomadic or semi-nomadic pastoralism is practised. Dung or manure is a vital natural resource, harnessed as a valuable organic fertiliser, enriching the soil and boosting agricultural productivity in an environmentally sustainable manner. In regions where soil fertility might be a challenge, the dung/manure economy offers a practical solution to enhance crop yields. Additionally, the efficient recycling of manure aligns with traditional ecological wisdom, highlighting the harmonious relationship between pastoral and agricultural communities, and the lands they inhabit.

To understand and study this economy, we seek to hire a researcher with a demonstrated ability to conduct exploratory research, organise and lead focus group discussions and visit multiple actors across the dung economy.

NOTE : The field researcher will be located full time in Maharashtra and should be fluent in Marathi.

The Senior Research Associate is expected to:

1. Collect data points with respect to the dung economy across Maharashtra
2. Identify various narratives and issues related to the dung economy including social and economic arrangements, conflicts and much more.
3. Use data collected from the initial field investigations towards conceptualising a larger, more extensive project on the dung economy.

Desired experience and qualifications:

We are looking for someone who has some understanding about pastoralism and pastoral activities in Maharashtra. Previous research and field experience is highly desirable. The candidate should have ideally worked in and lead research projects and should have produced original research.

The candidate must have the following qualifications:

- A master's degree or higher, in geography, sociology, anthropology, economics or a similar field.
- Ability to travel across field sites and conduct fieldwork for an extended duration.
- Should be able to work efficiently in teams and individually.
- At least 4-5 years of work experience
- Excellent written and oral skills in English and Marathi.

Please write to Aniruddh Sheth (aniruddh@centreforpastoralism.org) for more information on CfP, the project or the position. To apply, please submit your **CV**, a **Cover Letter** and a filled up [application form](#).

Centre for Pastoralism

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