

FOLLOWING THE THREAD OF YAK

KEY MESSAGES

1

Yak herding is a mean of environmental relabancing in the Himalayas

A sustainable livestock system is possible and the yak fiber value chain is a great example in this regard: yaks are semi-domesticated animals, not extreme grazers, and their dung provides rural communities with fuel, thus preventing deforestation while enabling soil anchoring. That's why yaks can be considered environmental re-balance means of the Himalayas' uplands.

2

Himalayas rural communities benefit from yak wool development

Yak husbandry can play a crucial role in reducing the risks that households face when relying on only one income source and in order to reduce the heavy dependency on mountain tourism. By combining different uses of their animals with compatible economic strategies, pastoralists obtain more benefits from alternative uses of resources in marginal areas. Yak husbandry, together with agriculture and tourism, provides local people - including young generations - with the economic means to stay and make a living in the high-mountain ecosystem.

3

Yak industry is an example of indigenous-women managed business that contributes to their empowerment

Almost all yak wool production is mainly in the hands of indigenous female weavers and pastoralists, who collect the raw material. Its promotion and development could positively impact rural people, especially with regard to women's empowerment. Yak wool industry thus could be a lever to empower women in High Asia region.

4

Integrated business models of yak wool help Himalayas communities to access global markets with their handcraft products

Promoting the use of modern and advanced techniques and machinery in conjunction with traditional methods, in an attempt to merge ethnic design and traditions contribute to making yak derived products more competitive on international markets.