

# COMMONING & COMMONERS

COMMONS  
CONVENING

— 2024 —

Collaborating for Impact



Visual Report by *Indrajit Sinha* (IndiVisuals)



# COMMONING & COMMONERS

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Organising partners

Design partner

Common  
Ground



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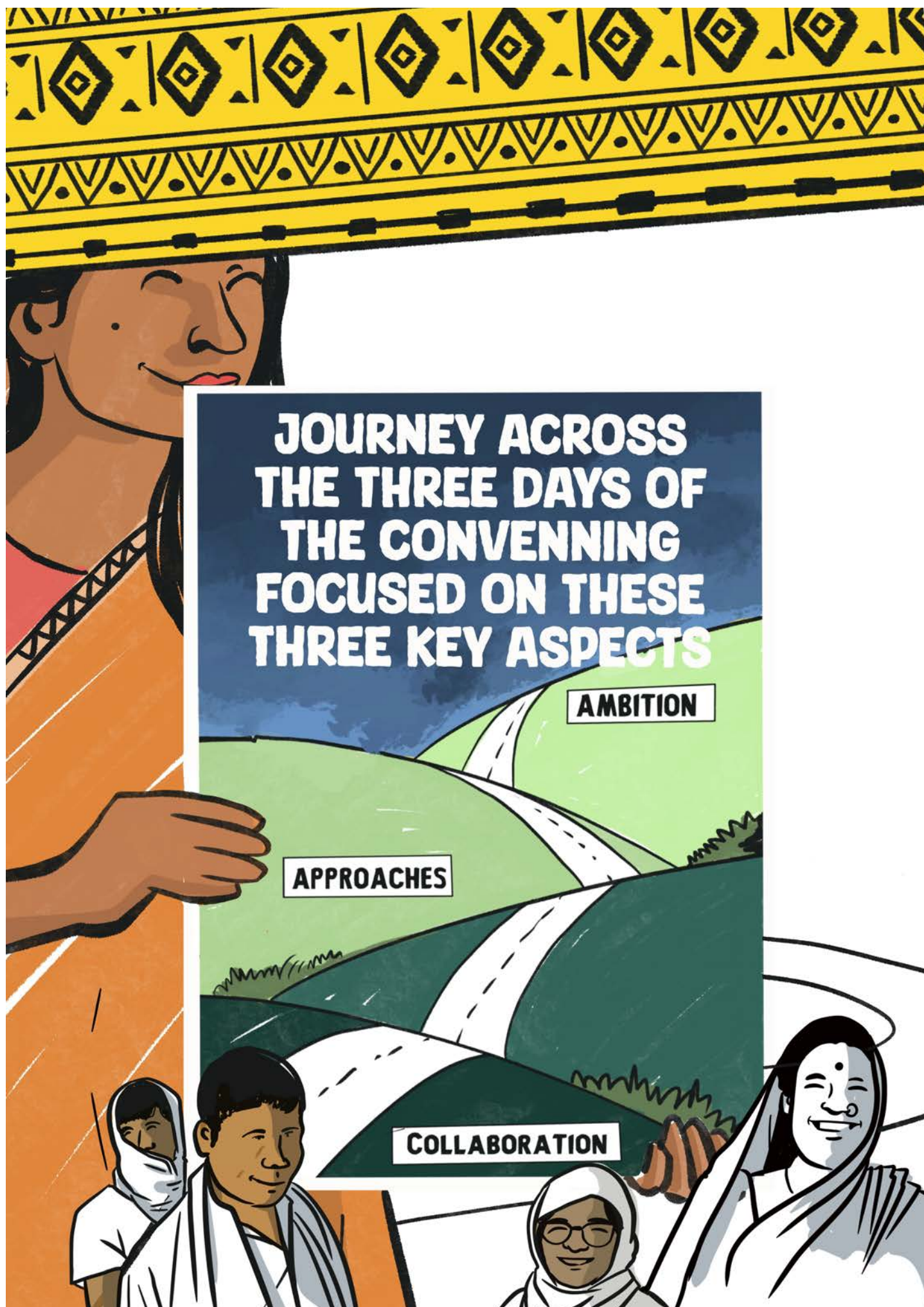
Visual Report by *Indrajit Sinha* (IndiVisuals)

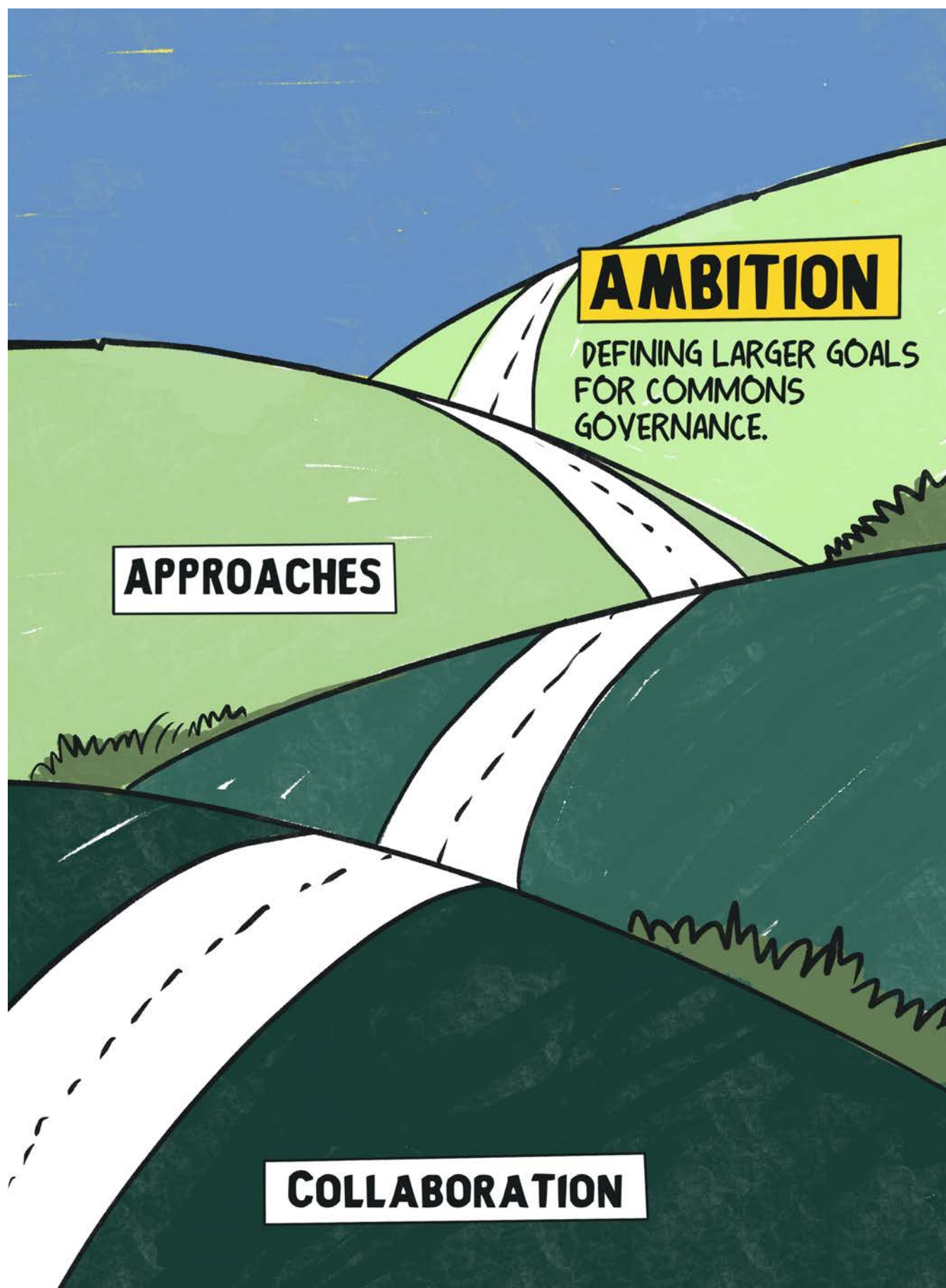
## About the Convening

Commons—community forests, pastures, and water bodies—are essential for the livelihoods of over 350 million rural poor in India, providing food, water, firewood, and fodder. Spanning 205 million acres, Commons contributes INR 6.6 lakh crore (USD 90.5 billion) annually in unaccounted ecosystem services, which is 3.6% of India's GDP.

Often misclassified as wastelands, these shared resources are critical for sustaining farming systems through nutrient transfer, pollination, and water supply. This convening highlights the importance of recognising and conserving these resources and the communities that protect them.







A group of 500+ changemakers, community members, practitioners, policy makers, media, and academicians gathered at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Delhi, to discuss the pressing issues surrounding Commons. This convening is a collective call to action, where the principles of *sangharsh* (struggle) and *rachna* (creation) converge in the stewardship of our shared resources.

The overarching ambition of the gathering was to unite voices around nurturing nature while fostering sustainable livelihoods. The convening, called for resilience and shared responsibility, emphasising the larger goal of building unified efforts to govern Commons effectively. We started by celebrating changemakers in Commons management, focusing on the critical ambition of community-driven approaches, success stories, and challenges in safeguarding Commons.



# CELEBRATING CHANGEMAKERS IN COMMONS MANAGEMENT

FROM SHOOTING WITH GUNS TO SHOOTING WITH BINOCULARS. FROM SHOOTING WITH GUNS TO SHOOTING WITH CAMERAS AND CAMERA TRAPS'

Y NUKLUPHOM, NAGALAND

I MAKE SURE, WOMEN ARE ON THE FOREFRONT OF ALL OUR WORKS.

SARJUBAI MINA,  
RAJASTHAN

IT'S HIGH TIME, WE START ASKING QUESTIONS

- DEVAJI TOFA,  
MAHARASHTRA

NATURE, CULTURE, COMMONS, PEOPLE AND THIS WORLD...HOW THEY ARE CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER IS KNOWN ALL.

ANUP RANJAN PANDEY,  
CHHATTISGARH

OUR FUTURE IS WITH NATURE, NOT IN THE CITIES

JISHUDANDISHARI,  
ODISHA

COMMONS ARE NOT RESTRICTED TO FORESTS AND TRIBALS..MAKE CITIES LIVEABLE SO PEOPLE DO NOT GO BACK TO VILLAGES TO MAKE THEM CITIES'

USHA RAJAGOPALAN,  
KARNATAKA

THEY WORKED FOR A CLEAR-HEADED SOCIETY, ROOTED IN THEIR LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND MUSIC. PROBLEMS BEGIN WHEN WE DISCONNECT FROM OUR OWN THOUGHT PROCESS

SUDARSHAN IYENGAR

MEN TRIED TO STOP OUR MEETINGS, BUT WE STOOD FIRM, DETERMINED TO LEARN AND GROW EACH DAY DESPITE ALL THE CHALLENGES.

PADMA SHREE CHAMI MURMU, JHARKHAND



Delegates highlighted how inclusive strategies, community participation, and gender sensitisation could accelerate progress toward SDGs, using examples like climate adaptation in Arunachal Pradesh.

The ambition was clear: to align community efforts with larger government programs aimed at reducing poverty, hunger, and inequality.

The delegates set ambitious goals for inclusive Commons management, aiming to better understand how different resource domains contribute to achieving SDGs. The connections among Commons and SDGs were explored through different sessions around community forestry, water as Commons, and area-based planning as a landscape-level solution to addressing and achieving SDGs. Along with understanding how these resource domains contribute to SDGs, we also examined the critical role that community-led efforts play in achieving SDGs.



# COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP FOR SDG.



WE ARE HERE TO EXPLORE THE ROLE OF GOVERNANCE OF COMMONS FOR ACHIEVING THE 2030 SDG AGENDA  
- ISABELLE



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN NURTURING THE COMMONS WITH THEIR SUSTAINABLE UTILISATION PATTERN  
- RAJESH

THERE CAN BE NO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT COMMONS MANAGEMENT  
- RANJAN

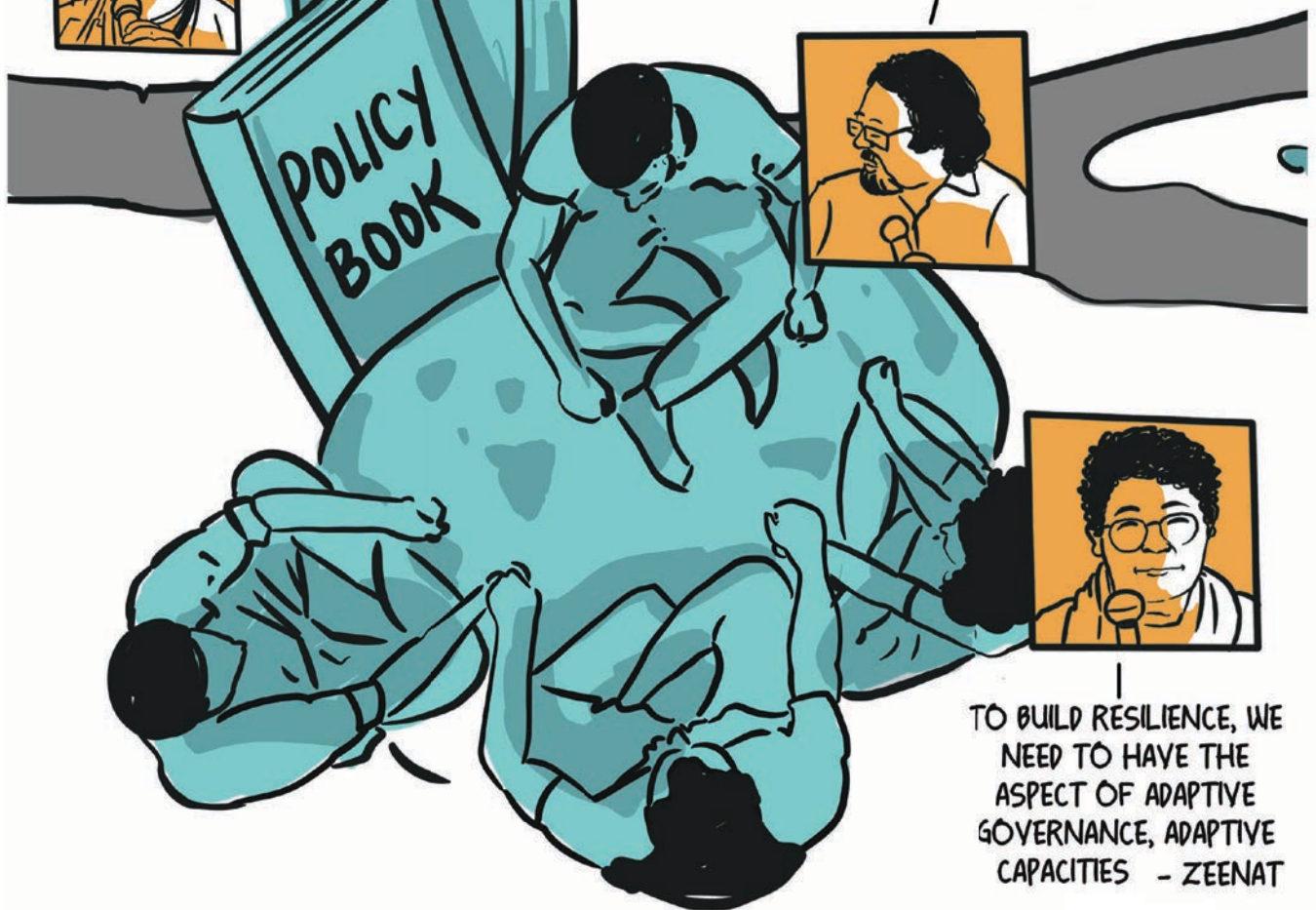


WE NEED TO SENSITISE THE BLOCK OR PANCHAYAT LEVEL OFFICERS ABOUT THE AUDIENCE SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS  
- MUNIRAJU

IT IS IMPORTANT TO INCORPORATE THE POLITICAL LEGITIMACY IN OUR SYSTEMS  
- DINESH



TO BUILD RESILIENCE, WE NEED TO HAVE THE ASPECT OF ADAPTIVE GOVERNANCE, ADAPTIVE CAPACITIES  
- ZEENAT



Sessions focused on community forestry supported food security, climate action, and biodiversity conservation while also addressing the challenges of scaling these efforts due to funding and policy barriers. We shared insights on the effectiveness of community governance in managing water resources, emphasising equitable access and the need for policy improvements. And then we explored how integrating public systems with community management could tackle cross-sectoral challenges like climate change and food security.

The focus was on expanding the definition of Commons to include water, soil, and land and the need for carbon-plus credits to measure both ecological and social impacts. The limitations of renewable energy for local communities and the importance of public finance and standardised methods for ecosystem services were explored. Gaps included the need for more focus on soil and land justice.





COMMUNITY-LED  
FORESTRY BRIDGES THE  
GAP IN SDG PATHWAYS BY  
INTEGRATING LOCAL  
KNOWLEDGE WITH  
CONSERVATION  
EFFORTS.

FORESTRY AS  
COMMONS SUPPORTS  
BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE  
ACTION, AND LOCAL  
LIVELIHOODS,  
HIGHLIGHTING ITS VITAL  
ROLE IN SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT.

RECOGNIZING LOCAL  
STEWARDSHIP'S ROLE IN  
FOREST PRESERVATION AND  
ADVANCING GLOBAL  
SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH  
EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT.

THE LIVING BRIDGE

Connecting  
CLIMATE AND  
COMMONS



Conversations also focused on strengthening freshwater ecosystem conservation through cross-sector collaboration and community-driven approaches. Participants highlighted the need for integrating diverse voices, data-driven decision-making, and sustainable practices to address freshwater challenges.

Leadership was framed as empathetic and visionary, empowering local communities to take ownership of conservation efforts. Emphasis was placed on climate resilience, ethical water use, and the inclusion of diverse perspectives to develop innovative, adaptable solutions. The delegates voiced a collective call for continuous learning and collaboration to safeguard India's freshwater resources for the future.

# FRESH WATER FOR ALL

WE ARE CREATING A  
PLATFORM FOR  
EXCHANGE OF INFO,  
IDEAS, TOOLS, DATA,  
AND DIALOGUE

WE HAVE FORMED  
A COLLECTIVE  
ORGANIZATION WITH  
EXPERTISE IN GROUND WATER,  
SURFACE WATER, AND CITIZEN LED  
MEASUREMENTS, RIVER BANKS

ARE WE REPLACING LOCALS  
WITH TOURISTS? IN THE  
NAME OF TOURISM.

OUR ORGANIZATION IS  
WORKING ON RECORDING  
AND SURVEYING WATER  
BODIES, WILD AND DOMES-  
TIC ANIMALS, LIVESTOCK  
AND BIODIVERSITY

MEEN MANGAL A  
COMMUNITY MOVEMENT  
RELEASED SPAWN INTO THE  
RIVER. THIS CAN BE USED  
AS AN EXAMPLE TO  
MOTIVATE COMMUNITY  
ACTION



In the sessions, it emerged that women play a very critical role in Commons governance, natural and cultural conservation, land and forest rights. Therefore, we looked into how women could move from being beneficiaries to decision-makers and leaders. In the session, the participants shared the need to shift from a livelihood-based to a rights-based approach to foster women's leadership while addressing patriarchal barriers. We also discussed the importance of involving men and boys in women's empowerment efforts.

Gaps were identified, including insufficient LGBTQIA+ inclusion and the lack of gender-friendly government institutions.

These discussions framed the broader ambition for the days ahead: ensuring that community-led governance of natural resources would drive global sustainability efforts.





SÖCH MEIN KAMI  
NAHI HÖNA CHAIYE  
- KANCHI



JAB AUR KISS KA  
NETRETA NAHI  
CHALTA HAIN WAHAN  
MAHILA KA NETRITTA  
CHALTA HAIN  
- CHETNA



WOMEN'S ROLE  
MUST BE THERE IN  
IMPLEMENTATION OF  
VARIOUS SCHEMES  
OF THE GRAM SABHA  
- PRADEEP

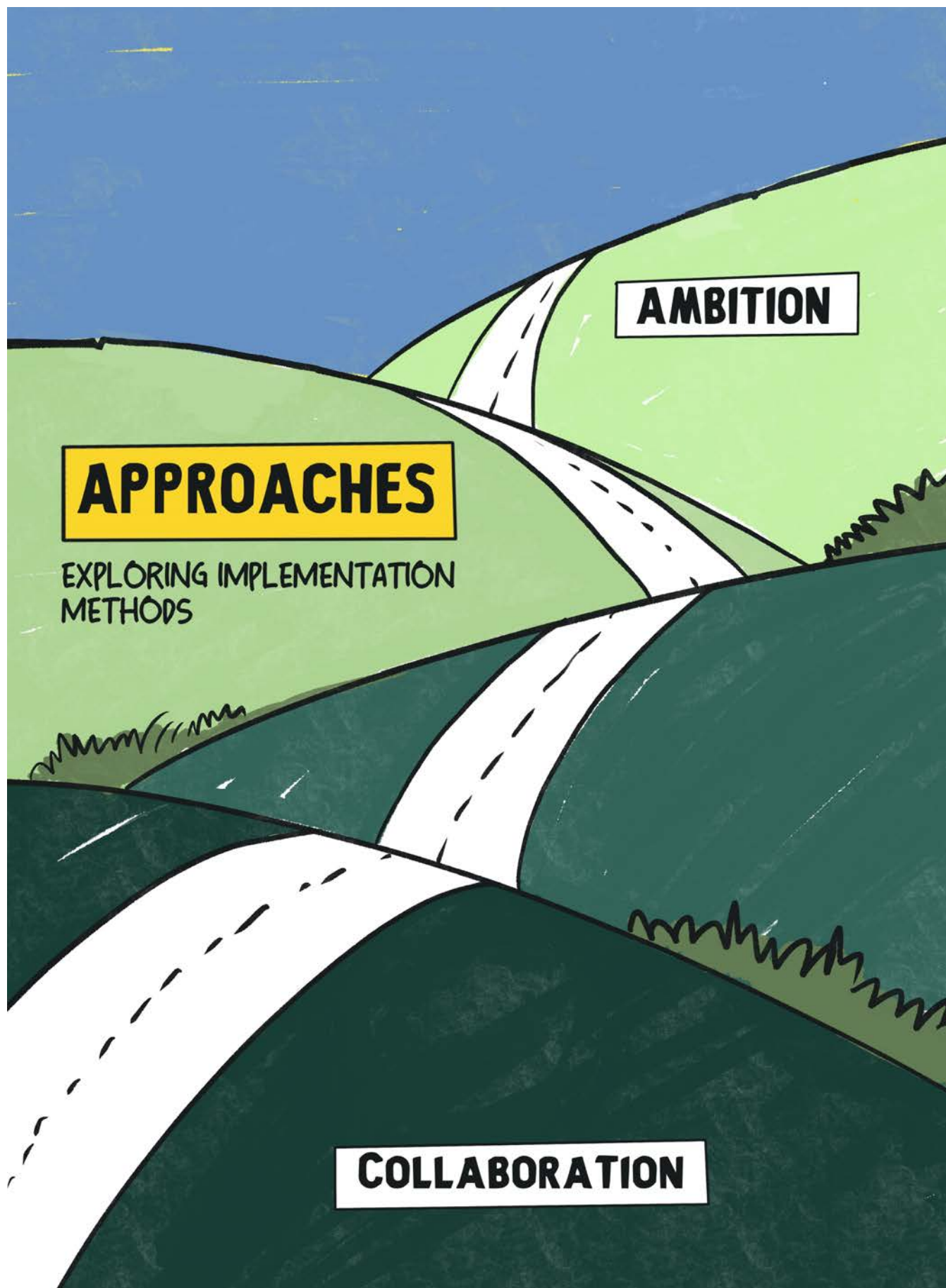


INVOLVING BOYS  
AND MEN IS SUPPER  
INTERGRAL TO ALL  
OF OURS WORKS  
- SHIYANI



OWNERSHIP AND  
DECISION-MAKING  
SHOULD BE WITH  
WOMEN  
(THEIR RIGHTS)  
- SOMA

REFRAME  
AND REFORM  
GOVERNMENT  
PROGRAMS  
TO BE MORE

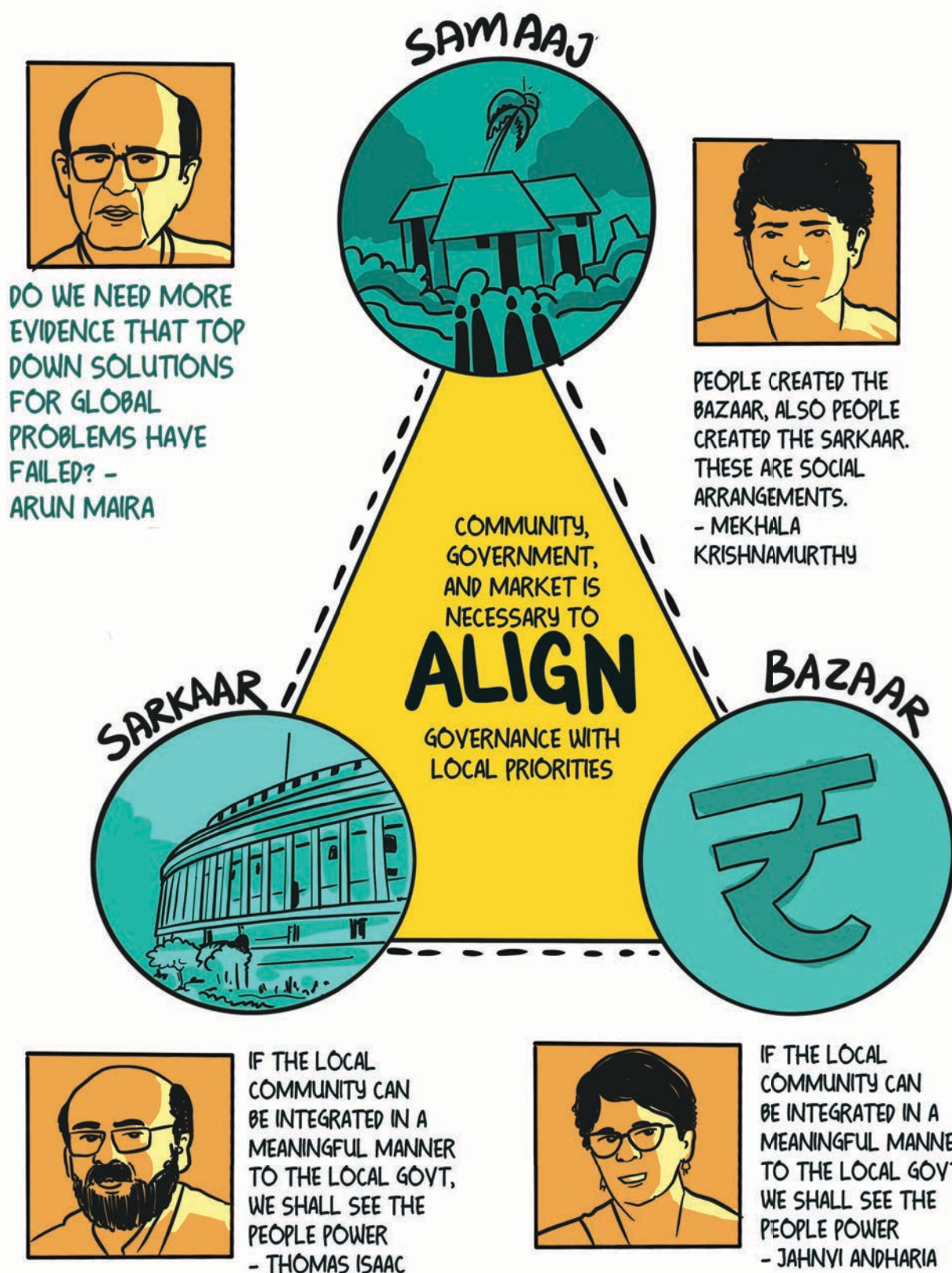


With the ambitions defined, Day Two focused on the approaches needed to implement these goals. The plenary session opened with a discussion on integrating the strengths of *Samaaj* (community), *Sarkaar* (government), and *Bazaar* (market) to improve Commons governance. The conversation emphasised decentralised decision-making, building community capacities, and leveraging market forces to ensure sustainable management. The approach was clear: synergies across sectors were essential to align governance structures with local priorities while maintaining ecological and economic balance.

Through all the discussions around methodologies and solving the ‘how’ - collaboration at multiple levels emerged as the undercurrent. Be it through establishing multi actor platforms, or strengthening the Gram Sabha’s custodianship, or by acknowledging and fostering interlinkages among farming, livestock, and other systems - it was clear that collaboration, partnership, and co-creation were emerging as the biggest pieces of the puzzle.



INTEGRATING SAMAAJ, SARKAAR, AND BAZAAR IS CRUCIAL FOR IMPROVING COMMONS GOVERNANCE, WITH EACH SECTOR CONTRIBUTING LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, REGULATORY SUPPORT, AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT.



To further the discourse around community stewardship of Commons, a session was organised on how collective governance models and the integration of traditional and modern practices could implement the larger goal of sustainable Commons management. The approach focused on including diverse stakeholders, such as women and marginalised communities, in decision-making processes. By harmonising traditional knowledge with modern governance structures, the aim was to foster community-led stewardship of the Commons.





COMMUNITIES HAVE SHIFTED  
FROM BEING BLAMED FOR  
DEGRADATION TO VICTIMS OF  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
- TUSHAR DASH



CLIMATE FINANCING FOR  
NATURE PROJECTS ARE  
INCREASING BUT ARE MOSTLY  
TOP DOWN APPROACH AND DO  
NOT LOCAL NEEDS.  
- GAZALA PAUL.



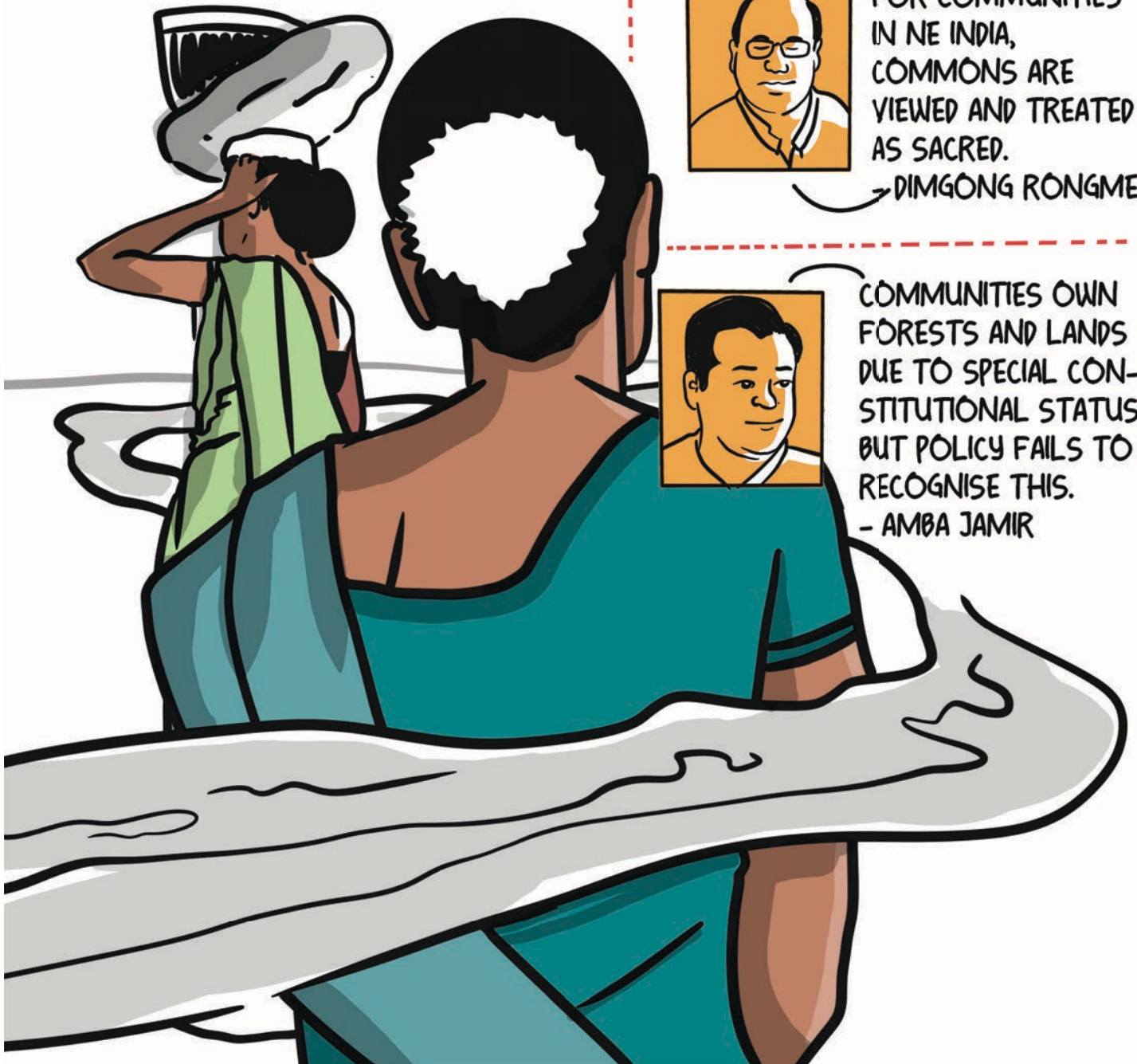
JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT  
OFTEN FAVORS THE GOVT  
OVER COMMUNITY  
STEWARDSHIP DUE TO THEIR  
CONTROL OVER FUNDING  
AND GUIDANCE  
- PRAVANJAN MOHAPATRA



FOR COMMUNITIES  
IN NE INDIA,  
COMMONS ARE  
VIEWED AND TREATED  
AS SACRED.  
- DIMGONG RONGMEI



COMMUNITIES OWN  
FORESTS AND LANDS  
DUE TO SPECIAL CON-  
STITUTIONAL STATUS  
BUT POLICY FAILS TO  
RECOGNISE THIS.  
- AMBA JAMIR





Further discussions explored how digital tools and technologies, like GIS mapping and data platforms, can significantly improve community-led governance of Commons. Real-life examples showed how these tools enhance transparency, resource monitoring, and decision-making. However, challenges such as the digital divide and the limited capacity of local communities to effectively use these technologies were also addressed, emphasising the importance of capacity-building initiatives.

DIGITAL TOOLS CAN SIGNIFICANTLY  
**EMPOWER  
COMMUNITIES**

BY ENHANCING THEIR ABILITY TO  
MONITOR AND GOVERN COMMONS  
MORE TRANSPARENTLY AND EFFICIENTLY.

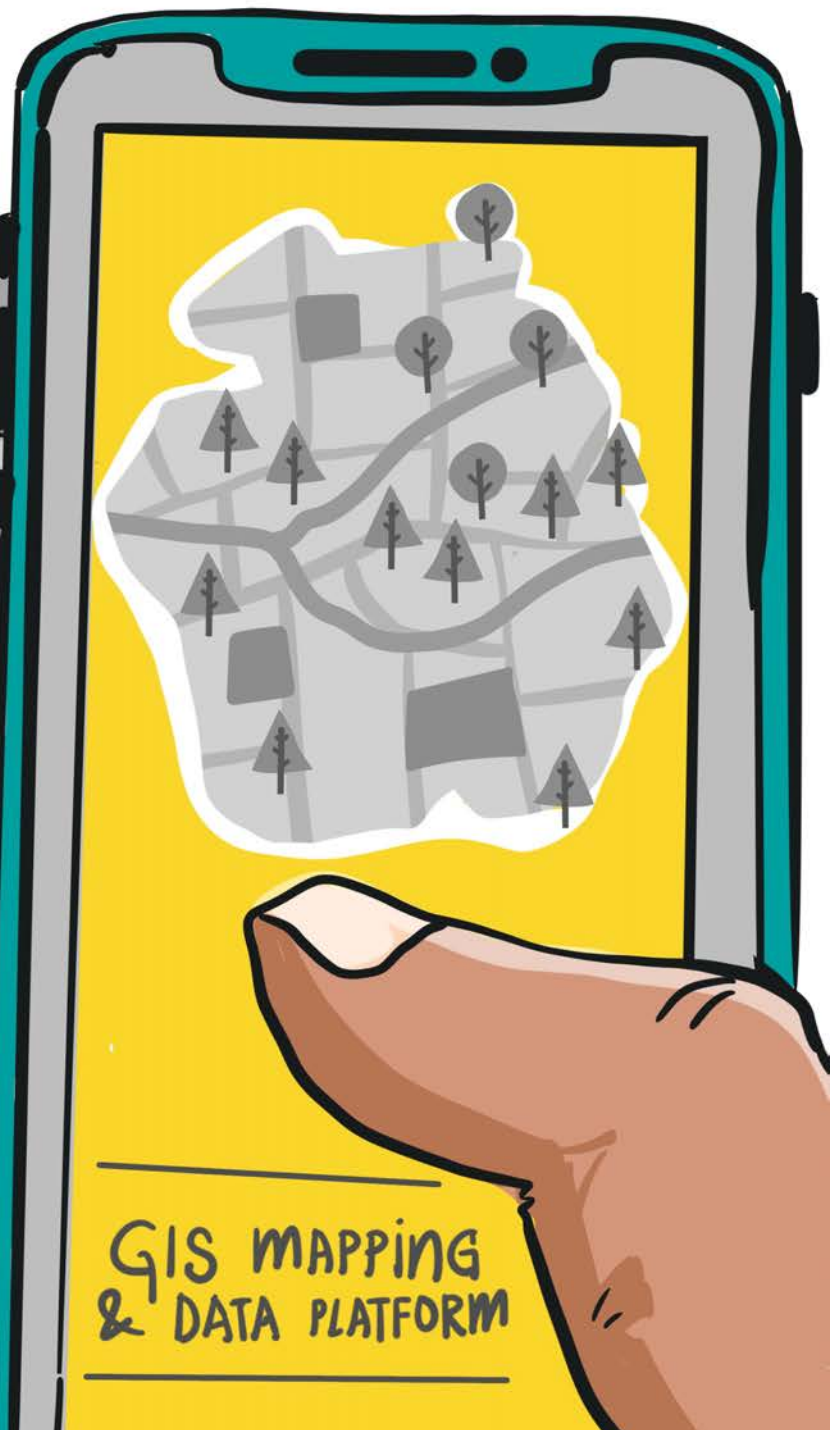
ADDRESSING THE  
DIGITAL DIVIDE IS ESSENTIAL TO  
ENSURE THAT ALL COMMUNITIES,  
HAVE ACCESS TO THESE  
TECHNOLOGIES.

**SUSTAINABILITY IN  
GOVERNANCE:**

COMBINING TRADITIONAL  
GOVERNANCE PRACTICES WITH  
MODERN TECHNOLOGY CAN LEAD  
TO MORE SUSTAINABLE  
COMMONS MANAGEMENT.

TO MAKE DIGITAL TOOLS  
TRULY EFFECTIVE, THERE IS AN  
URGENT NEED FOR CAPACITY-  
BUILDING INITIATIVES THAT

**TEACH  
COMMUNITIES  
HOW TO USE  
THESE TOOLS.**



Dialogues also focused on reimagining area-based planning frameworks to enhance Commons management, emphasising the need for landscape-level approaches, effective interdepartmental coordination, and overcoming institutional barriers.

Key points included innovative financing mechanisms and the role of local institutions in landscape restoration, with an emphasis on empowering communities to lead the planning process.

The conversation also underscored the critical role of Gram Panchayats as intermediaries between local communities and governance structures, advocating for simplified relationships between Gram Sabhas and Panchayats, collaboration with NGOs, and the creation of fellowship programs to foster leadership in community stewardship. Additionally, documenting successful governance models and promoting inter-panchayat learning were emphasised.



# AREA BASED PLANNING

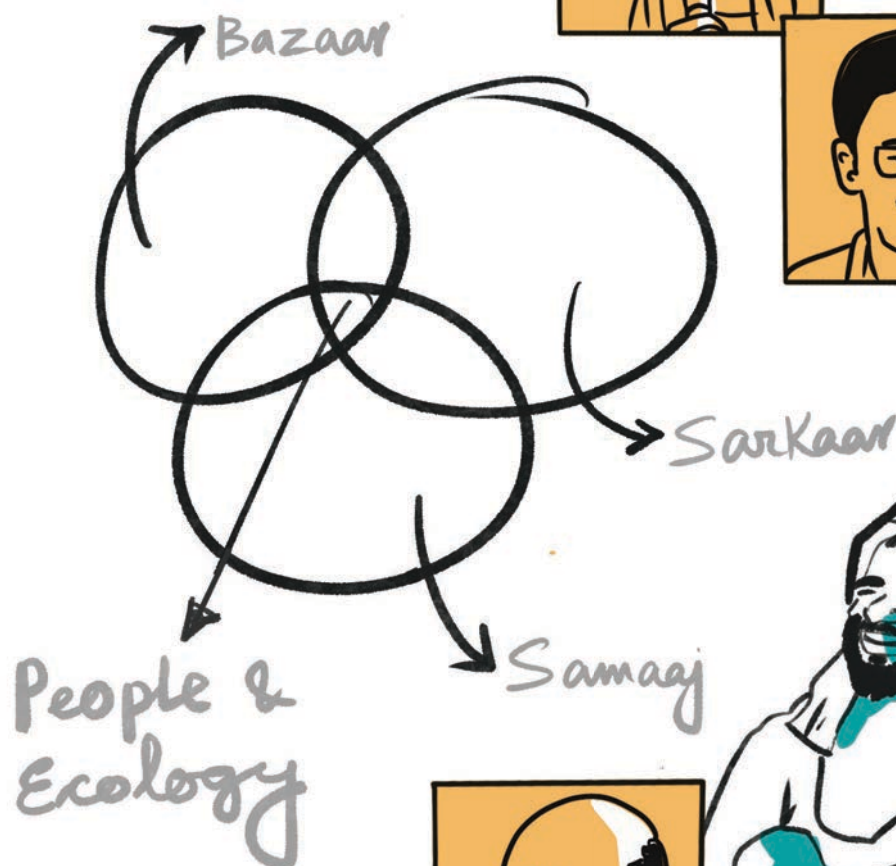
## REIMAGINING THE BUILDING BLOCK

WE ARE HERE FOR BRINGOUT POSSIBILITIES FROM LANDSCAPE FINANCING, POLICY GOVT MAPPING CURRENT PROGRAM SCHEME ALIGN WITH AGRO-ECOLOGY BASED PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION, BRINGING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS FOR AREA BASED PLANNING  
- SUDARSHAN IYENGAR



ITS CRITICAL TO LOOK AT INDIVIDUAL, COMMUNITY AND ECO-SYSTEM BENEFITS FOR FINANCING AREA BASED PLANNING

-NC NARAYANAN



SPECIFIC LOCALISED ACTIONS RELEVANT TO THE SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHY NEEDS TO BE DEVELOPED FOR EACH OF THESE LANDSCAPES  
- ABI TAMIN VANAK



ITS CRITICAL TO LOOK AT INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS IN THE CONTEXTS OF AREA BASED PLANNING  
- ARUNA PANDEY



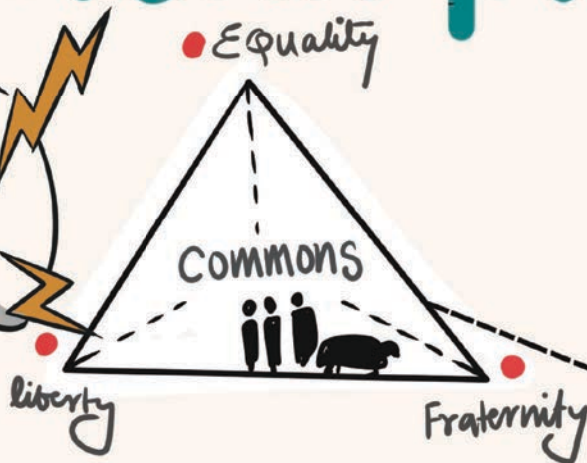
With the focus being on approaches, dialogues continued on strengthening institutions like Gram Sabhas and Panchayats to better connect society, markets, and government. Participants highlighted Panchayats as key interfaces for addressing local issues and suggested collaboration among NGOs to share resources and knowledge.

Ideas included fellowship programs to empower leaders, simplifying roles of Gram Sabhas and Panchayats to reduce conflicts, and creating a “school of practice” for hands-on learning. Documenting governance success stories was deemed vital for inspiring others.

The session called for greater trust in Panchayats, policy convergence to include Commons, and follow-up discussions to capture practical examples, ensuring continued momentum.



# EMPOWERING PANCHAYAT



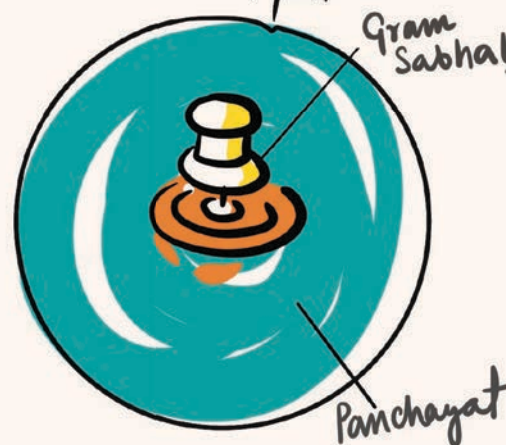
PANCHAYATS LEARN BY DOING, NOT BY LISTENING.  
- VIKAS ANAND, IAS



BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR SAID,  
EQUALITY, LIBERTY, AND  
FRATERNITY ARE A TRIANGLE,  
AND THE COMMONS ARE IN THE  
MIDDLE OF IT."  
RAKSHITA SWAMY



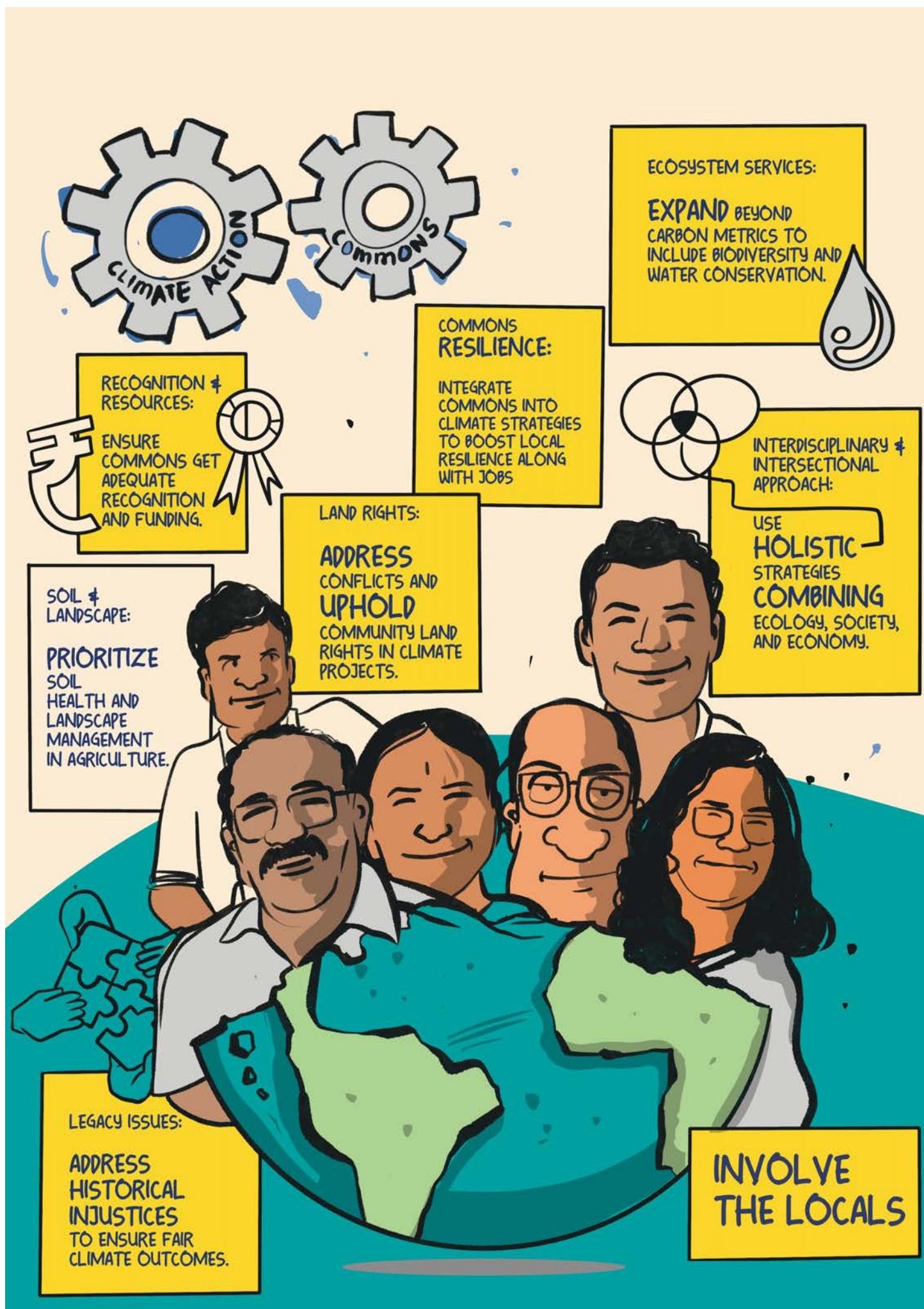
THE CORE OF PANCHAYAT  
IS THE GRAM SABHA.  
- SANTOSH KUMAR  
SATAPATHY,  
IAS (RETD.)



PEOPLE KNOW WHAT TO DO;  
WE NEED TO GIVE THEM THE POWER  
TO DO IT. PANCHAYATS ARE CAPABLE  
OF ACCOUNTABILITY, SURVEILLANCE,  
GOVERNANCE, IF GIVEN AN ENABLING  
ENVIRONMENT.  
- ABHAY KUMAR, IAS



With collective action and community stewardship being the undercurrents, the conversations also focused on innovative financing mechanisms like carbon markets and public-private partnerships for landscape-level climate action, emphasising the importance of including local communities in these efforts to ensure bottom-up approaches. A key challenge highlighted was the lack of legal frameworks to regulate carbon markets and the need for capacity building to bridge knowledge gaps between communities and market players.



We explored the shift in perception of wastelands from barren, unproductive spaces to valuable community resources. Discussions focused on how collaborative governance models could empower local communities to manage these lands sustainably, ensuring that both environmental and economic benefits were realised. Panelists stressed the need for policy reforms to fill the gaps between government-led initiatives and community expectations. Local leadership and participation were highlighted as key drivers in successful reclamation projects. The session concluded with a call for integrated solutions that balance ecological restoration with livelihood creation, marking the transition of wastelands into thriving Commons.



THE VIEW OF WASTELANDS AS BARREN MUST SHIFT TO RECOGNIZING THEM AS VALUABLE COMMUNITY ASSETS THAT CAN SUPPORT LIVELIHOODS.

WASTELANDS, ONCE SEEN AS NON-PRODUCTIVE, ARE NOW REIMAGINED FOR REVITALIZATION THROUGH COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES THAT RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS AND GENERATE ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

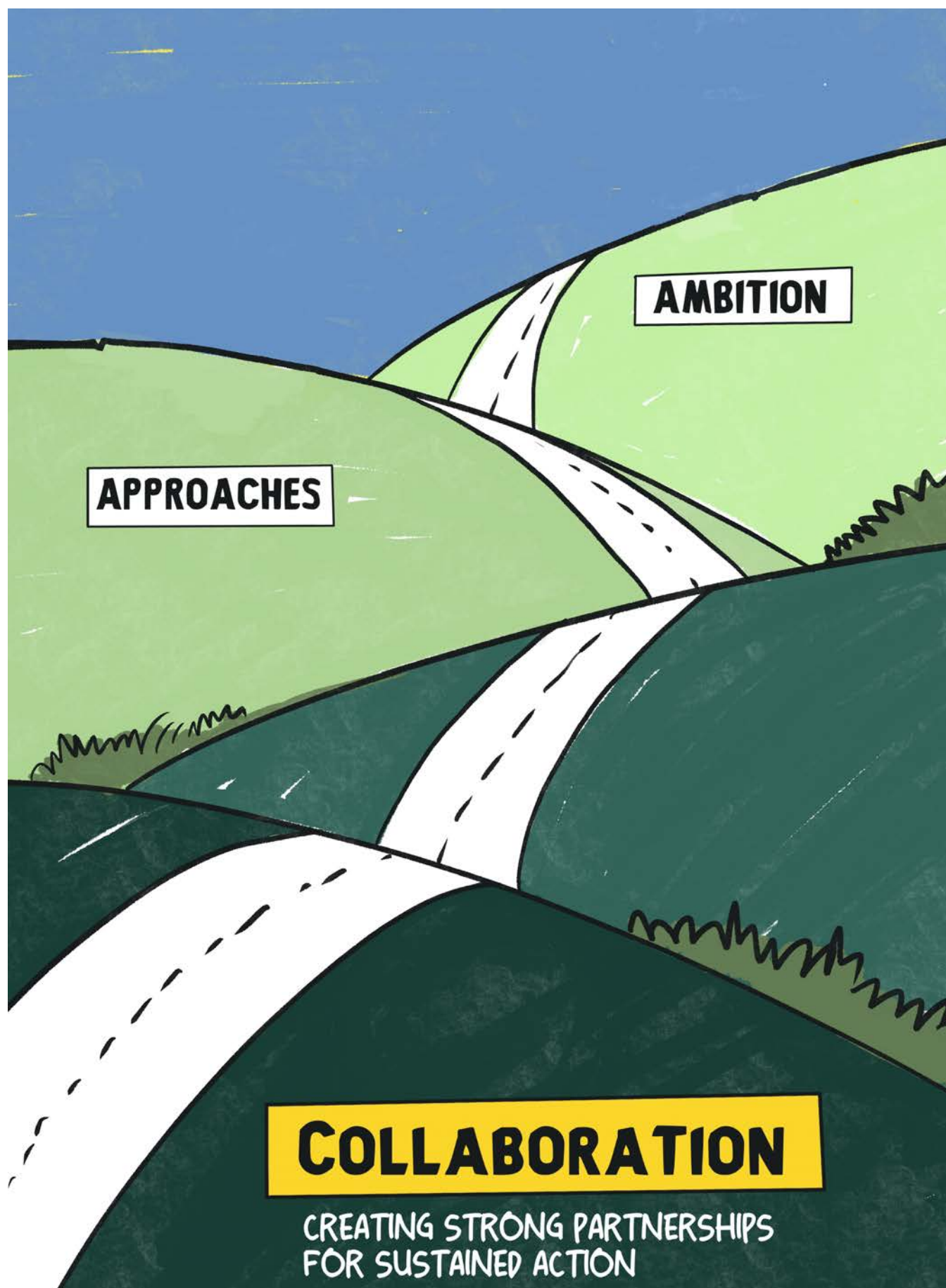
POLICY REFORMS ARE ESSENTIAL TO ALIGN GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH COMMUNITY NEEDS, EMPOWERING LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS TO MANAGE THESE LANDS EFFECTIVELY.

THE TRANSITION OF WASTELANDS INTO PRODUCTIVE COMMONS WILL REQUIRE MULTI STAKEHOLDER COORDINATED EFFORTS

SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES ARE EMPHASIZED FOR TRANSFORMING WASTELANDS INTO PRODUCTIVE LANDS, BALANCING ECOLOGICAL HEALTH WITH COMMUNITY NEEDS.



# REIMAGINE WASTELAND AS COMMONS



In this phase, we delved deeper into some pressing issues around governance, accountability, data use and access, law, narrative building, and so on. In each of these discussions was embedded the question of who can come together, how they can come together and build synergistic, sustainable pathways for the way forward.

The panel focused on the evolution of governance frameworks for Pastoral Commons, where traditional practices often clashed with modern legal frameworks.

In the session on evolving land use governance and frameworks around Pastoral Commons, we discussed the importance of integrating customary rights into governance structures to maintain social cohesion in pastoral communities. Challenges such as scaling governance models that balanced tradition and modernity were highlighted, as were the collaborative land-use strategies needed to sustain pastoral livelihoods. The session called for policy reforms that adequately supported pastoral communities, ensuring that governance models protected both the environment and the people who depended on pasture Commons for their livelihoods.

As governance frameworks evolved, technology played an increasingly significant role.



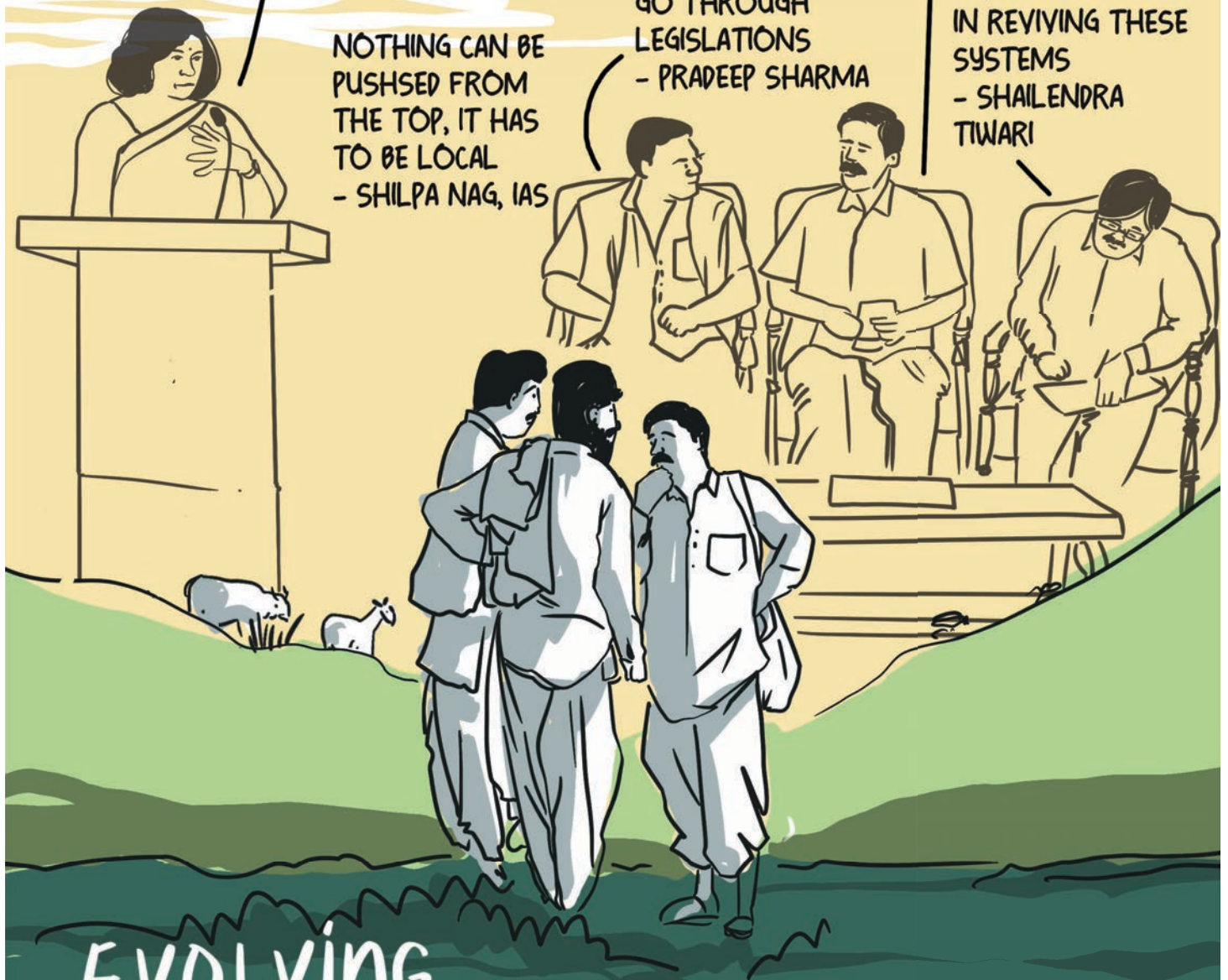
COMMUNITY LED PROCESS,  
(RESTORATION AND  
GOVERNANCE OF THESE  
RESOURCES) NEED TO BE IN  
THE FOREFRONT WHEN WE  
DO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING.  
- BHAYNA RAO

NOTHING CAN BE  
PUSHED FROM  
THE TOP, IT HAS  
TO BE LOCAL  
- SHILPA NAG, IAS

IF WE WANT  
SYSTEMIC AND  
SUSTAINABLE  
SOLUTIONS WE  
MUST THINK, AND  
GO THROUGH  
LEGISLATIONS  
- PRADEEP SHARMA

RANGELANDS ARE  
THE LARGEST  
CARBON SINK OF  
THE PLANET  
- VIVEKANDAN

CSO PLAYS AN  
IMPORTANT ROLE  
IN REVIVING THESE  
SYSTEMS  
- SHAILENDRA  
TIWARI



EVOLVING  
LANDUSE  
& GOVERNANCE  
FRAMEWORKS  
OF PASTORAL COMMON

The workshop on leveraging data and technology highlighted the potential of data and technology to revolutionise community-led governance of Commons. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other digital tools were showcased as effective means of empowering local communities by providing access to crucial information about land use and resource management. However, the session also acknowledged the challenges of digital literacy and the digital divide, particularly for marginalised groups. Panelists emphasised the need for integrating traditional, indigenous knowledge with technology to ensure that Commons governance remained inclusive and sustainable.

The session concluded with a discussion on capacity-building and the importance of making digital tools accessible to all.



POLICY INTERVENTION IS  
NEEDED TO OVERCOME  
FRAGMENTED ACCESS, AS WE  
CURRENTLY FACE AN  
ANTICOMMONS SITUATION  
WHERE THE DATA POTENTIAL  
IS BLOCKED

POWER DOESN'T  
JUST LIE WITHIN THE  
TOOL BUT IT ALSO  
LIES WITH THE  
PERSON BEHIND THE  
TOOL, AS IN HOW IT  
IS USED AS A TOOL

TECHNOLOGY IS  
BOOSTING EFFICIENCY  
AND TRANSPARENCY IN  
THE SOCIAL SECTORS,  
BUT ISSUES LIKE ACCESS  
NEED ATTENTION FOR

IF WE SAY GEOSPATIAL  
TECHNOLOGY CAN MAKE  
LIFE BETTER, WE MUST ADD  
THAT IT MUST BE IN AN  
APPLICATION READY  
FORMAT FOR USERS TO  
ACCESS IT.

CITIZEN SCIENCE ALLOWS  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN  
EVERY ASPECT OF THE  
SCIENCE, FROM  
GENERATION OF DATA TO  
ANALYSIS.

LEVERAGING DATA  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOR COMMUNITY  
LED GOVERNANCE  
OF COMMONS





In the workshop on strategic communications, participants discussed the importance of strategic communications in making Commons governance a priority for a wide range of stakeholders. The session emphasised the need for inclusive communication strategies that reached diverse audiences, from local communities to policymakers. Storytelling emerged as a key engagement tool, capable of fostering deeper connections and building dialogue between community members, government officials, and market actors. The role of both traditional and social media in advocating for Commons governance was also explored, with panelists stressing the importance of context-sensitive messaging.

The session concluded by highlighting the need for sustained communication efforts to keep stakeholders engaged over the long term.

COMMUNICATION  
**STRATEGIES MUST  
INCLUDE ALL  
STAKEHOLDERS**

TO ENSURE COMMONS  
GOVERNANCE REACHES  
DIVERSE AUDIENCES

MEDIA, BOTH SOCIAL AND  
TRADITIONAL, IS CRUCIAL FOR  
RAISING AWARENESS AND  
ADVOCATING POLICY CHANGES  
FOR COMMONS  
GOVERNANCE.

**STORYTELLING**

IS A POWERFUL TOOL TO ENGAGE  
COMMUNITIES, POLICYMAKERS, AND  
STAKEHOLDERS IN COMMONS  
MANAGEMENT.

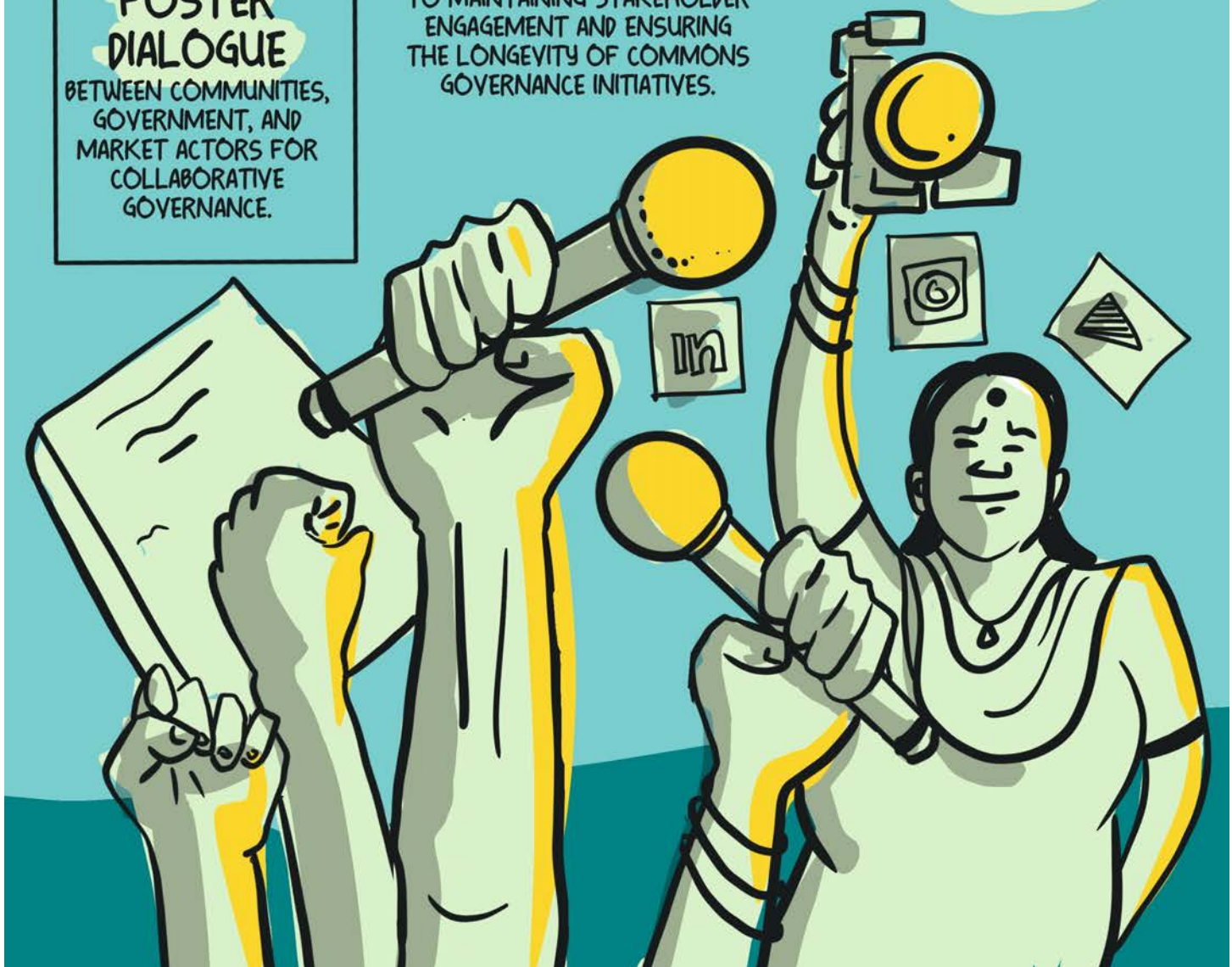
**EFFECTIVE  
STRATEGIES  
FOSTER  
DIALOGUE**

BETWEEN COMMUNITIES,  
GOVERNMENT, AND  
MARKET ACTORS FOR  
COLLABORATIVE  
GOVERNANCE.

**SUSTAINED  
COMMUNICATION  
IS KEY**

TO MAINTAINING STAKEHOLDER  
ENGAGEMENT AND ENSURING  
THE LONGEVITY OF COMMONS  
GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES.

MESSAGING MUST BE  
**TAILORED**



Another panel discussed the importance of Coastal Commons in supporting both marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of coastal communities. Panelists examined the growing challenges posed by environmental degradation, pollution, and overfishing and the critical need for coordinated governance models. The role of indigenous knowledge systems was highlighted as essential for preserving traditional practices while adapting to modern challenges.

The discussion also touched on the vulnerability of coastal communities to climate change, emphasising the importance of building resilience to protect both human lives and marine biodiversity. Community-led conservation efforts were presented as vital to the future of Coastal Commons.

The session concluded with a call for stronger collaboration between coastal communities, government bodies, and market actors to protect marine biodiversity and build resilience against climate change.





OUR LIMITED ENGAGEMENT IN  
COSTAL AREAS HIGHLIGHTS THEIR  
COMPLEXITIES ESPECIALLY WITH  
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  
- AMALENDU



ITS VERY CRITICAL TO  
UNDERSTAND THE  
LEGAL FRAMEWORK  
THAT EXISTS WITHIN  
THESE COMMONS  
LAND AND JUSTIFY  
ENCROACHMENT  
- SUPRIYA



ALL OUR FOCUS  
SHOULD BE ON  
THE WATERS  
- JENUA



THE SHIFT FROM 100%  
SMALL SCALE TO 80%  
LARGE SCALE FISHERIES  
HAS DEVASTED COASTAL  
COMMUNITIES.  
- SEBASTIAN



GENERATIONS  
DEPEND ON  
OCEANS.  
- ARATI



The session on “One Health” emphasised the interdependence of human, animal, and environmental health, highlighting the need for holistic, locally driven strategies.

Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of linking ecological health with community well-being. Indigenous knowledge and traditional practices were recognized as vital but increasingly threatened by modern developments. Participants called for reconnecting communities with traditional food systems and co-creating health solutions that balance tradition with modern needs, avoiding romanticisation while respecting local contexts.



# HOLISTIC HEALTH: INTEGRATING COMMUNITY CULTURE, AND ECOLOGY

IT'S IMPORTANT TO INTEGRATE TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE WITH MODERN HEALTH PRACTICES TO ADDRESS CONTEMPORARY HEALTH ISSUES WAS ALSO HIGHLIGHTED.

ONE HEALTH HAS EXPANDED THE SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE IN PUBLIC HEALTH BY CONSIDERING THE COLLECTIVE HEALTH  
-SHRILATA



ONE HEALTH RECOGNIZES THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS AND AIMS TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE DONE TO THESE ECOSYSTEMS  
- GAYATRI



ONE HEALTH ENCOMPASSES EVERYTHING AROUND US, INCLUDING FOOD, WATER, AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
- SUMITRA



COASTAL COMMUNITIES ARE FACING UNIQUE CHALLENGES AND THE IMPACT OF NATURAL DISASTERS.  
- PAVITRA

THERE IS A NEED TO THINK OF HEALTH MORE HOLISTICALLY, INCORPORATING ECOLOGICAL, CULTURAL, AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS.





”

From conversations to collaboration,  
the way forward is clear: act together, sustain the  
momentum, and make commoning a  
collective way of life.



Scan here to access the detailed agenda and  
session recordings from the convening

## Organising Partners

Common  
Ground



## Design Partner



## Shared Credits

### Acknowledgments:

*All contributors, including illustrators, facilitators, panelists, are recognised for their unique roles in this collaborative effort.*

**Visual Report & Creative vision by**  
*Indrajit Sinha, Lakshmi Narayan Singh*  
*IndiVisuals (WAYCo.)*

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