Rangeland Restoration Awards 2026

KALI DEVI BALAI

Woman Leader, MGNREGA Supervisor & Agro-pastoralist

From Laxmipura Village, Mandalgarh Block, Bhilwara District, Rajasthan, India



ABOUT HER

- Agro-pastoralist, MGNREGA Scheme Supervisor and community leader from Laxmipura village.
- Mobilized women to become custodians of community pasturelands, transforming them from wage labourers into champions of ecological restoration.

THE LAND SHE RESTORES

- Developed 25-hectare Kaker Community Pastureland in Laxmipura Village, Rajasthan.
- Supports approximately 1,700 livestock, including goats, buffaloes and cattle.
- Sustains 106 agro-pastoral households dependent on livestock and rainfed agriculture.
- Restored through community stewardship, ecological regeneration and women's leadership.
- Inspired neighbouring villages to replicate the Laxmipura model, demonstrating the power of women-led commons governance.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

- Mobilized women through MGNREGA to restore and protect **25 hectares** of degraded community pastureland.
- Strengthened the "Charagah Vikas Samiti" by transforming restoration plans into community-led action through women's participation.
- Led *Kuldibandi* (community protection of pasturelands) and household-level stewardship to prevent grazing during the period of regeneration.
- Introduced a community-managed cut-and-carry fodder system, replacing uncontrolled open grazing with equitable access for all households.
- Enabled the harvest of **25,500 bundles of fodder**, transforming the village from chronic fodder scarcity to surplus production.