Rangeland Restoration Awards 2026

SHAHID SALEEM

Pastoral Researcher & Rangeland Restoration Practitioner

Ganderbal, Jammu & Kashmir, India



ABOUT HIM

- Researcher and practitioner from the Gujjar-Bakarwal pastoral community of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Works on pastoralism, rangeland restoration, and climate resilience in the Kashmir Himalaya.
- Founder of the Himalayan Pastoral Trust, integrating research, indigenous knowledge, and community-led action.

THE LAND HE RESTORES

- Alpine and sub-alpine rangelands of Ganderbal and Bandipora, Kashmir Himalaya.
- Works across Tragbal, Lal Marg, Mohand Marg, Maalie, and Grattwattan grazing landscapes.
- Interventions influence approximately 400–500 hectares of seasonal rangelands.
- These landscapes sustain pastoral livelihoods, livestock, biodiversity, and traditional migration systems.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Improved Water Security:** Developed the Alpine Pond Solution to harvest rainwater and snowmelt for high-altitude pastures.
- **Restored Rangelands:** Used NDVI, grazing plans, and pond development to reduce grazing pressure and restore grasslands.
- **Supported Pastoral Communities:** Benefited 500–550 households (3,500–4,000 people) and 20,000+ livestock.
- **Strengthened Community Governance:** Engaged pastoralists in pond construction, grazing management, and maintenance.
- **Scaled Community Action:** Enabled construction of 7 additional alpine ponds through a 50% community cost-sharing model.