Rangeland Restoration Awards 2026

SHRI. SUMER SINGH BHATI

Pastoralist and Rangeland Conservationist, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

From Sanwata Village, Fatehgarh Tehsil, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, India



ABOUT HIM

- 45 years old pastoralist from Sanwata village, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- Livestock keeper: 200 Jaisalmeri camels, 15 Tharparkar cows, 100 Jaisalmeri sheep, 30 goats.
- Cultivates 16 hectares of land under rainfed conditions.
- His family has been involved in livestock keeping for five generations.

THE LAND HE RESTORES

- Degarai Mata Temple Rajasthan, India spans 7575 hectares across 47 villages.
- Rich in grasses like Sewan, Dhaman, Bur, Baker, Karad, and Bhurt.
- Supports livestock, biodiversity, and the spiritual life of the community.
- A lifeline for pastoralists and farmers of the Thar Desert.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

Retrieved & Protected Oran Land

Led the movement to protect 7575 hectares of Oran (common pastureland) from diversion.

Mobilized the Community

Rallied 20 villages through awareness campaigns, peaceful marches, and parikrama to raise a collective voice.

Conserved Rangelands

Brought 10,000 hectares of degraded land under positive transformation; pastures revived and ponds maintained.

Legal Recognition

Engaged with government and secured registration of grasslands and Gauchars in revenue records.

Sustaining Livelihoods & Biodiversity

Supports livelihoods of approximately 5,000 families and provides grazing for 50,000 cattle, 5,000 camels, and 50,000 small ruminants.