

The Pastoralists of Kalibangan

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ABSTRACT The hunters-gatherers who pioneered Kalibangan, gradually transformed to pastoralists. The pioneers intensified gathering over hunting. Instead of killing, they rescued the animals trapped in river side marshes. They brought their dwellings closer to the central gap located between the hillocks of the levee they occupied and the one to its east. Ramp slope of the gap reached them to the trapped animals. The south of the ramp enabled them to learn domestication of the rescued animals. The domesticated animals were tended to the forage south of the levee. Overgrazed grasses of the training field became more palatable to humans enabling them to gather their seeds for food. Necessitated by sharing the plants with the grazers, the grazers stall fed their animals on remnants of food and raw material collected for their needs. When the herders learned to domesticate plants, they included cultivated fodder in the stall feed of their animals. Pastoralism expanded with urbanization and came to an end with the fall of the Harappan metropolis of Kalibangan.