



Land Access for Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation: *An IFAD Perspective*

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What Land?



- Global land area = 13.5 billion ha:
8.3 billion ha = grassland / forest,
1.6 billion (12%) = cropland
- Excluding forest & protected land,
250 - 800 million (2% - 6%)
apparently available for expanded
crop production
- Most land available is considered
marginal, much is a major source of
livelihoods for the rural poor,
especially women & pastoralists
- ± 14 million ha is being used for
biofuels = 1 - 2% of all arable land,
expected to rise to 4% by 2030 &
20% by 2050



Whose land?

- ❑ Small-scale producers in rural areas, mainly women.
- ❑ People living in informal settlements.
- ❑ Women typically have weaker land rights.
- ❑ Pastoralists use large percentages of what is often considered marginal land.
- ❑ ***De jure*** the state owns most land but ***de facto*** most land is owned under diverse tenure systems.
- ❑ While land may be under-utilised, very little is not owned, vacant or unused.
- ❑ ± 15 - 20 million ha under acquisition by large-scale investors?



Importance of LTS & equitable access

- ❑ **Land Tenure Security:** rules & norms governing how, when & where people access & use land.
- ❑ Central to poverty reduction & economic growth – the elephant in the room
- ❑ Land management and conservation
- ❑ Uptake of new technologies and access to credit
- ❑ Social equality and political stability
- ❑ Local government revenues
- ❑ Equitable access and economic growth rates



Challenges & Risks



- ❑ Increasing competition for dwindling land resources as a result of:
 - Growing populations
 - Urbanization
 - Land degradation & climatic change
 - Energy demand
 - Increased demand for land from large foreign and domestic investors
- Resulting in a threat to food security & land rights of poor and vulnerable people

Opportunities



- ❑ A growing recognition of the need for fundamental change.
- ❑ We have the knowledge, technology and management practices to meet our challenges
- ❑ New opportunities for FDI, infrastructure dev, technology transfer, employment", income generation & tax revenue
- ❑ Growing (revived) recognition of the importance of LTS – greater recognition of diverse "customary" tenure systems
- ❑ Greater recognition of importance of multi-stakeholder involvement, led by government



Implementation Lessons

- ❑ Balance social equity, economic development and environmental sustainability.
- ❑ No “one size fits all”.
- ❑ Not just good policies – real challenge lies in implementation.
- ❑ Requires sustained, long-term investment.
- ❑ Modest investment in Land Policy implementation can have a significant positive impact, especially as part of wider rural development initiatives.



Possible Land Policy Options & Actions



1. *Recognise the centrality of LTS for development:*

- Develop guidelines for analysing LTS issues & include in development strategies.
- Set government investment targets for the Land Sector.
- Strengthen global & regional guidelines for land policy development - eg: FAO-led VGs land & NR, governance, AUC/UNECA/AfDB-led pan-African land policy guidelines.

Possible Land Policy Options & Actions



2. ***Strengthen the land rights of poor & vulnerable people.***

- Recognise a diversity of tenure systems, balanced with principles of social equity.
- Secure women's land rights
Info dissemination & civic education
- Support land redistribution
- Legal aid & training of magistrates & lawyers.

Possible Land Policy Options & Actions



3. ***Develop accessible, affordable & transparent land administration systems.***

- ❑ Balance cost recovery with affordability for all users.
- ❑ Integrate land rights recognition with participatory land use planning.
- ❑ Utilise a mix of low-cost GIS, aerial photography/satellite imagery, GPS and PRA methods.
- ❑ Recognise local & customary dispute resolution mechanisms.
- ❑ Develop local capacity – multi-disciplinary skills.
- ❑ Strengthen role of private sector & civil society service providers.

Possible Land Policy Options & Actions

4. *Promote community-investor partnerships.*

- ❑ Develop guidelines, promote partnerships that do not require large-scale land acquisition, make community consultation obligatory
- ❑ Strengthen community enterprise development & negotiation capacity.
- ❑ Recognise land & other assets as community share equity contribution
- ❑ Monitor implementation of agreements.

5. *Policy review and M&E.*

- ❑ Periodic, multi-stakeholder, multi-level reviews.
- ❑ Strengthen both government & independent M&E systems—foster dialogue between perspectives.
- ❑ Strengthen cross-country research & lesson sharing.
- ❑ Develop a set of global land policy indicators.



What IFAD does

- ❑ Integrates LTS into rural poverty reduction programmes
- ❑ Strengthens the role of CSOs
- ❑ Opens space for multi-stakeholder dialogue.
- ❑ An ILC founding member & hosts the ILC Secretariat
- ❑ Some examples of support in the Land Sector:
 - Up-scaling local land registration (Rwanda, Madagascar)
 - Securing forest lease rights in Nepal, Vietnam)
 - Securing pastoralists rights (Tanzania)
 - Register ancestral land rights (Bolivia)
 - Promoting community – investor partnerships (Mozambique)