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Land and the Millennium Development Goals

Three-quarters of the world's poor, about 900 million people, live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and related activities for their livelihoods. In order to cut poverty in half by 2015, as set out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), access to land for the rural poor and landless must be at the centre of national and international policies.

Links between MDGs and Land

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty. The majority of the extreme poor live in rural areas and are heavily dependent on land and other natural resources for their livelihood. Secure access to common property resources is particularly important to eradicating extreme hunger and poverty in rural areas.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. Women's land rights are central to food security, particularly in regions where women are responsible for the bulk of

household agricultural work. Equal inheritance rights and equal representation, through both customary and statutory tenure processes, are necessary to ensure rural women's empowerment.

Goal 7: Ensuring environmental sustainability. Over-exploitation of land resources by commercial interests – particularly where illegal appropriation occurs – is a leading cause of environmental degradation. Greater tenure security for poor people can encourage environmentally sustainable land-use practices.

Many of the basic principles underpinning the MDGs also reinforce the land agenda.

The principles of freedom and equality recognize the right for smallholders, women, landless populations and indigenous peoples to organize themselves – without threat or intimidation by state or private interests – to influence political processes related to land.

The principles of solidarity and shared responsibility call upon both governments and international organizations to:

- (i) support the efforts by peoples' organizations, NGOs and non-state actors; and
- (ii) make direct contributions to securing land access for poor men and women.

As the MDGs represent a broad international consensus – all 191 UN Member States are committed to their achievement – they offer an opportunity to develop an integrated approach to combating poverty and hunger, including through land and agrarian reform.

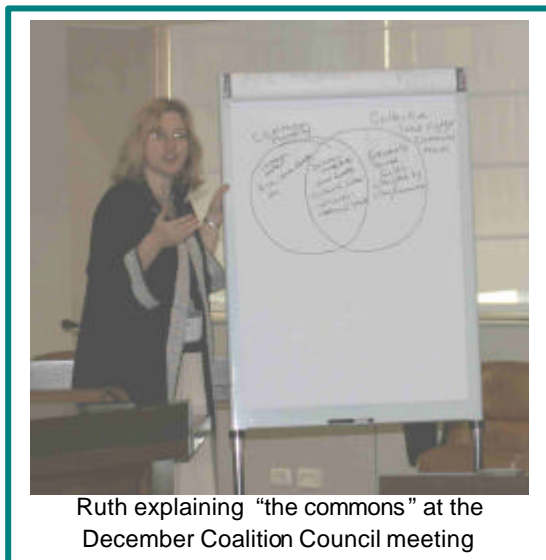
A five-year review of progress toward the MDGs will occur this year, providing important opportunities for the International Land Coalition (ILC) members and partners to promote the land agenda. In July 2005, the ECOSOC High Level Segment in Geneva will focus on achieving internationally-agreed-upon development goals, including those set forth in the MDGs. The results from this will feed into a High Level Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, planned to take place in September 2005 at UN Headquarters in New York.

ILC partners are encouraged to share their thoughts and suggestions for inclusion in the ILC's recommendations to the MDGs review process via E-mail to coalition@ifad.org.

For additional information about the MDGs: www.un/ngls.org/MDG or www.un.org/millenniumgoals

Common Property Systems – Romanticising the Past or Realistic System for the Future?

Much of the attention in land reforms has focused on individual private property. In many cases this has even been at the expense of common property resources upon which poor people depend. Those with little land or other jobs of their own often depend disproportionately on the commons, such as for collecting wild foods and firewood, catching fish or grazing animals. This is not to say that the poor use more of the commons than the rich — often the richer use more, absolutely, but they do have other options.



Ruth explaining "the commons" at the December Coalition Council meeting

Resources, such as rangelands and water, are often more effectively used on a collective basis rather than by being divided into portions, which invariably leads to ecologically unsustainable units.

Even in agricultural systems where large amounts of land are allocated to individuals, there are often very important common resources that:

- provide resources – such as water – that are not as effective if made available privately;
- provide fallback in hard times;
- allow people to exploit their private resources effectively;

Common property resources are found on all continents, but these vital resources are under threat.

Part of this threat stems from the idea of the "tragedy of the commons" – the notion that the commons are inevitably overused and degraded. This has led to policy recommendations for state takeover or privatization. However, where there are effective local management organizations, the "tragedy of the commons" is not inevitable. While state takeover often undermines local management without providing effective management of those resources, privatization excludes many users.

Losing access to the commons (through encroachment, privatization, state takeover, or deterioration) often hurts poor people and makes private resources less valuable. For example, where land-buying companies in Kenya issued private titles to all the available land, people acquired land but had no access to water. Even though water is considered a basic right, people often can't reach the river to collect it, because they would have to cross lands to which they have no access.

In India, the common land is officially registered as state land, and is often referred to as "wasteland". Programmes that allocate that land, even to poor people, can deprive many others of critical resources. Moreover the tanks that supply water for irrigation and other uses are losing water because the catchment areas and supply channels have been encroached upon, or allocated to other uses.

However, common pool resources do require local institutions that set and enforce rules about how much of the resource people can use, and what they have to provide in return (e.g. labour or cash). One key problem is that 'the commons' often have less secure tenure than private property. That gives people less incentive to invest.

Secure rights to common property requires that:

- The group has rights that are externally and internally recognized and protected, as is the case for private property;
- Individuals are secure in their membership in the group;
- The group has effective mechanisms to regulate investment and use of the commons, to provide assurance that the resources will still be there in the future.

by Ruth Meinzen-Dick - Coordinator, CAPRI

The ILC is working with the FAO and CAPRI on a global study to identify innovations and "smart practices" in rural common property systems. Case studies of local common property systems, and national policy frameworks that govern them, will be received for inclusion in this study through mid-2005. If your organization would like to participate in this initiative, please contact the ILC at coalition@ifad.org.

Experiences with Common Property and Communal Tenure from South Africa and Cameroon

AFRA Experience in Ekuthuleni South Africa

In South Africa, the Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA) has worked with rural communities for more than 25 years to secure land rights and fight against forced removals that were commonplace under the Apartheid regime. Despite the transition to democratic government in 1994, the struggle for land rights in South Africa continues. Households that rely on communal lands are at particular risk, as the current legal system provides no guarantee to their traditional land claims.

For six years, AFRA and the people of Ekuthuleni, a community of 178 households in KwaZulu Natal province, have attempted to secure their land rights in an affordable and sustainable way. Although a communal property association exists in Ekuthuleni, this does not guarantee members with secure tenure under the formal legal system: local authorities and credit institutions may still require written evidence of land rights, which most Ekuthuleni residents lack.

The Communal Land Rights Act (CLRA), passed in 2003, now offers a small window of opportunity to reverse this injustice. Through the CLRA, community land-use planning can be linked to formal recognition of common lands. Participatory mapping and other methods might allow rural households to document traditional land claims and increase the security of their tenure.

Much still depends, though, on how the CLRA is implemented and whether the government amends the law to meet the needs of the poor – in AFRA's own words, "small windows are hard to break through without breaking walls." While the local communal system provides functional tenure for local purposes, the people of Ekuthuleni remain outside the formal system, meaning that their communal rights to land remain very much at risk.

For more information contact Sihle Mkhize sihle@afra.co.za

Appui aux communautés Bagyéli et Bakola dans la reconnaissance de leurs droits fonciers - Cameroon

Les pygmées Bagyéli et Bakola du Sud Cameroun sont de part leur héritage culturel, un peuple instable, en constant mouvement. Cette habitude est due à leurs activités séculaires de chasse et de cueillette qui les amenaient à se déplacer vers les ressources naturelles, gage de leur survie. Ce mode de vie influe sur le type d'habitation qu'ils ont de tout temps construit : des huttes précaires faites de branchages et de feuilles. Si de tels abris ont l'avantage d'être faciles à construire, ils présentent toutefois l'inconvénient de ne pas signifier une mise en valeur effective de la terre occupée aux yeux de leurs voisins bantous. C'est ainsi que certains campements ont été dépossédés des terres qu'ils ont pourtant occupées pendant plusieurs décennies.

Aujourd'hui, la population s'accroît à une vitesse exponentielle tandis que les ressources naturelles, les terres disponibles pour l'habitat et les activités quotidiennes (agriculture, élevage...) se raréfient. On assiste donc à une recrudescence des conflits fonciers dans les environs du massif forestier de Ngovayang.

Le projet Forestier de Ngovayang exécuté par la CBCS sous les auspices du BirdLife International s'intéresse à ces questions, grâce notamment à un appui de la Coalition Internationale pour l'accès à la terre.



l'appui à la construction de maisons
a newly constructed permanent home

Au cours de l'année 2004, une approche d'appui à l'appropriation foncière basée sur la mise en valeur des terres occupées est expérimentée. Elle se base sur l'ouverture d'un dialogue franc avec l'administration en même temps que l'appui à la construction de maisons plus décentes (conformément aux normes locales) gages d'une mise en valeur et d'une occupation définitive de l'espace.

by Mbah Bian Russell - Coordinateur du Projet Forestier de Ngovayang, BIRDLIFE International

Situation et contexte de l'expérience d'aménagement participatif sous concession au Burkina Faso

Le ZIRO est une province située dans la zone sud-soudanienne où la pluviométrie est élevée par rapport à la moyenne nationale (900 à 1200 mm) par an. La province est l'une des principales pourvoyeuses de bois de chauffe de la ville de Ouagadougou.

Le Projet d'aménagement des Forêts Naturelles s'est étendu de 1985 à 2002 avec l'appui du PNUD et de la FAO et visait un aménagement participatif sous projet dans une première phase, puis son transfert aux populations locales. Les organisations locales sont organisées en GGF (Groupements de Gestion forestière) et en Unions.

L'État a cédé des zones forestières en concession gérées sous contrat selon un schéma d'aménagement élaboré et appuyé par le Projet puis par les services techniques. Si des progrès ont été enregistrés (génération de recettes, limitations de la dégradation des ressources) des limites importantes compromettent la pérennité de cette expérience.

Ces limitations se fondent essentiellement sur la nature même du contrat de concession qui nie l'appropriation foncière légitime des autorités locales et les prétentions d'autres acteurs villageois non membres des GGF. Par ailleurs, le code forestier reste inadapté et en contradiction avec l'objectif de responsabilisation des acteurs locaux.

D'autres facteurs non moins importants interviennent : l'évolution du contexte économique et la faible valorisation des produits forestiers des chantiers, ainsi que la différenciation croissante au sein de la population.

Role of Smallholder Farmers in Economic Development in Zimbabwe

Despite the seeming lack of investment and research when it comes to smallholder farmers, they do contribute immensely to economic development. In one recent initiative, Mutangadura (1997) conducted a study using a questionnaire and quantitative analysis to calculate the contribution of smallholder farmers to the economy of Zimbabwe. Its findings showed that research initiatives aimed at benefiting small farmers can provide overall economic gains.

A ranking of the expected Net Present Values (NPVs) indicated that agricultural research priorities are different between smallholder and large-scale commercial farmers. Optimal allocations of research resources, given two objectives (efficiency and equity), were assessed in a series of runs using a mathematical programming model.

The trade-off costs associated with putting extra weight on the equity objective, given the current total budget constraint, were relatively modest. This finding implies that the Department of Research and Specialist Services (DR&SS) can allocate resources to research on smallholder farming without a great loss in efficiency. Some work has been carried out in Zimbabwe over the past few years, mainly by DR&SS.

The government has sought to increase investment to improve the contribution of smallholder farmers, but this has ironically been met by lack of funding. No work however, has been recorded on the contribution of women smallholder farmers to the economy.

by Nokutula Rachel Mhene - The Platform on Women's Land and Water Rights in Southern Africa (WLWRSa)

Experience of Women and Leasehold Farming in Nepal

The hillside communities in Nepal are among the poorest in the country, being faced with a continuous reduction in the size of land holdings, severe degradation of forests and low livestock productivity. Insecure land rights affect women in particular who, in addition to significant farming responsibilities, spend much time and energy collecting water, firewood and other forest products.

One of ILC's priority areas for study is the contribution of smallholder farming to economic and social development. The following observations are from our partners in Zimbabwe. We welcome other contributions to this topic.

In 1991, IFAD supported the Government of Nepal in the implementation of a land leasing programme aimed at increasing family incomes and improving natural resource management. This permitted degraded forest land to be leased to communities for up to 40 years.

Mobilization and Development (MODE), a Nepalese non-governmental organization, has been working with rural communities and women's groups participating in the leasehold initiative, to rehabilitate and manage forest land. MODE also conducts research to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the leasehold programme to make recommendations to the government for land policy reform.

Two communities in the Kavrepalanchok district, about 35 km east of Kathmandu, are in partnership with MODE. In the Danuwar community, 70 households with an average land holding of less than 0.4 ha. depend on agricultural wage labour for their livelihoods.

Three women's groups are responsible for managing the communities' leasehold lands, each member being responsible for managing 1-2 hectares. They spend up to four hours each day patrolling and harvesting grasses and forage crops.

MODE has identified positive changes resulting from this initiative, but the following challenges need to be addressed.

- Women have greater solidarity through group activities, positive feelings about working in a team and confidence to undertake work collectively.
- Access to forest land increases family income, women's personal income and permits women to control the household budget. However, poor crop levels still represent an obstacle for long-term increased income.
- The availability of fodder and grasses has assisted livestock feeding and this, in turn, has generated more organic, low-cost fertilizer. A lack of knowledge has been identified on the collateral procedures for accessing group loans needed to increase the acquisition of livestock.
- Women have taken on new leadership roles in the villages and greater decision-making at home. They also enjoy more freedom to undertake agricultural work and family responsibilities.
- Legal clarification of leased land is often needed.

by Bharat Shrestha - Director, MODE Nepal

Tierra y derechos humanos

El 10 de diciembre de 2004, fue el día Internacional de los derechos humanos. En esta ocasión, la ILC formuló una declaración que indica como la falta de respecto de los derechos humanos es una de las mayores causas del hambre y de la pobreza.

La declaración de la ILC denuncia como las comunidades rurales están perdiendo cada vez más sus tierras, fuentes principales de su sustento. Si el derecho por acceso a la tierra de parte de hombres y mujeres pobres no esta considerado como un derecho básico, la espiral descendente de pobreza y los consecuentes conflictos generados continuarán de manera cada vez mas intensa.

La declaración fue distribuida a los miembros y socios de la ILC, la mayoría de los cuales la compartieron con su propio network de organizaciones. Una copia de esta declaración es distribuida y disponible en los eventos para el Día de los Derechos Humanos que se celebran en la sede central de la Naciones Unidas en Nueva York .

Pueden conseguir una copia de la declaración de ILC por el Día de los Derechos Humanos, en español y en ingles, en el sitio Web de la ILC: www.landcoalition.org

Land and Human Rights

To mark International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2004, the Land Coalition released a statement affirming that the lack of respect for human rights is a major obstacle to reducing hunger and poverty and therefore to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The ILC statement notes that rural households are increasingly being deprived of their land, the main source of their livelihood. If land access by poor men and women is not treated as a basic right, the downward spiral of poverty and conflict that this creates will only continue.

The statement was distributed to ILC members and partners, many of whom shared it with their own networks and incorporated it into their advocacy campaigns. A copy was also distributed at the United Nations Headquarters in New York during events commemorating Human Rights Day.

An Alternative to Globalized Agriculture "Slow Food"

In much of the world, the spread of large-scale commercial agriculture not only contributes to loss of lands by poor men and women, it also threatens the loss of traditional culture and knowledge. The Terra Madre event (meaning "Mother Earth" in Italian) was a response to this trend, in which the expertise of small-scale farmers, fishers and animal breeders forms the basis for an alternative model of food production.

In October 2004, more than 5,000 people gathered in Turin, Italy to articulate a model of decentralized, sustainable and biological, agricultural production. The event, organized by Slow Food, was designed to highlight local actions being taken to support small-scale food communities*. Participants from 132 countries took part in the event, representing more than 1,200 communities from around the world.

* **Food Community** is a term used by Terra Madre to describe groups or chains of food producers and consumers, who share common needs, challenges and motivations, even if they are not in the same geographical location.

In answer to those who describe him as a 'madman' to have so passionately organized this initiative, Carlo Petrini, the founder of Slow Food, replies that '*madness is contagious*'. This was the atmosphere that reigned during the four days in Turin: positive 'madness' springing from hope and collective thought.

Representatives from both official scientific and traditional knowledge communities compared positions during the course of workshops and finally converged on a model respectful of the environment, the culture and the economy. Drawing on facts and figures, as well as the practical experiences of the small-scale food producers, it was demonstrated that no conflict exists between sustainable agriculture led by smallholders and economic growth, efficiency and productivity.

A strong plea was made to reduce the gap between producers and consumers to avoid large-scale commercial interests from taking control and power in both hemispheres. To achieve this, consumers must become "co-producers", that is, active participants in the food production process through their own actions and choices.



Another message was for small-scale agricultural producers in the southern and northern hemispheres to join forces. While forced into involuntary competition as a result of "dumping" and the politics of international trade, in reality they often find themselves confronted with common threats.

The most important message for the ILC was the need for a democratized process for access to land. The fight against hunger starts with a participatory process, and is subsequently realized through locally-managed, sustainable systems which respect the culture and tradition.

In the midst of the daily burden of those who toil the fields, as well as for those working in international and national institutions, this initiative calls for shared work, shared faith and shared dreams for the future. This is echoed in a statement made by a representative of *Unión de Organizaciones Campesinas Indígenas de Cotacachi* (UNORCAC), an ILC partner in Ecuador, during the event: 'we no longer feel alone and isolated, but know that there are many people in the world who share our same ideas'.

A different micro-cosmic world was possible for five days by Terra Madre; but will it be possible to achieve this on a vaster scale? The hero of this initiative, Carlo Petrini, thinks so, and left the participants with a thought which renders a sense of meaning to this unique event: 'He who sows the seeds of utopia, reaps reality'.

For more information visit: www.terramadre2004.org

Linking Community Empowerment and Policy Reform: Experiences in Indonesia and South Africa

One of ILC's strategic goals is to assist civil-society partners to use community-level work to influence official land policies, particularly those at the national level. In Indonesia and South Africa, the ILC has been working with NGO partners to identify ways to increase their direct access to decision-makers.

For more than 30 years, Indonesian land policy has been oriented toward the exploitation of natural resources by the State and commercial interests. This has placed many small farmers, women and indigenous peoples at risk of losing their land.

At the local level, NGOs and peoples' organizations have countered state policies by working with communities to become more empowered socially, economically and politically.

In West Java, farmer members of the Pasundan Peasants Union (SPP - *Serikat Pasundan Petani*) have organized to oppose the abuse of forestry concessions and reclaim community land. This is accompanied by farmers' leadership training, which provides SPP members with the skills needed to influence policy-making – several members were elected to local parliaments last year, drawing on what they learned in this training.

In West Kalimantan, indigenous communities working with the Community Forestry Strengthening Initiative (PPSHK – *Program Pemberdayaan Sistem Hutan Kemasyarakatan*) have formed rubber cooperatives and local savings and credit unions to improve their market strength. This has increased household incomes and food security, and is now being considered as a base for forest communities to raise their political voice in order to protect their traditional land claims.

Rural women in West Java have worked with the Indonesian Institute for Forest and Environment (RMI - *Rimbawan Muda Indonesia*) to expand their influence in community decision-making. Through its work, RMI is also identifying institutional challenges, among both government and NGOs, to increase women's participation, and methods to overcome these. RMI was a partner in the Womens' Resources Access Programme of the ILC.

Building on local efforts of its farmer union affiliates, the Consortium for Agrarian Reform (*Konsorsium Pembaruan Agraria KPA*) is organizing district land reform committees through which farmers will have a

direct voice in decision making, along with local government representatives and legislatures. KPA and the Multi-Stakeholder Working Group on Forest Land Tenure are working with the ILC to bring these community lessons into national policy reform.

In South Africa, civil-society groups are also working to ensure that poor and landless people can influence land policy. One current challenge is for the needs of the poor to be reflected in the implementation of the new land policies. Several ILC partners are planning participatory consultations to identify viable ways to increase land access for poor people through the implementation strategy process.

The Covie community in Southern Capeland (South Africa), working with the Southern Cape Land Committee (SCLC), has succeeded in becoming a member of a government steering committee that guides the local land settlement process. Community members and SCLC now sit alongside representatives from five state departments, enabling them to exert greater control over their own access to land and development processes.

In response to their requests, ILC reviewed participatory research tools used by international and civil-society organizations. These can assist NGOs and community-based organizations to collect systematic, comparative data and information that can validate their policy recommendations, while ensuring that research is firmly grounded in the needs and experiences of the poor and landless people who are directly affected by state land policies.

In choosing from among the many research tools available, an important criteria was the potential for easy adaptability by community workers, with minimum training requirements. This review also disclosed that it is often necessary to "unpack" training manuals in order to cut through jargon and provide clear and useful information to local NGOs for conducting participatory consultation. ILC is now preparing to work directly with South African partners to identify and adapt these participatory methods. This work aims to break the monopoly on policy analysis that so often rests with academic, government and international researchers. In this way, communities directly affected by land policy can genuinely participate and assume more ownership of the policy formation process. As in Indonesia, ILC and its South African civil-society partners anticipate using the findings from these participatory consultations to advocate for change in policy design and implementation.

Women's Access to Land and Natural Resources: Beijing +10 and CEDAW

Secure access to land by women is not only critical for achieving gender equality, but is also a basic factor in food security. Often, though, laws and customs prevent rural women from gaining or sharing rights to land, putting whole families and communities at risk. The ILC is addressing this challenge through advocacy work at the international level, as well as supporting local and national activities to organize for women's land rights.

As this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA), the 49th session of the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will examine the progress made toward women's rights and gender equality. The CSW session will take place in New York from 28 February to 11 March 2005, and will include a high-level meeting on the Beijing-generated Platform for Action, open to all UN Member States and Observers.

The ILC, together with NGO partners, IFAD and FAO, will organize parallel side events at the CSW to highlight the importance of women's rights to land and water. ILC is collaborating with NGOs from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines in their final preparations and meetings leading to joint positions for the Beijing +10 meetings. In partnership with The Platform on Women's Land and Water Rights in Southern Africa, ILC is also planning to present the linkage of land and water from women's perspectives.

The ILC and UN agency partners have also published a report on progress toward ensuring women's land rights through the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW is the only international human rights treaty that specifically identifies rural women's property and resource rights.

At the 32nd session of CEDAW, in January 2005, the ILC along with FAO and IFAD, presented a joint statement to the CEDAW Committee's panel of experts on the importance of women's secure access to land and natural resources. This presentation highlighted findings from the study *Rural Women's Access to Land and Property in Selected Countries*, which was jointly published in 2004 by ILC, FAO and IFAD.

Key findings on CEDAW Implementation and Women's Access to Land:

- Women's access to land is directly related to the important role of women in the rural economy, especially agriculture. It is a basic factor in food security for families and communities. Respect for women's land rights is therefore something that will benefit the population as a whole.
- Most land-use certificates are issued in husbands' names only. This restricts women's access to not only land, but also to credit and support services. It is important to ensure that land is registered in the names of both spouses, and that attention is given to inheritance rights for women and girls.
- The visibility of women farmers must be raised. In changing socio-economic environments, women are becoming heads of rural households at an accelerating rate. Their economic roles and contributions are increasing, but without receiving their full rights.
- Women's equal access to, and participation in, decision-making at all levels is a key element to ensuring equal economic opportunities, including access to land and other natural resources.
- Greater access to data is needed to demonstrate how discrimination persists and what approaches can be effective to increase women's land access.

The study is now being used by ILC partners to advocate women's land and resource rights at the national level, and has been translated into local languages by several partner NGOs for use in national advocacy campaigns and preparation for Beijing +10. The ILC, together with IFAD, FAO and NGO partners will continue to promote the use of CEDAW, specifically Articles 14-16 referring to women's access to land and property, inheritance rights and legal capacity.

The CEDAW study and joint statement is available at: www.landcoalition.org/docs/ccedawr.htm.

For more information on contributing to Beijing +10, or additional information on ILC's work on women's access to land, please contact Rosalud Jing de la Rosa at j.delarosa@ifad.org.

European Union Finalizes Land Policy Guidelines

In November 2004, the European Union finalized its new Land Policy Guidelines. These guidelines address the relationships between land policy and other major policy areas, such as poverty reduction, agricultural development, conflict management and social justice. The Guidelines also offer operational recommendations to European governments on partnerships to address land policy reform through official development assistance.

Earlier in the year, at the request of the European Commission, the ILC organized a four-week electronic consultation on a draft version of the Guidelines. This process generated comments and recommendations from 30 intergovernmental organizations, civil-society groups and land policy researchers from around the world.

These recommendations generated changes and additions to the draft Guidelines, including:

- Protecting property rights should not result in exclusion from basic needs by other members of the population.
- Providing land without adequate support services is on its own not a solution to rural poverty.
- Land scarcity and population pressure is not the only root of conflict – illegal occupation of resources is another key factor. Displacement of communities and forms of rural violence, including actions committed by landowners, should be analyzed as sources of land-related conflict.
- Civil-society organizations should not only play an advisory role in policy development and programme monitoring, but should have an active role in implementation.
- Urban land policy needs, and the range of debate concerning urban land tenure, must be included for land policies to be truly national in scope.
- Capacity-building – particularly for local government and civil-society organizations – is needed to ensure that national-level reforms are implemented effectively at the local level.
- Greater disclosure of relevant information by donors, and the establishment of verifiable

benchmarks, is needed for independent monitoring and evaluation of land policy reforms.

The final EU guidelines stop short of recognizing land as a human right, as was advocated by several consultation participants, but do acknowledge that land can be a means to realize other basic human rights, such as the right to food.

Other specific recommendations that are reflected in the final Guidelines have been highlighted in ILC's updated report on the EU consultation, which is available via Internet.

The Social Forum on Agrarian Reform

The Social Forum on Agrarian Reform which took place in Valencia, Spain in December 2004 provided an important opportunity to convene women, farmers, indigenous people and fisherfolk from around the globe, to share opinions, build fronts and elaborate positions.

The final declaration is a useful document to understand the perspectives of social movements and their analysis of the barriers to increasing land access, as seen by poor men and women. We invite you to read the final declaration of the Forum on www.fmra.org. The results of this thematic social forum were presented in Porto Allegra, Brazil on 29 January 2005 as the WSF World Social Forum.

Social movements are one of the many mechanisms, including, *inter alia*, non-state, non-governmental and people's organizations that collectively make civil-society a valuable expression and space for popular participation and democratic development. The ILC aims to create space for policy debate that gives voice, visibility and opportunity for direct participation to its civil-society members.

ILC Partner - Fundación TIERRA - New Publication

12 years promoting rural development – Fundación TIERRA in Bolivia 1991-2003 128 pp

12 años promoviendo el desarrollo rural – La Fundación TIERRA en Bolivia 1991-2003 127 pp
www.landcoalition.org/docs/cftierra12yrrd.htm



Entrevista BBC – Enfoque Tema Tierra en Latinoamérica y actualidad de la Reforma Agraria enero 2005

La Internacional Land Coalition reconoce que en Latinoamérica el tema de la tierra es un tema fundamental y que necesita tener prioridad en las agendas nacionales e internacionales.

Se reconoce que en la región hay un problema de acceso a la tierra, un problema de seguridad sobre su tenencia, conflictos existentes, alta vulnerabilidad de los territorios ancestrales y el riesgo de un impacto negativo de las políticas económicas de liberalización, que se manifiestan en América Latina a través de los tratados de libre comercio, y que colocan a los campesinos en una posición de gran vulnerabilidad.

Donde existe una alta desigualdad en la distribución de la tierra es necesaria una reforma agraria que no sea solamente una mera distribución de tierra pero que sea una completa reestructuración del sector agropecuario apoyado con todos los instrumentos necesarios para que el campesinado pueda rescatar sus potencialidades sociales, ambientales y económicas además subrayando su papel fundamental en términos de seguridad alimentaria.

Los procesos apoyados a través del mercado no pueden remplazar de alguna forma una reforma agraria, aun si el acceso a la tierra puede ser el resultado de un mosaico de distintas modalidades y la combinación de las mismas en términos de grupos y capacidades distintas.

“Para estimar la magnitud de la pobreza en la región de América Latina tenemos que partir de las cifras de la población rural de la región de 111 millones en 1997. Según la CEPAL en 1997, 78 millones de estos 111 millones (un 70%) vivía bajo la línea de pobreza. El grupo mayoritario de pobres rurales comprende a los campesinos de subsistencia y los sin tierra, que corresponden al 40% (entre los cuales 9,4 millones de personas sin tierra). Los campesinos de subsistencia y sin tierra dependen del trabajo asalariado permanente o estacional como principal fuente de ingreso con la producción agrícola destinada principalmente al consumo familiar. Ambos, los campesinos de subsistencia y sin tierra, se ubican en los niveles más bajos de la pobreza rural en materia de niveles de ingreso”. *Globalización, Pobreza y Agricultura Familiar* - Jacques Chonchol Diciembre 2004

Aprendiendo de las experiencias pasadas de reforma agraria que fracasaron por incapacidad o por voluntad,

ahora nos parece importante proponer una visión sobre el tema de la tierra que no sea ideologizada pero que sea centrada a resolver los problemas reales de los campesinos sin tierra que viven del campo. Por lo tanto nos parece importante, y es esto lo que estamos haciendo con nuestro trabajo, priorizar dos ejes de trabajo

- una que amplifica la importancia del desarrollo territorial a partir del acceso y manejo de los recursos y de la tierra en particular, vinculando estos temas a los de gobierno y democracia
- la otra que se centra sobre la definición consensual de políticas de tierra a nivel nacional.

El esfuerzo es el de brindar instrumentos y capacidades para que los intereses se encuentren en espacios de concertación prácticos y eficaces.

A través de nuestros programas que permiten de capitalizar conocimientos, crear poder colectivo y reequilibrar relaciones de poder apoyamos a las organizaciones con las cuales trabajamos, grupos indígenas, grupos campesinos, grupos de mujeres y ONGs para que sean ellos quienes definan sus visiones sobre el desarrollo de sus realidades, tengan incidencia política y la capacidad de monitorear la elaboración de políticas y la implementación de programas vinculados al tema.

Los obstáculos para que la tenencia de la tierra se convierta, en lugar de un obstáculo, en un factor de cohesión social y desarrollo económico son claramente la resistencia de quien va a perder su condición de privilegio, la falta de una visión sobre el valor económico, ambiental y social del campesinado (a parte los casos de Brasil y Venezuela) y políticas apropiadas que limiten la liberalización excesiva del mercado y reduzcan el papel de los gobiernos nacionales, y finalmente las presiones internacionales como por ejemplo la ejercitada por las compañías transnacionales extractivas sobre los territorios indígenas.

The ILC recognizes that land is a critical issue in Latin America, which must be given priority on national and international policy agendas. Where extreme inequality in land distribution exists, agrarian reform must not only encompass providing land, it must also provide small-scale farmers and landless people with ways to benefit from the broad array of social, environmental and economic resources available. Learning from past land and agrarian reform experiences – both successes and failures – is necessary to identify solutions to the problems that small farmers face today.

Centro de Investigacion, Promocion, y Desarrollo de la Ciudad (CIPRODEC) - Bolivia

CIPRODEC's work along the Arque river (Cochabamba) illustrates the capacity to recover land under very difficult conditions. The combination of degradation of the river banks, which community elders remembered as being very productive areas, and interruption of local train service transformed the Sicaya municipality into one of the poorest areas of the district.

The project initially aimed at achieving food security but has now been transformed into an income-generation initiative.

The construction of a wall along the river bank has resulted in the recovery of almost 35 hectares of very productive land; the quality of the agricultural products is very good, although access to land brought beneficiaries face-to-face with marketing problems. Beneficiaries received training courses to increase their organizational skills as well as their awareness of land-related issues and food production chains.



The project staff acquired the capacity to filter project activities with *"the eyes of beneficiaries"* and this substantially improved the quality of results. Land has transformed the landless into citizens - the project made them aware of their rights. Land management has placed them in a position to merge the indigenous approach (communitarian work MINKA) with family needs (parcels and business). In a situation where mini parcels of land are the norm, land recuperation has become the only way of surviving, the only other option being internal or external migration.

Proceso consensual para la definición de una política pública Bolivia

El Gobierno de Bolivia reconoce el elemento tierra como un elemento que obstaculiza el desarrollo del país. La misma consideración ha sido hecha por los organismos internacionales entre los cuales el Banco Mundial y la Unión Europea y muchas cooperaciones bilaterales que trabajan en el país sobre este tema.

¿Como hacer para que la tenencia de la tierra se convierta en un elemento catalizador de desarrollo y de cohesión social en lugar de ser un freno?

Se necesita un espacio en el cual las partes involucradas desarrollen la capacidad y la voluntad de analizar el problema en términos objetivos y definir soluciones en función de un interés colectivo que beneficie a todos los grupos económicos y sociales. Tratar el tema en términos reales y transparentes es fundamental, aun más cuando se construye su propia visión tomando en cuenta que los Países Europeos, Japón y aun Taiwán demuestran que una oportuna tenencia de la tierra puede ser un factor de grande estímulo al desarrollo económico y a la cohesión social.

La Coalición en sí representa una instancia singular en la cual intereses distintos y visiones aparentemente inconciliables se encuentran para transformar posiciones contrapuestas en esfuerzos positivos reconducibles a políticas y programas. La Coalición juega así un importante y articulado papel de facilitador y creando espacios de debate reales en los cuales todos los interlocutores se sientan y sean tratados como iguales, donde pueden hablar, escuchar y ser escuchados.

El objetivo del seminario, apoyado por la Coalición en Bolivia en Noviembre 2004, ha sido animado por la búsqueda de una nueva forma de relacionarse para definir políticas consensuales sobre el tema de tierra. La misma Coalición se ha ofrecido como un aliado internacional desinteresado, independiente y capaz que apoyará los actores bolivianos, por sus capacidades, a favor de una genuina democracia.

Hay que tomar en cuenta que Bolivia sigue demostrando una alta vulnerabilidad. Los conflictos y tensiones sociales y económicas debidos a los asuntos de los hidrocarburos, de la tierra y de las autonomías paralizan el país forzando las instituciones gubernamentales a una condición de permanente emergencia y impidiéndoles de tener una visión política y programática de largo plazo.

CODECA - Guatemala

En la confrontación de la población de Sololá en contra del paso de un gigantesco cilindro de la empresa canadiense MONTANA, que amenaza de destruir un proyecto comunitario, se han muerto dos campesinos Raúl Castro Betel y Miguel Tzasil.

Se pide un investigación para definir responsabilidades y al Ministerio de Energía y Minas, la cancelación de todos los contratos otorgados a las impresas mineras que operan en el país, hasta haber agotado el dialogo y haber obtenido la aprobación consensuada de las poblaciones indígenas, tal y como lo establecen los Acuerdos de Paz y el Convenio 169 de la OIT en sus artículos 6.2 y 7.1.

CEDETI - Bolivia

The Community Empowerment Facility project implemented by CEDETI is completed. The dimension of consensual planning for accessing and using natural resources in a protected area (El Chore) has been the real challenge. The project aimed to transform an illegal situation into a legal one taking into account social, economic and environmental factors. Ministerial bureaucracy was the first obstacle to achieving results.

Las fotos de los proyectos de Servicio de Potenciación de la Comunidad



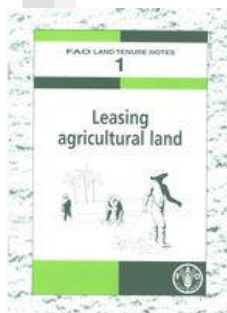
Centro de Tecnología Intermedia (CEDETI) - Bolivia

Ingreso de inspección de especies para el Plan de Manejo Forestal. Actividad del proyecto de CEDETI en Bolivia.

www.landcoalition.org/program/cefp_cedeti.htm

FAO Land Tenure Notes on "Leasing Agricultural Land"

There are many ways by which people can acquire secure access to land and natural resources. The ILC commitment to sharing knowledge aims to strengthen the negotiating capacity of landless and near-landless people to achieve this. While land leasing is a common method of gaining user rights, the terms and conditions of leases may be more favourable to the landowner (lessor) than to the lessee. In the interests of strengthening leasing arrangements to meet the needs of poor people, the "FAO Land Tenure Notes on Leasing Agricultural Land" has been published. This user-friendly guide is designed to assist grassroots organizations in training and assisting the rural poor to negotiate more favourable leasing conditions. More information about this topic is available from FAO at www.fao.org/sd/IN1_en.htm



Photos from the Community Empowerment Facility Projects



Farmers organizations in Andhra Pradesh (India) conducting a workshop on resolving long-pending land entitlement issues. This activity was part of an initiative by the South Asia Rural Reconstruction Association (SARRA) to increase public participation in local land and agrarian reform.

www.landcoalition.org/program/cefp_sarra.htm

LandNet Africa - A Way Forward!

It was during the Department for International Development (DFID)-supported Land Tenure and Sustainable Development Conference held at Sunningdale (UK) in 1999, that African participants expressed a desire to establish a network of National experts and practitioners working on land tenure issues in Africa. Subsequently, sub-regional networks were established for West Africa, East Africa, Horn of Africa and Southern Africa.

LandNet Africa was launched in Addis Ababa in 2000 with the aim of "building an enabling environment for the formulation and implementation of people-centred land policies, laws and structures necessary for the eradication of poverty and the promotion for sustainable livelihoods in Africa".

ILC and LandNet West Africa

The partnership between the Land Coalition and LandNet West Africa was formalized in 2003 during a LandNet West Africa Workshop in Togo. Mutual agreement on the need for "strategic partnerships" in policy dialogue at both regional and international levels, proved instrumental in ensuing joint efforts and achievements. LandNet West Africa is an interim member of the Coalition Council. Current country members of LandNet West Africa include Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

ILC and LandNet East Africa

The Land Coalition and LandNet East Africa partnership was formalized in 2004 at the LandNet East Africa Workshop in Kampala. However, the Land Coalition's relationship with the Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), current holders of the secretariat position of the LandNet East Africa, goes back to 2002.

The LandNet East Africa Reflection and Learning workshop held in September 2004 in Kampala, Uganda was supported by the Land Coalition. The meeting brought together LandNet members from Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania (Rwanda was not able to attend) and resource persons from Women's Land and Water Rights in Southern Africa, and the Land Coalition Secretariat. During the three-day meeting, participants were able to reflect and deliberate on the immediate and mid-term core functions of LandNet East Africa. The substantive exchanges of information concerning ongoing land policy reforms and processes in Eastern and Southern Africa sparked a great deal of interest

among members who undertook to work together to build a stronger, more responsive LandNet East Africa. The outcome of the workshop was the rolling five-year business plan (2005-2008) addresses three priority areas:

- (i) Developing the programme for LandNet East Africa members to permit them to effectively contribute to national and regional land policy processes and developments;
- (ii) Strengthening the capacity of the LandNet East Africa Secretariat and national nodes; and
- (iii) Developing partnerships with key land stakeholders at all levels - with local (beneficiaries), national policy makers (governments), regional (African Union, New Partnerships for African Development (NEPAD), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), African Development Bank (ADB)) and international partners (ILC, donors, UN systems, international financial institutions) .

As mentioned by the representative of the Ministry of Lands, Water and Environment, Mrs. Naome Kabanda, *'at a time when land policies are being drafted in many East African countries simultaneously, we (Ugandans) want to learn from other countries' experience. This is where building up LandNet capacity is most needed so that we do not only depend on consultants' expertise'.*

Networking on land issues, both across Africa and the rest of the world, is crucial at a time when policies are being debated, drafted and reformed. The importance of learning and drawing from experiences is the fundamental reason why LandNet in Africa must be supported. An important undertaking for the Land Coalition is to bring the voice of these African networks into land policy debates at the national, regional and global levels.

LandNet East Africa contact: Rita Aciro Lakor ula@africaonline.co.ug. LandNet West Africa, contact: Hubert Ouedraogo, o.hubert@fasonet.bf ILC website link: www.landcoalition.org/partners/pplandnetwa.htm ILC contact Jing de la Rosa j.delarosa@ifad.org



Land Tenure Conflict Management Distance Training Course

Around the world, land tenure conflicts are linked to poverty, social dislocation, environmental degradation and, at their most extreme, loss of life. Poor men and women often bear the heaviest burdens of conflict. While their causes may vary, addressing these conflicts is an important prerequisite for other efforts to secure land rights for poor people. Where formal conflict resolution mechanisms are weak or non-existent, informal processes have become increasingly important, often with civil-society organizations playing a key mediating role.

In response to requests from civil-society partners, FAO is developing a Land Tenure Conflict Management distance training course. This is designed to provide practical skills on land conflict analysis and mediation, and a chance for electronic exchange of ideas and information across regions. ILC has been assisting FAO to develop the course format and materials; drawing on input from our CSO partners.

The module is partially Internet-based, E-mail will be used as the primary means of communication. Printed copies of materials will also be made available to participants. The pilot course will take place between February and May 2005, in English and Spanish.

For more information on this course, please contact Adriana Herrera at FAO at adriana.herrera@fao.org or Andrew Fuys at the ILC secretariat at a.fuys@ifad.org.

What's New section in ILC Website

EU Consultation – updated report in English

Seminario Internacional: Análisis y perspectivas del proceso agrario en Bolivia – Final Report

Community Empowerment Facility outcomes

"Land is Life" Submissions to Constitutional Review Commission by Zambia Land Alliance

Knowledge Programme products:

- El costo de la tierra ¿Pueden los fondos para la adquisición de tierras ser útiles a los pobres?
- Enseñanzas de la experiencia del Ecuador – FEPP
- Action Research Towards the reform of the Sugarlands comparative land management schemes in three former Haciendas in Capiz, The Philippines – CARRD

Network Support Programme results:

Resultados del Encuentro Internacional Organizaciones Campesinas y Sociedad Civil, Nicaragua - CODER

BELTS: FAO-ILC Innovative Land Reference Tool

Basic Elements of Land Tenure Systems (BELTS), is a data-archive that provides an overview of the evolving agrarian structure in selected countries. The planning of land reform and land administration programmes at the country level requires a well-articulated baseline of information. The capacity to compare data with other countries can assist government, intergovernmental and civil-society organizations in policy formulation, strategic planning and decision-making processes based on objective data and reports on situations existing in other countries. BELTS gathers dispersed public data into an integrated and accessible format rendering tenure data easily available in a clear and user-friendly format.

Each country profile contains: basic country data; historical background; land tenure systems; land tenure institutions; land policy; legal aspects; holding distribution and concentration index; information from the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development; population dynamics; regional data; and a basic bibliography.

This project, initiated by the Land Tenure Service of FAO, involved consultations with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH – Germany; the Land Tenure Center – United States; the Groupe de Recherche et d'Echanges Technologiques (GRET) – France; the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) – France; and the Department for International Development (DFID) – United Kingdom. It has now evolved into a collaborative activity with the Land Coalition. BELTS is also an expanding initiative. It has already begun to incorporate important topics not initially envisioned in a data-archive, including women's land rights; indigenous peoples; land related conflicts; international agreements and policies; and HIV/AIDS.

BELTS has reached the prototype development stage in which a limited number of detailed country archives have been further elaborated. The important influence that BELTS can exercise in the development of land tenure systems has been validated by FAO and ILC; however, realizing its full potential, increasing the number of countries and sustaining BELTS by keeping it updated with current data, will depend on mobilizing funds through donor support.

In the Hands of the Members

The Land Coalition is actively governed by its membership through its Assembly of Members and the Coalition Council. Once every two years the members meet in a global assembly, while the Council, appointed by the Assembly, meets twice a year.

The December 2004 Council meeting was framed by a review of the results achieved in 2004, the programme of work and budget for 2005 and the preparations for the Assembly of Members to be held in March of this year. The Council was informed that in 2004 ILC was a partner in 58 projects spanning 36 countries, with advocacy and policy activities being undertaken at regional levels and international events.

The Council approved;

- (i) the revisions to the Governance Framework to be presented to the Assembly of members in March 2005;
- (ii) the programme of work, noting the expanding funding prospects to strengthen the Coalition's financial base.

The Council acknowledged that without the steadfast role of IFAD, our host and core financial supporter, it would not have been possible for the Coalition to reach its current level of achievement. It also acknowledged that a sustainable Coalition requires a diverse financial base from within its membership and from other 'like-minded' sources. The Council echoed the Secretariat's call on the members to encourage donors making funding decisions, to give greater consideration to the role played by the ILC in reducing poverty.

The Council opened four important debates which will shape a future wider and ongoing discussion within the membership, including:

- (i) Agrarian Reform or Secure Access to Land?
- (ii) Can a Rights-Based Approach Make a Difference?
- (iii) Common Property Systems – Romanticising the Past or Realistic System for the Future?
- (iv) The Role and Relevance of Smallholder Agriculture to Rural Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction.

CD of Land Coalition Publications

All ILC publications are now available on a CD.

Please email us for your free copy at:

coalition@ifad.org

The Second Assembly of Members is called in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 19-23 March

The first Assembly of Members which was convened in February 2003 resulted in important steps for the ILC; the Coalition Council was inaugurated; the election of the first members was completed; and the broad structure of a three-year strategic plan was laid out. Subsequently, the detailed plan was finalized by the Coalition Council. The Second Assembly to be held in Bolivia will bring together around 45 civil-society organizations, 20 inter-governmental organizations and donors as well as officials of the Government of Bolivia.

The Assembly has a full and challenging agenda; some of the most important discussions and decisions include:

- (i) reviewing progress;
- (ii) enhancing the governance of the ILC;
- (iii) formulating policy recommendations; and
- (iv) identifying practical areas for joint action to link access to land and poverty eradication to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Bolivia was selected as the host country for the Second Assembly on the basis of an invitation by the Government; the support of our Bolivian partners, under the leadership of Fundación Tierra; and the opportunity for field-site visits and their relevance to organizations from around the world. Another important factor was the present stage of land policy development in Bolivia that would benefit from the expertise that the delegations could share with local organizations and authorities.

A report on the deliberations of the Assembly will be included in our next newsletter.



Council Members in action, December 2004

Land Coalition Publications

Email us for an order form for the following publications:

Land Alliances for National Development 18 pp En/Sp

The International Land Coalition 68 pp Ar/En/Fr/Sp

Towards a Common Platform on Access to Land 20 pp En/Sp

Voices from the Field – WRAP Women's Resource Access Programme – English only

Cambodia 16 pg, **India** 16 pp

Indonesia 12 pg, **Nepal** 12 pp

Whose Land? 253 pp English

Advancing Together Newsletter – Feb, June and Oct 2004; Feb 2005

Tsunami Raises Land Rights Questions

As governments and international agencies announce rehabilitation and development plans, land issues need to be carefully considered. Affected communities need to be part of the decision-making. Some issues that may be confronted are:

- If people are resettled away from the shore will they lose the usufructuary rights of shore access for fishing and fish processing?
- What incentives can be provided to protect fragile common areas such as mangroves and shorelines, which need to be restored and stabilized in the wider environmental and economic interest?
- Having lost citizenship and other documents, how will people claim or provide proof of their user or ownership rights?
- Where women have survived and are now heads of households, will they be granted land rights or tenure security in cases where rights formerly rested with their husbands?
- How will the potential for abuse through land grabbing by powerful persons or extended family members be avoided?
- How can the future inheritance rights of children, now too young to claim their rights, be protected?
- Where there are no family survivors, can these lands be identified and used to improve the livelihoods of landless families?
- Where people are able to return to their former lands, can security of tenure be improved so that re-development will provide a more sustainable future than in the pre-Tsunami period, where many suffered from insecure rights?

Many ILC partners are working with affected communities. Please inform us of your efforts, needs and view points so that ILC can determine how it may be helpful.

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Advancing Together is published each February, June and October. Copies can be seen on our website www.landcoalition.org Please distribute copies of our newsletter to interested parties.

This edition has been compiled by our editorial committee – Bruce, Annalisa, Andrew, Norma and Julie. Contributions from members and partners for our June 2005 edition are welcome and must be received **before 1 May**. Please keep articles to a maximum of 300 words. The editorial committee reserves the right to edit submitted articles. Please email us at coalition@ifad.org with comments, articles and relevant photos.