



Land Tenure Security for Rural Poverty Reduction

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Objectives of the presentation:

- Provide an overview of IFAD and what it does.
- Identify the role IFAD could play in supporting land reform.

What is IFAD?

- The International Fund for Agricultural Development - a specialized agency of the UN, established in 1977.
- Its mission is to enable and empower the rural poor to overcome poverty.
- We support governments to develop and implement rural poverty reduction policies and programmes.
- Emphasis is also placed on:
 - Strengthening CBOs and on building ownership by beneficiaries and governments.
 - Strengthening the role of CSOs and in particular Farmers Organisations in policy formulation and implementation.
 - Partnership with other international development agencies.

What is IFAD?

- We mainly provide low interest loans to governments.
- We also provide grants to institutions and organizations to strengthen technical and institutional capacities (limited to 10% of investment).
- Since 1978, we have invested ±US\$ 9.5 billion in 732 projects and programmes and ±US\$ 16.1 billion secured in co-financing (US\$ 9.0 billion from governments and others in recipient countries and ±US\$ 7.1 billion from bilateral and multilateral donors)
- Main areas of support include:
 - agricultural, livestock and fisheries development
 - financial services
 - small and medium scale enterprise development
 - rural infrastructure
 - capacity and institution-building

What IFAD says about land tenure security

- Access to land and land tenure security are central to rural poverty reduction.
- In general poor people and vulnerable groups have less access to land and weaker rights – typically women have weaker rights than men.
- Land is one of the main assets that poor rural people have.
- Land is not just an economic asset. It also has political, social and cultural importance.
- Equitable access to land and natural resources is one of our corporate strategic objectives.

What IFAD is doing to strengthen land tenure security

- A growing level of investment in strengthening land access, particularly in ESA.
- We are a founding member and house the Secretariat of the ILC.
- We provided support to ICARRD.
- We are providing support to the AUC/UNECA/AfDB-led process for developing Africa-wide land policy guidelines.
- We are in the process of developing a policy and operational guidelines on access to land and natural resources.

Some current projects & programmes in ESA that address LTS

- Madagascar, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tanzania, Angola and Uganda: Decentralisation of land administration systems.
- Tanzania: Pastoralists rights. Also in Ethiopia and Eritrea.
- Swaziland: Equitable access to irrigated land. Also in Malawi and Tanzania.
- Madagascar: Includes national level support for land policy reform.
- Kenya: Women's land rights and impacts of HIV/AIDS on widows' and orphans' rights.
- Uganda: Strengthening the role of civil society in policy research and dialogue (in partnership with the ILC and BSF).
- Burundi: Post-conflict reconstruction.
- Other Regions have similar initiatives.

Lessons Learnt

- Most rural poverty reduction programmes and projects have an impact on land access.
- Access to land is often politicised but so are most other areas of rural development.
- Strengthening the link between land tenure security and other areas of rural development is essential.
 - Not addressing LTS weakens the impact in other areas
 - Addressing LTS on its own is not sufficient for rural poverty reduction.
- Modest investments in strengthening LTS can have a significant impact, especially when integrated with other activities.
- Linking LTS to improved land and natural resource management and to local participatory development planning is one important way of addressing LTS.

Positioning IFAD – SWOT Analysis

Strengths.

- Our mandate – targeted finances for pro-poor rural development.
- Some flexibility to invest in innovation and risk-taking.
- High level of government ownership of support provided.
- Emphasis on strengthening the role of civil society.

Weaknesses.

- Uneven understanding and commitment to mainstreaming LTS related activities.
- Limited in-country presence.

Opportunities.

- Potential for integrating LTS into rural poverty reduction strategies and programmes.

Threats.

- Uneven understanding and commitment of Ministries we normally work with to mainstream LTS activities.

Key challenges.

- How to raise the profile, political will and investment in land reform?
- How to strengthen the role of civil society, in particular farmers organisations?
- How to scale up pilot experiences into nation-wide programmes?
- How to strengthen lesson sharing – in-country, regionally and internationally?
- How to build partnerships between international development agencies?

Way Forward

- Continue to build our in-house capacity.
- Strengthen our in-county presence through country programme teams and direct supervision of projects and programmes.
- Identify partners, identify comparative advantages and complementarities and pilot collaboration.
- Take stock of all existing initiatives by governments, civil society and international development agencies.
- Continue to support the development of Africa-wide guidelines by the AUC and its partners – support the strengthening of the role of RECs.
- Continue to support international initiatives that raise the profile of pro-poor land reform (post-ICARRD, CLEP, etc).
- Support the UN reforms - 3 out of 8 pilot countries identified as pilots are in ESA (Rwanda, Tanzania and Mozambique) – an opportunity to raise the profile of land reform in these countries and in the UN.