

Land Tenure and Food Security Issues in Ethiopia

Land governance workshop

November 2008, Oslo



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Opportunities and challenges

- Ethiopia is a land of biodiversity
- Its potential for Agricultural development is huge.
- Once was nicknamed as water tower of Africa
- 85% of the population earn a living from Agriculture
- Agriculture is the major source of foreign currency
- Paradoxically, despite economic growth recorded in the past few years, food security is still unattained goal in some parts of the country
- 4 - 5 million people chronically food insecure
- Commercialization of Agriculture constrained



Food Security situation in Ethiopia cont.

Major Causes

- Natural disaster at rapid intervals(drought, flood, pest outbreak, human and LS disease)
- Backward production technologies
- Heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture
- Population growth which did not match with economic growth
- Resource based Conflict



Land Tenure Situation in Ethiopia

Before 1974 (The Imperial Rule)

- Based on a feudal system, Absentee Land lords, The church, Highly insecure and Arbitrary eviction

1974 State Ownership (The Derg Regime)

- Distribution of use rights to cultivators through local P
- Highly restricted transfer of rights.
- No sales, lease, exchange or mortgage
- Inheritance severely construed.
- Weak Land administration.

The 1994 Ethiopian Constitution

- Enshrines the concept of public land ownership and the inalienability of land holdings
- Asserts state ownership of Land; there are no private property rights in Land.
- The right to own rural and urban Land as well as natural resources belongs only to the state and the people.

The 1997 Rural Land Proclamation

- Delegates responsibility for Land administration to regional government
- Defines the scope of individual Land Use rights and status that such rights can be leased .
- Regional governments have begun to implement their own policy with regard to Land Administration.

2005 Federal Land admin and Land use proclamation

- Peasant farmers /pastoralists engaged in agriculture for a living shall be given rural land free of charge.
- Women who want to engage in agriculture shall have the right to get and use rural land.
- Rural lands shall be measured, registered and certified.
- Holder of rural land who is evicted for purpose of public use be given compensation.
- Land tenure policies for pastoralist areas was drafted few years back, but not yet released

Current Efforts to Address the challenges

GOE: Resettlement, productive Safety Net program (PSNP), FS household package

UNDP: Poverty Reduction and MDGs

- Food Security and Recovery
- Environment and NRM
- Economic Growth

Governance

- Decentralization (policy advocacy, CD in 4 emerging regions)
- Governance Technical WG intends to undertake studies on implications of land tenure issues
- GTWG have 7 sub groups
- Engaging with the GOE and CSOs
- Harmonization, coordination & Info sharing

FSR Key Outputs (2007 -2011)

Food Security and Recovery

1. Enhanced coordination
2. Social mobilization
3. Enhanced livelihoods of resettled populations
4. Advocacy for policies/strategies that link emergency, recovery and longer term development

Environment & NRM

- Mille Dry land Development project
- SLM: Afar Integrated Dry Land Development project (AIDDP)
GEF
- Coping with drought : Kalu Project
- Spanish MDG fund on Environment (FAO, UNEP, WFP & UNDP):4m
- African Adaptation fund (UNDP & WFP)

Current Efforts and projects other donors in Pipeline

USAID

- Strengthening land titling and administration;
- Improving public information and awareness on land use rights, obligations and their administration;
- Strengthening land tenure security and dispute resolution;
- Training and capacity building at the federal, regional and wereda levels,

MOARD, WB,GTZ, USAID, Finland,

- USD 29 million SLM programme in which WB, GTZ, USAID, government of Finland are involved (new initiatives).
- Steering Committee and national platform chaired by MOARD
- Similar regional platforms are established in the 4 big regions, Benshangul and Gambella regions.
- “Strategic investment” on this area for 15 years programme period is produced.

Recommendation

- Review existing land tenure related policies from democratic governance and legal empowerment of the poor perspectives
- Coordinate partners working in areas of land tenure to promote interagency collaboration and joint effort to influence policy
- Bring land tenure issues and discuss during annual review of SDPRP and upcoming mid term review of the UNDAF