



Land and Food Security

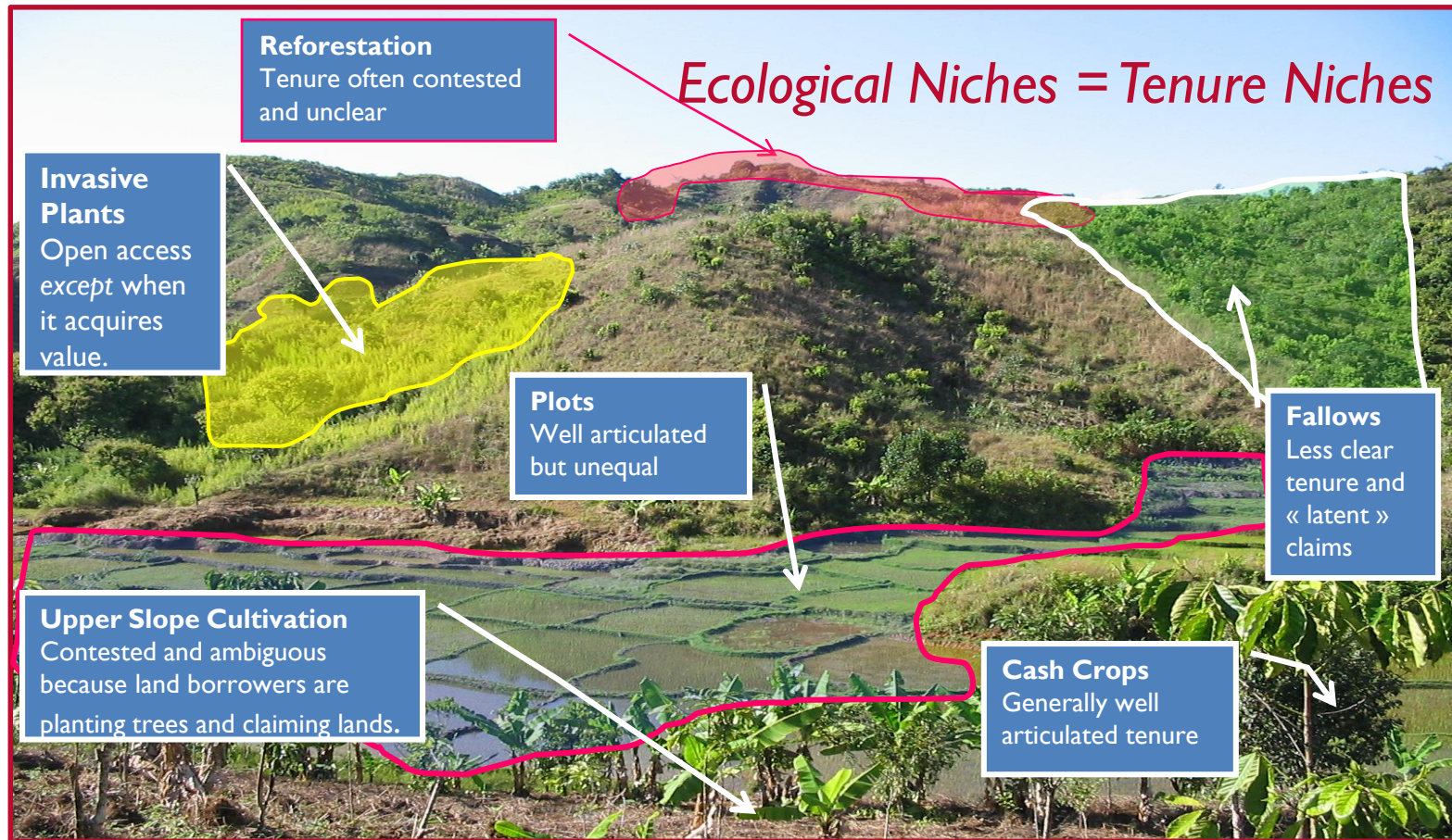
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January 25, 2018

— HOW LAND TENURE IMPACTS FOOD SECURITY



HOW LAND TENURE IMPACTS FOOD SECURITY

- Tenure rules/norms impact access
 - To land, water, pastures, forests
- Tenure rules/norms impact productivity/availability
 - By creating incentives
- Tenure rules/norms can impact poverty
 - By creating/limiting economic opportunities



LAND TENURE & AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

- With secure land rights, farmers invest more in their land and agricultural productivity improves:
 - Greater confidence they can recoup their investments over the medium and long term
 - Smallholders have greater access to government agriculture extension and financial services
 - Ethiopia: land certification led to land productivity increases of 40-45% in Tigray Region
 - Benin: communities that mapped and recognized land rights were 39-43% more likely to shift from subsistence to long-term and perennial cash crops and trees

LAND TENURE & NUTRITION

- Access to land is fundamental to smallholder food production, which is the primary source of food and nutrition for low income, rural families
- With more secure land tenure, especially for women, nutrition improves:
 - Ethiopia: an increase in land allocated to women decreased household food insecurity by 36 percent.
 - Nicaragua and Honduras: increases in female landholdings are associated with increases in household food expenditure and child educational attainment
 - Nepal: households where women own land, children are 33 percent less likely to be severely underweight

LAND TENURE & AGRICULTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT

- Smallholders with secure land rights are more likely to engage in soil and water conservation
 - Ethiopia: with secure land tenure, soil and water conservation investments rose by 30% in Amhara Region
 - Ghana: Smallholders with secure land tenure, were 39% more likely to plant trees

LAND TENURE & LIVELIHOODS

- Strengthened land tenure can improve/expand market opportunities
- Can improve resilience and reduce vulnerability
- Secure land rights reduce land disputes and conflicts, thereby facilitating improved land use and productivity

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT INPUTS, INSTITUTIONS MATTER

- Food security is intimately tied to the institutional environment, land governance systems are part of that environment.
 - If these systems are weak access/productivity/poverty alleviation are negatively impacted
 - Smallholders may, or may not, have tenure
 - Legal pluralism can compound problems
 - As does lack of capacity

WHAT ARE SOME TYPICAL LAND POLICY CHALLENGES?

- Legal framework does not recognize existing rights
 - Especially relevant to customary rights in Africa, Southeast Asia
 - Individual vs Communal rights
 - Women's rights vs Men's rights
 - Foreign/domestic elites vs existing rights
- Lack of formal process for documenting existing rights
- Land use planning processes do not incorporate landholders
- Land transfers (through lease, mortgage, or sale) are restricted

WHY INTEGRATE LAND TENURE INTO FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMMING?

- Create a stronger foundation: land governance is an important part of the enabling environment
- Number of households with formalized land (rights) is a common FTF indicator tracked annually
- Locally appropriate efforts to formalizing rights for women and men and can help achieve FTF objectives
- Formalizing alone is not enough

WOMEN FACE PARTICULAR CONSTRAINTS



WOMEN FACE PARTICULAR CONSTRAINTS

BUT IF WOMEN WERE **MORE PRODUCTIVE
THE WORLD WOULD BENEFIT.**

With equal access to resources, women could increase crop yields by **20-30%**.



**THIS COULD LEAD TO A 2.5-4% INCREASE IN CROPS,
WHICH WOULD FEED MORE THAN **150 MILLION PEOPLE.****

When women do have secure land rights, they tend to invest in improvements to their property, participate in land rental markets, and earn more income

ADDRESSING GENDER, LAND, & FOOD SECURITY

- Consider statutory and customary laws that govern women's rights to land and natural resources, including family and inheritance laws
- Ensure women know their legal rights and have access to legal assistance
- Build the capacity of decision-makers and service providers to ensure that processes and services are gender-sensitive
- Enhance women's abilities to access complementary agricultural inputs and markets to minimize loss of access to land and natural resources
- Working with men and boys is critical

— YOUTH & LAND



YOUTH & LAND: INHERITANCE

- Customary practices favor older men, not women and youth's rights to land
- Inheritance:
 - Primary manner of obtaining rights to land
 - decreased availability of inherited land
 - Inheritance of land may not take place until well after the inheriting generation has formed new households

YOUTH & LAND: LIVELIHOODS

Rural land tenure tied to livelihoods

- Traditional identity (land ownership and marriage)
- Landless youth work family lands without earning income
- Land purchases - out of reach for many capital-poor youth.
- Land available to youth often least desirable or most degraded
- Youth often have parcels most in need of investment to enhance productivity
- Youth are limited in their decision-making ability over family lands
- Without access to land, there is a search for alternative livelihoods

HOW TO ADDRESS YOUTH & LAND IN AGRICULTURE

- Tenure reforms alone will not solve the challenges youth face
 - Strengthen youth organizations and participation in land policy making process and local land dispute resolution
 - Support education and awareness raising activities for youth to know rights
 - Strengthen youth access to legal services to recognize their land rights
 - Strengthen land rental markets to increase access to land
 - New opportunities for young farmers to access technologies, markets, technical support
 - Land projects should focus on resolving inheritance issues, especially for children and young women

TRENDS IN AGRICULTURAL LAND IN AFRICA: YOUTH BULGE

- 62% of population are below the age of 25
- In the next two decades, about 350 million young Africans will be entering the job market looking for work
- The majority of youth will be dependent on either the informal sector or agriculture for employment
- Depends on youth ability to get land: both through inheritance and through expansion of agricultural lands

— AFRICA TRENDS



AFRICA TRENDS:

INSECURE SMALL-HOLDER FARM TENURE

In 2015, the African Union made a groundbreaking pledge: by 2025, thirty percent of land in Africa will be allocated to women — and documented in their names

- 95% of the farming population are small-scale farmers between 0-5 has. High percentage of land remains untitled:
 - Kenya and Uganda ~15% of land is formally titled
 - Mali: only a small fraction of smallholders have title to land they cultivate
- Without secure land tenure, smallholders run the risk of losing their land to others, potentially resulting in large scale farms

AFRICA TRENDS:

RISING CONCENTRATION OF LAND HOLDINGS

- Rapid increase in farm land acquisitions by large-scale entities
- Mozambique, Zambia, Ethiopia, and Ghana have allocated the most land to large-scale both foreign and domestic investors
- These large-scale land acquisitions acquired in the past 7 years account for roughly 9 or 10% of all of the cropped area currently in Sub-Saharan Africa

AFRICA:

EMERGENT FARMERS

- Land controlled by medium-scale farms exceeds that of large-scale farms
- Kenya, Zambia, and Malawi: majority of medium-sized farmers are urban based, salaried employees, many in public sector with relatively high levels of education, mostly men
- Ghana: Most medium-sized farmers started out as small-scale farmers then scaled up, broke out of poverty and acquired more land In Ghana, more land is being controlled now by medium-scale
- Important to track the medium-scale farms and their impact on food security, employment, and other national policy goals

LAND POLICY IN AFRICA

- What do the trends imply for how policymakers should be thinking about land policy, not just now but over the next several decades as well in anticipation of what is coming down the pike?
- What kind of policy reform and interventions could USAID undertake through its programming?

WHAT KINDS OF POLICY REFROM OPTIONS DO WE SUPPORT?

- Systems that recognize, record and administer a multiplicity of statutory and customary land tenure and property rights
- Systems that protect the rights of women and marginalized groups
- Fully participatory processes to define, record and administer land tenure and property rights
- Market-mediated approaches to provide access to land
- Systems that are reasonably accessible to members of society
- Systems that allow and support the creation of transparent and effective land markets
- Equitable application of laws, regulations and administrative practices

VGGTS

- Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTS)
- Adopted by FAO Council in June, 2012 – The first international agreed-upon principles and guidelines for governing tenure and property rights related to land, fisheries and forests
 - Promote secure tenure rights and equitable access to natural resources
 - Set out principles and internationally accepted standards

— KEY QUESTIONS



KEY QUESTIONS

- What tenure systems are present where you work?
- Are there overlapping rights, contradictory rules or competing authorities?
- Is tenure 'secure enough'? How do you know?
- What events/trends may highlight tenure concerns: rising demand for land/resources, urbanization, disasters, climate change?
- Are interventions cognizant of situational needs or challenges? Attentive to gender concerns?

SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK

- When land is identified for a project, ask who traditionally has been living on and using these resources (land, water, pastures, forests)
- Which rights have groups and individuals traditionally held?
- Are these rights recognized, formalized?
- If not, how will local individuals or groups be affected by the project?
- If so, are these rights adequately enforced?
- Who may oppose formalization?
- Has the host government acceded to the VGGT?

— USAID LAND & FOOD SECURITY INTERVENTIONS



TAJIKISTAN LAND REFORM & FARM RESTRUCTURING PROJECT (LRFRP)



TAJIKISTAN LAND REFORM & FARM RESTRUCTURING PROJECT: LRFRP

Key Problems:

- Rural youth **did not understand** their land rights.
- Women had limited rights to use land

Interventions and Results

- **Youth:** LRFRP launched pilot program to integrate **land rights education** into high school curriculum for 12 schools. LRFRP conducted a TOT training for 1,256 teachers, who then rolled this land rights curriculum out to 31,570 high school students in the state.
- **Legal Education and Aid:** support land policy reforms and legal aid clinics that focus on strengthening women's property rights and restructuring farms to develop a robust market in land use rights

TAJIKISTAN LAND REFORM & FARM RESTRUCTURING PROJECT: LRFRP

- **Rights to Land Use:** 1,200 land certificates issued free of charge under newly established registration processes, and 6,927 new dekhkan farms were created in the 12 FTF target districts
- **Local Government Strengthening:** The project opened three Model Registration Offices, implementing new registration regulations, and trained deputy heads of SUERIP from all 12 districts. More than 1,900 local government officials trained on new legislation and land reform issues
- **Farm Restructuring Achieved:** Due to successful collaboration and joint efforts by government actors, donors, and LRFRP, large-scale inefficient collective farms now make up less than 1 percent of all arable agricultural land in Tajikistan. Dehkan farms now make up 81 percent of all arable agricultural land in Tajikistan, ensuring more people have access to land

RWANDA LAND PROJECT



RWANDA


LAND PROJECT

- Rwanda - **highest population density in Africa** - 2.5% growth/year
- Mostly young, rural population with rapid urbanization as **youth seek urban opportunities**
- 71% of Rwandans subsistence farmers on soil depleted small plots subject to conflict – Over **90% of disputes** recorded by Rwanda's ombudsman in 2011 **related to land**

RWANDA

LAND PROJECT

- Activities enhancing tenure security:
 - Support for evidence-based, transparent policymaking and land reform
 - Support to Rwandan universities/research institutes/CSOs in empirical research informing land-related policy on land administration, expropriation, land use consolidation, conflicts
 - 1,700 land use maps produced enhancing transparency
 - Popular radio stations use communications campaign to shape attitudes of men and boys to embrace gender-equal rights to land and property
 - Citizen vulnerability assessments on land-related risks and tenure security and citizen awareness of the legal framework on land



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