

prevalent in the indicators used in the 2011 LRMF. Out of 13 indicators, more than 2/3 are suffering from this research gap.

- It can also continue more research on the LRMF and LRDI for further refinement and consensus building.
- It can encourage ALRD and other committed land rights-based organizations to conduct advocacy activities so that the value of each indicator is more likely to reach the ideal or normative value swiftly, on the basis of the altered ground reality.
- It can facilitate extensive, structured training sessions for capacity building of grass root 'land reform' monitors, as monitoring land reform could be difficult using the current framework for those without extensive or even previous research background.

SMALL GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Before the close of the Regional Workshop, the participants were divided into three groups: i) Southeast Asia, ii) Mekong and iii) South Asia. Below are the highlights of the presentations of the three groups:

On improving the land reform monitoring framework

- Build capacities of CSOs in evidence-based research and advocacy which the land monitoring framework aims to achieve.
- Consider the policy and legal environment per country in defining the objective of advocacy, and consequently the indicators to be monitored.
- Conduct more processes and exchanges to arrive at common understanding of framework at national level, particularly in expansion areas (Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam).
- View the land monitoring framework as a work-in-progress that needs to be reviewed and updated from time to time.
- Develop tools to aide CSOs in monitoring specific indicators.



On linking the monitoring initiative with post-2015 discussions

- Work towards government's openness to continue/extend the process of disseminating and discussing post-2015.
- Encourage interest among CSOs to get involved in the process.
- Partner with international partners (GLTN) to link in the process.
- Monitor implementation of post-SDG indicators.
- *Note on Mekong sub-region* – The SDG processes are not currently discussed by the governments with CSOs.

On fostering knowledge and information exchange, increasing solidarity and strengthening policy work at the regional and national level

- Continue to share information (electronic, face-to-face meetings both at country and regional levels).
- Engage other stakeholders in the process (data gathering, validation and dialogue).
- Link with journalists, media.
- Disseminate monitoring reports to journalists, surveyors, academics.
- Share information with like-minded people who can strengthen monitoring information.
- Address challenges such as technical knowledge, financial resources.

SYNTHESIS OF PLENARY

DISCUSSION

By Roel Ravanera

Challenges

Surveying all the presentations at this Regional Workshop, the challenges confronting land reform monitoring and governance in Asia may be viewed in two aspects: (i) the **context of the land reform efforts** in each country and (ii) the realities of the **actual monitoring activities** undertaken.

In terms of **context**, security of land tenure and the land rights of women and marginalized peoples were seen as common challenges across the LWA member countries. These lead to the related challenges of land reform administration and titling—where moves towards digital techniques still run the risk of being countervailed by continuing bureaucracy and corruption in land administration systems in the various countries—and the human rights violations related to land issues (conflicts, disputes, court litigation; land grabbing; harassment, evictions, even killings).

Conceptual differences regarding land reform were also cited, where even those working in the same institutions often have different understandings of tenure security and other land issues. How much more when other stakeholders, such as the government or research institutions, are involved? Another challenge was the oversimplification of complex realities—

especially by the government bureaucracy which would tend to arrive at land redistribution targets and announce highly ambitious programs which, at the end of the day, could not actually be implemented. Adding to this situation is the reality of bureaucratic limitations (staffing, facilities, funding) and even fragmented state entities and contradictory policies that pose the risk of ultimately 'silencing' or cancelling each other out.

In terms of the realities of **actual land reform monitoring**, all the speakers pointed to similar challenges. Availability and quality of data was a grave concern shared by all—with accuracy, consistency and even credibility being often in question. In some instances, data was totally unavailable or found to be 'non-comparable.' Limitations of research staff in terms of data-gathering know-how—both through secondary sources and actual cases in the field—proved to be a common stumbling block.

Recommendations

Recognizing the above challenges, the following recommendations were put forth.

- **Use of Land Tools** – Organizations such as GLTN can provide training for researchers to adapt relevant technologies (e.g., the STDM module).
- **Continuing research** by academe and research institutions) – With the aim of generating relevant, appropriate, even alternative data that is representative and comparative.

○ Revisiting the LRMF indicators

1. possible formulation of new indicators (as some of the current indicators have proven to have no available data)
2. arriving at a 'value' or 'standard' for each indicator to allow for assessment of 'above standard' or 'below standard' situations.
3. inclusion of 'access by marginalized people' in the outcome block of the LRMF

○ Adoption of digital technology (e.g., spatial mapping)

- **Ensuring community participation** – Involving the communities in a more participatory way.

Possible Contributions

Certain organizations/institutions identified areas that they contribute to, whether in their respective countries or to LWA partners the Asian region:

LIPI

- Alternative sources of data (in cooperation with KPA)
- Mainstreaming land rights in the government
- Knowledge management (especially for baseline data)

HDRC

- Conduct researches
- Advocacy campaign
- Capacity building

GLTN

- Land Tools
- Capacity building

UP CSWCD

- Spatial mapping - (perhaps sharing the technology as well)
- Indicators crafted by local communities

LWA Land Reform Monitoring Initiative: An Expanded Framework

One of the objectives of this forum is for us to enhance the Land Monitoring Framework. We have gotten off to a good start. But we have to continue moving, to keep up with current developments.

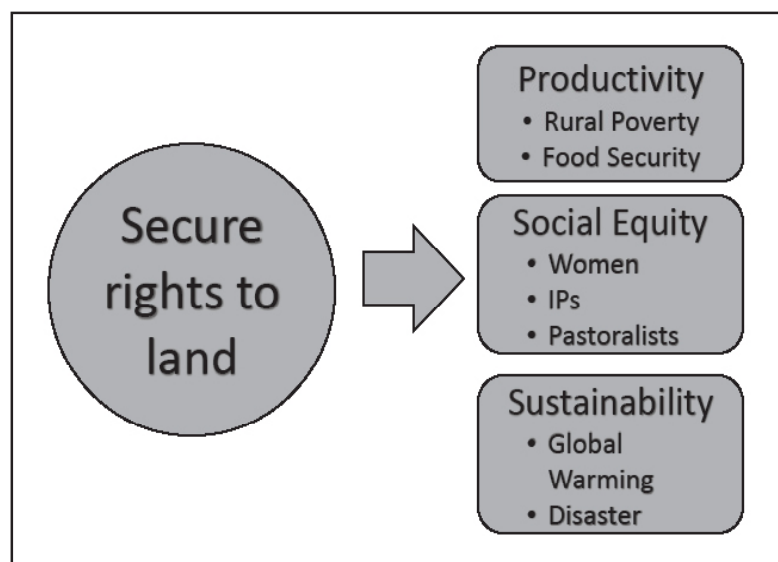


Figure 11: Goals of the LWA reform monitoring initiatives.

Source: Ravanera, R. (2015). *LWA land reforms monitoring initiative: an expanded framework*. ANGOC. [Powerpoint slides].

Initially, we just wanted to put the issue of land on the regional and global agenda. Now we realize there is so much more we have to do. We are now talking of SDGs beyond 2015 and land will be an important indicator in several goals that the UN and our governments are crafting—especially with regard to poverty reduction, food security, equality, and even sustainability as it relates to natural disasters, global warming and the like. Therefore, it is important to put all these things in context in our land monitoring work. Majority of us work with the grassroots, local communities. Yet we need to address all these issues which are connected to global processes, especially policies of governments and inter-governmental organizations. So that is the direction in which Land Watch Asia is headed as well.

We want to secure rights to land for the communities that we work with. This

could be a title, a continuum of titles, property rights, or even some claim to the resources or properties that are there. It varies from country to country but that is our common goal: that farmers, fisherfolk, and indigenous peoples would have rights to the land that they till or the resources that they manage.

This is this important for several reasons. I will cite three major ones:

1. Productivity /Rural Poverty/Food Security

As we heard in the presentation of Teo Chee Hai (GLTN), 75% of the world's farming households are in Asia and 80% of them are small-scale farmers and producers. So if we increase the productivity of these small family farms, we address issues on food security globally. When we talk about alleviating poverty, these are the people that should be liberated from poverty. That's why it is important to ensure their rights to the land, because, simply put, if the land is yours, you invest more in that land and you increase productivity. Beyond that, as explained in the book of Pradeep Priyadarshi (Ekta Parishad), the importance of land is more than the economic significance of owning land per se. It is also a source of self-esteem, of self-worth for the farmers.

2. Social Equity - Women/IPs/Pastoralists

The global reality today is that many are poor and very few are rich. Therefore, if we want to be sustainable in the long run, we need to address the problem of inequity in all its varied shades. But the general parameter would be the equitable distribution of wealth, which is also addressed in the SDGs beyond 2015.

3. Sustainability/Global Warming/ Disasters

In terms of the physical, the environmental, we are saying this is a new world today. We have problems like global warming – where the island

groups of countries face possible sinking in the future, so we need to protect them as well. We have to secure rights to land in ways that would address issues of disaster preparedness or resiliency of farmers in areas subject to physical risk or threat.

Scope of the LWA Campaign: Taking the Ecosystem Approach

Initially, the campaign was focused on agricultural lands, as our concern was 'agrarian reform.' However, in the reports that are emerging, we see that it is also important to address aquatic resources. In truth, in many countries, the definition of agriculture does not only involve land but also includes bodies of water, marine and all. Therefore, LWA needs to look into aquatic resources for aquatic reform as well. Then finally, there are the forest areas and public domain. The scope now spans the whole 'reefs to reef' landscape—or what could be termed as the 'ecosystem approach.' In such an approach we take the perspective that whatever happens in the uplands would likewise affect those in the lowlands and in the shorelands as well.

Outputs

- **Monitoring reports** – These are vital in convincing our partners, governments and other institutions in terms of formulating good policies.
- **Policy proposals/studies** – These can emerge from the data that we gather in the course of monitoring.



- **Tools, manuals** – We are fortunate to have with us GLTN which has extensive experience in developing land tools in general, and land tenure tools in particular.
- **Spatial maps** – Another very important tool for convincing policy makers on land issues. LWA can organize capacity building activities on this, together with groups that are already doing participatory GIS-based mapping in communities.
- **Reduction in poverty** – One of the main indicators is land, particularly securing rights to land properties and resources.
- **Gender equity** - Land is again another major indicator, specifically the perception on tenure or right to land.
- **Another 5 SDGs** cite land as an important factor.
- **Climate change adaptation** – We need to raise the issue that climate change also relates to land.

Outcomes

- Pro-poor policies
- Resolution of conflicts – at the local level
- Enhanced CSO capacities
- Disaster resiliency
- Human rights protection – Many situations have been described relating land and human rights. Unfortunately, at present, land rights violations are not considered human rights violations. Thus, there is a need for LWA to advocate for that.

Significance

Post-2015 SDGs – The outcomes of the LWA campaign can serve as inputs to the Post-2015 SDGs, and thus become a very important instrument for us in terms of having dialogues with governments. There is a heightened openness and sensitivity to the Post-2015 SDGs as these would be an agreement among the world's governments.

- **Global economic integration** – The nature of the problem is changing. With today's economic integration, investments, capital, big businesses are coming in, resulting in farmers being eased out of their lands. It is the new form of land grabbing, and we need to take that into consideration as well.

Linkages

Faced with such a complex situation on land, we need alliances, we need partners.

- **Academic institutions** – several have already joined in to support the LWA campaign
- **Advocacy groups**
- **Human rights advocates**
- **Media**
- **Government agencies**