



LWA Land Reform Monitoring Initiative: An Expanded Framework

Background

Asia is home to approximately 87% of the world's 500 million small farms (less than 2 hectares in size).¹ Most small farms are maintained by families. It accounts for more than 98% of farming holdings and are responsible for at least 56% of agricultural production in 56% of the world's agricultural land.² These figures clearly illustrate the prevalence of small farms and the significance of agricultural lands in rural communities of Asia.

In addition to agriculture, fish products are highly traded commodities in the Asia-Pacific. Asia accounts for 85% (25 million individuals) of the total number of people engaged in fisheries production globally.³

Economists attest to Asia's growing economy, with an average growth of 7.6% a year from 1990 and 2010

surpassing the 3.4% global average.⁴ However, poverty, and landlessness continue to persist in Asia. Despite evident dependence on land and small scale farming of Asian countries, it is ironic that 60% of the world's poor and hungry resides in this region.⁵ Ironically, poverty and hunger affects mostly food producers like small scale family farmers and landless agricultural workers. In increasing their productivity and providing secure access and control of land as well as support services, issues on food security globally are also addressed. Reinforcing their ownership and control of agricultural land will make it more productive as they will invest more in a land they own than a land whose ownership is contested. Furthermore, securing their rights to resources enhances environmental conservation thereby contributing to the mitigation of climate change and lessening natural disasters.

¹ IFPRI 2007 as cited by G. Thapa and R. Gaiha. (2011). *Smallholder farming in Asia and the Pacific: Challenges and Opportunities*. Conference on new directions for smallholder agriculture. 24-25 January 2011. Rome, IFAD HQ. International Fund for Agricultural Development. Rome: Author.

² <http://www.fao.org/docrep/019/mj760e/mj760e.pdf>

³ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/007/ad514e/ad514e04.htm>

⁴ <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/30349/food-security-asia-pacific.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/30349/food-security-asia-pacific.pdf>



Land Watch Asia Campaign

The Land Watch Asia (LWA) campaign aims to ensure that the rural poor's access to land is tackled in the national and regional agenda. The campaign involves non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, advocacy groups and other civil society organizations (CSOs) in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines.

In attaining its objectives, the LWA campaign takes on various approaches and activities. First, it takes stock of significant changes in the policy and legal environment's relation to land access of the rural poor. Second, it strategically positions and strengthens advocacy activities promoting land access at the national and regional levels. Finally, it shares lessons and experiences on coalition-building and actions on land rights issues.

LWA pursues its campaign activities with national governments, intergovernmental organizations and regional institutions, which play critical roles in protecting and enhancing the poor's access to land. Effective monitoring enhances campaign credibility in pursuing land rights advocacy.

In order to effectively engage various stakeholders in constructive policy dialogues, LWA has developed a framework for CSOs to use for monitoring land reform in Asia. Table 1 provides the list of indicators used by the LWA. Depending on the context and policy and legal environment of the country, LWA partners select the appropriate indicators used for monitoring. The framework seeks to guide CSOs as they

undertake monitoring. It identifies indicators on outcomes on land tenure and access to land that will help CSOs critically examine whether the rural poor's land tenure is more secure and whether their access to land has been enhanced.

The Expanded Land Reform Monitoring Framework

In the discussion on the post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs), land is seen as an important indicator in several goals that the United Nations and national governments are crafting to address issues on poverty, food security, equality, disasters and climate change. Now that the issue of rural poor's access to land is included in the global discourse, it is more suiting to expand the present land monitoring framework to include issues on the security of rights to land of the communities in the context of attaining sustainability, social equity and productivity.

The expanded framework supports the International Land Coalition's (ILC) 10 commitments to people-centered land governance (see Table 2). The monitoring reports and policy proposals are intended to ensure transparency, accountability and inclusive decision making processes geared towards pro-poor policies, protection of human rights, disaster resiliency and resolution of conflicts. It also broadened its scope to respect not only the land rights of poor women and men but to protect the territorial rights of indigenous people and fisherfolk.

Table 1. Land Reform Monitoring Indicators

<p>Land Tenure</p> <p><i>Land Disputes, which are “conflicts arising out of competing interests or when different parties have varying interests on the same parcel of land” (FAO, 2002).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of people killed (per 100,000 population) ▪ Number of people detained (per 100,000 population) ▪ Number of people harassed (per 100,000 population) ▪ Number of cases received (per 100,000 population) ▪ Number of cases investigated (per 100,000 population) ▪ Number of cases adjudicated (per 100,000 population) ▪ Number of cases of land grabbing ▪ Percentage of area of land grabbed ▪ Average time in years for dispute resolution <p>Additional indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual loss of time due to disputes ▪ Monetary loss
<p><i>Evictions, considered “the permanent or temporary removal against the will of individuals, families and/or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection” (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of households evicted/ displaced from farms (per 100,000 population) ▪ Number of households becoming totally <i>homeless</i> because of eviction
<p>Access to Land</p>
<p><i>Ownership</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land ownership distribution by size ▪ Gini coefficient/bottom-to-top ratio (for analysis)
<p><i>Tenancy Rights</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Number of sharecroppers</i> ▪ <i>Percentage of sharecroppers with legal documents</i> ▪ <i>Percentage of contract farmers’ area in relation to total agricultural area</i>
<p><i>Landlessness</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Gini coefficient (for analysis)</i> ▪ <i>Number and percentage of landless rural persons among rural populations</i>



Table 2. ILC's 10-Point Commitment to People Centered Land Governance

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Respect, protect and strengthen the land rights of women and men living in poverty.2. Ensure equitable land distribution and public investment that supports small-scale farming systems.3. Recognise and protect the diverse tenure and production systems upon which people's livelihoods depend.4. Ensure gender justice in relation to land.5. Respect and protect the inherent land and territorial rights of indigenous peoples.6. Enable the role of local land users in territorial and ecosystem management.7. Ensure that processes of decision-making over land are inclusive.8. Ensure transparency and accountability.9. Prevent and remedy land grabbing.10. Respect and protect the civil and political rights of Human Rights Defenders working on land issues.

For 2014, Land Watch Asia has partnered with academic (Nepal, the Philippines) and research institutions (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia) in varying degrees and modalities to systematize the monitoring processes. In April 2015, a regional workshop on land monitoring was convened by LWA where the monitoring framework was reviewed and expanded.

Ecosystem Perspective

In previous land monitoring reports, most of the LWA members focused only on assessing and monitoring agrarian reform and agricultural lands. During the regional workshop on Land Monitoring Initiatives, the participants expressed the need to expand the framework taking on the ridge to reef perspective. In the original framework the focus was on monitoring tenure and access to land of farmers, indigenous communities, women

and other land-based sectors whose survival and development depends on land. The campaign now employs an ecosystem approach where forests, public domains and aquatic resources will now be monitored. In this methodology, LWA members recognize the relationship between these areas of production, and that the struggle faced by farmers is not so different from the struggle faced by fishing communities and indigenous communities.

The expanded land monitoring framework continues to adapt the land monitoring process from inputs to impacts though its implementation varies from country to country. This is to enable each country to focus and address specific national concerns related to their advocacy. In the land monitoring process, "inputs" refer to land laws, agrarian policies and expenditures governing the so-called "processes," the implementation of reform programs, dispute management

Process

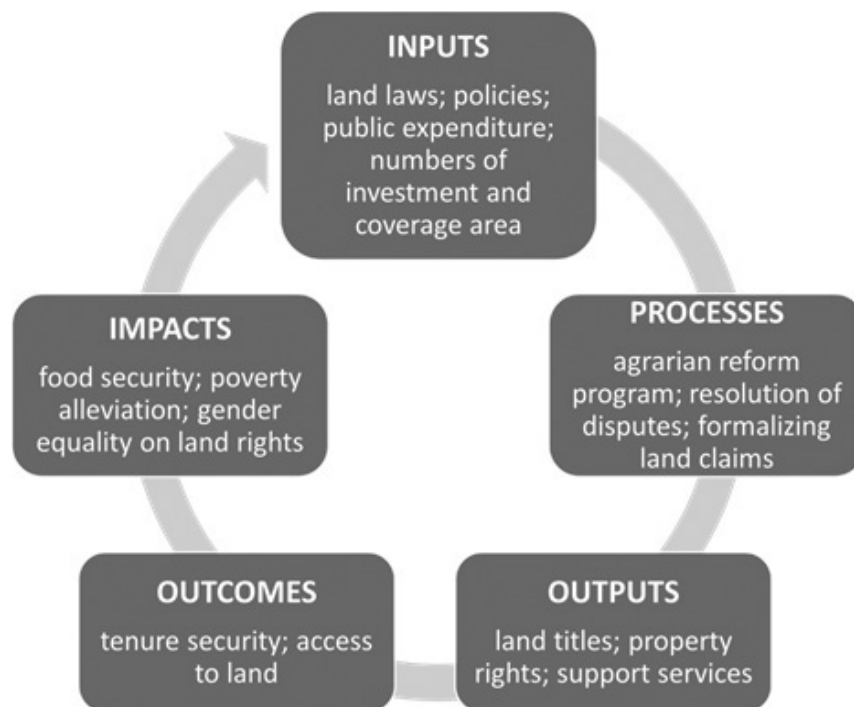


Figure 1. Land reform monitoring framework.

and resolution strategies and processes involved in tenurial claims.

“Outputs” are results and accomplishments of the successful or unsuccessful implementation of the inputs such as the number of land titles issued, number of property rights restored or distributed and the provision of support services. “Outcomes” are direct consequences and positive effects of the first three factors, while the “impacts,” are also consequences but are more related to ultimate objectives like poverty alleviation and food security.

Outputs

As seen in figure 2, the land monitoring initiative should produce monitoring reports, policy proposals, studies, tools

and spatial maps that will empirically support the advocacy of the campaign. Through monitoring reports, policy proposals as well as spatial maps, CSOs will be able to convince other CSOs, government agencies and other institutions about the situation of the rural poor and the urgency to formulate policies that will alleviate them in their endeavors.

Outcomes

Through these outputs, resource conflicts at the local level will be resolved and pro-poor policies will be advocated. Capacity building among CSOs will be enhanced. Resource related human rights will be promoted and protected. In the land monitoring initiatives, while the primary objective

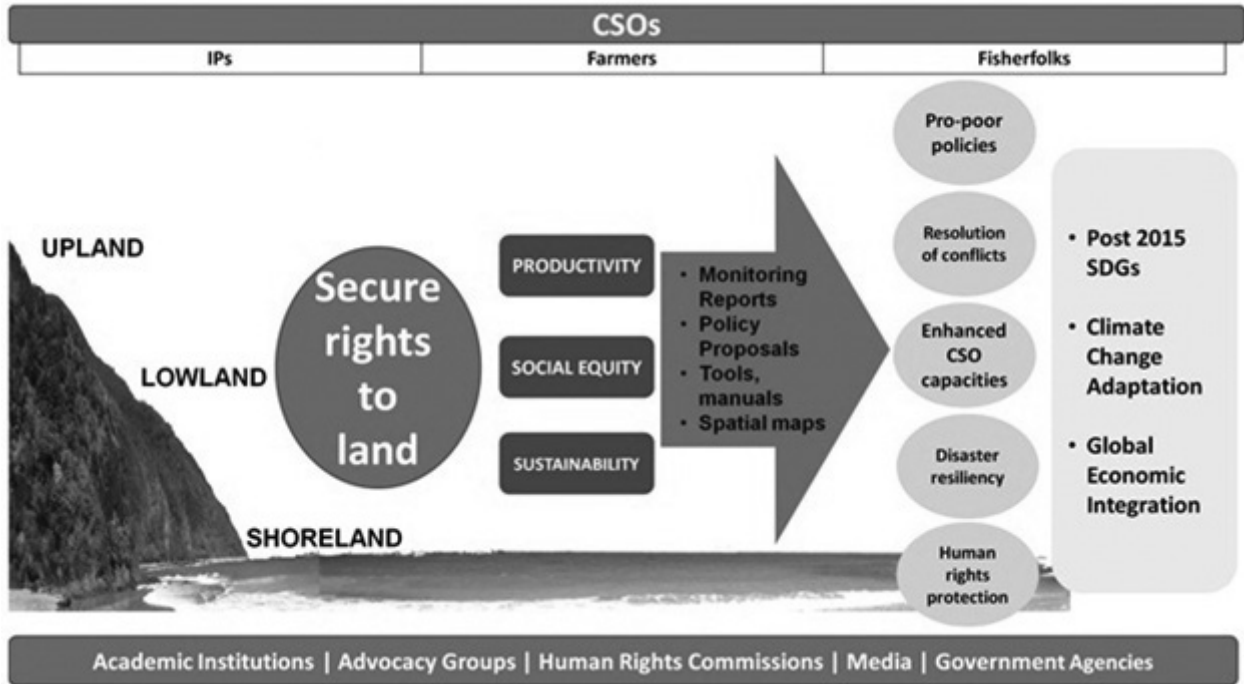


Figure 2. Expanded land reform monitoring framework.
 Source: Ravanera, R. (2015). *LWA land reforms monitoring initiative: an expanded framework*. ANGOC. [Powerpoint slides].

is to secure rights to land and resources of rural communities, in the global landscape of development, this objective contributes to increasing productivity, promoting social equity and sustainability.

agencies to make immediate actions. Partnering with other advocacy groups, especially those concerned with human rights issues, would help the campaign steer into human rights based approach to monitoring resource rights. ■

Partnerships

In relation to capacity building and evidence-based advocacy, learning from and connecting with other institutions will improve CSO’s skills in monitoring. Linking with academic institutions will enable CSOs to conduct empirical studies that will appeal to policy makers and also inform other CSOs and its constituents. Connecting with the media expands the campaign’s audience, pressuring government