



Food and Agriculture Governance

Experiences from the Asia-Pacific



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This briefing paper on Food and Agriculture Governance: Experience from Asia Pacific presented at FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC), 30th Session, Gyeongju (Republic of Korea), 27 September - 1 October 2010

Reducing poverty and hunger by half is the first of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

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Background

However the number of hungry population increased during the first decade of MDG. In this briefing paper we have tried to figure out what measures have been taken by the governments around food rights in the Asia and the Pacific and what is the current situation of hunger in this part of the world. People in Asia particularly in Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, all suffer from hunger in various forms which have been resulted from denial of right to food and withdrawn of state support on agriculture. Here we have collected information from Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam for drawing a picture on food rights. According to the most recent data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations the number of people suffering from food insecurity in Asia and the

Pacific decreased from 581 million to 542 million between 1990 and 2005. Despite this progress, food insecurity is a persistent problem: the number of people who still do not have food security in Asia and the Pacific is almost three times higher than the number of undernourished people in sub-Saharan Africa. The food-fuel crisis of 2007-2008 has pushed an additional 41 million people in Asia and the Pacific into a state of undernourishment, increasing the total to 583 million. Now more than 64 per cent of the world's undernourished adults and children live in Asia and the Pacific and the situation could be worsen if the challenges of water and energy security, climate change, trade and transport, and provision of adequate social protection are not addressed. Emerging new power relations and the era of globalization have reduced the role of the state which has been developed new dimensions to regulate agro-food sector and new regulatory policy in which 'non-political' forms of governing play an influential role in shaping agricultural production and consumption.

The paper is intended to stimulate deliberation of the issue on food and agricultural governance. For addressing food security what kind of policy and legal instruments really work in the Asia-Pacific, that is tried to figure out in this paper.

In many Asian countries some legal instruments

Legal instruments for agriculture and small farmers

have been enacted for protecting their citizens' food security but 'food' is not yet declared as basic entitlement by the governments. The barriers facing food security and agriculture are merely technical rather social and political in reality. In the context of abject poverty, legal framework gives space to the citizens to enjoy entitlements and endorses citizens' aspirations to the state. For example, in Vietnam we see the Vietnam government addressing 'food' as a human right at article (3) in the Constitution of Vietnam, besides 'right to food' have been rationalized in many other documents of the country comprising various laws, ordinances, decrees, circulars, decisions and official instructions for effective implementation of such legal instruments. But the country's legislative framework did not accommodate a national law on 'right to food', on 'food security' or on

'nutrition', which suppose to determine the objectives and responsibilities of the relevant ministries and public functionaries, and could ensure coordinated activities within the public offices. So far, the Vietnam Government established a National Food Security Council in 1997; however the operations of the Council attached greatly to the FAO sponsored projects during that time, thus in reality it became non-functional at the end.

In Bangladesh food security got top priority in the country's development policy. The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in article 15 (a) states the fundamental responsibility of the state is to secure its citizen to the provision of the basic necessities of life including food. Besides significant number of policies related to ensuring

food security enacted since 1971 which have given a wider policy space to act towards right to food law; viz. National Agriculture Policy (NAP) 1999, New Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) 1996, Department of Agriculture Extension Strategic Plan 1999-2002, Agricultural Extension Manual 1999, Seed policy 1993, Seed Rules 1997, Plan of Action on NAP 2003, Actionable Policy Brief (APB), 2004, National Food Policy 2004, Agriculture and Rural Development Section of National Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP) 2005, Livestock Policy and Action Plan 2005, National Fisheries Policy 1998, National Land Use Policy, National Water Policy 1998. Moreover, in the recent years the government looks very committed to address the food security concern and increased state support to the small and medium farmers through subsidizing farm inputs and enhancing public procurement system for rice in particular. But the government interventions are highly top down and could not address the grass-roots concern which in many cases does not accommodate the practical needs of the farmer and hungry population. Here participation of primary stakeholder is very important to make the public food security schemes work.

In Cambodia the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2006-2010 recognizes agriculture as top priority sector which could be the most potential factor for poverty reduction. However, agriculture was not seen as a priority in the annual budget of the nation. Total budget for the Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries and Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology has all together marked for about 7.5 percent of national development plan during 2006-2010, which is quite low compared to the fact that about 70 percent of the populations are primarily farmer. In reality combined share of recurrent budget of the said two ministries has even declined from 3 percent in 2005 to 2.5

Social safety-net programs on food and agriculture

The discussions of safety nets programs in this document consider the government's responsiveness towards ensuring poor people's basic rights. Safety-net instruments may also be used to protect vulnerable and marginalized social groups from other susceptible situations such as economic crisis,

percent in 2010, as the recurrent budget was reduced. The agriculture service is quite limited for farmers and is largely dependent on assistance from donors and NGOs. According to Cambodia socio-economic survey 2007, only 17 percent of villages across Cambodia were reached by the extension services.

So these facts exposed the food security situation of the selected Asia-Pacific economies revealing the existing framework, public interventions and gaps within the public functions. The facts identified positive gesture of the governments' to make food security schemes work for the poor people and also portrayed their intentions to emphasize agriculture and food security in their respective national development plans and projects. But we need to understand obligation of the governments to secure food rights and farmers rights outside the conventional nation-state, besides the new state of the 'states' in the era of globalization needs to be understood to deal with the changing role of the state and the market. In the present context the governance of food system simultaneously deals with the nation-state, private sector, corporation, civil society and farmer's organization, and their role should be revisited and redefined following the changing pattern of 'development' over the last five decades since green revolution. Nowadays specially after the post structural adjustment, the minimal governance of nation-states often make them handicapped to take pro-poor measures by extending public support in agriculture and food security as the private sector and transnational corporations now became big players in the food and farm supply chain. Furthermore, food governance increasingly involves other non-state actors like civil society, NGOs apart from market forces.

the consequences of environmental disasters, disability, unemployment or death of family income earners, as well as those who are chronically poor. The recent economic crisis and financial down turn of the world has raised the importance of social safety in economic development programs. Many Asian

countries have already been experiencing increase of extreme poverty, unemployment, insufficient access to basic public services, loss of physical assets among the poor as well as rising trend of child and woman malnutrition. These conditions tend to aggravate chronic poverty and hunger in this part of the world. In response to this poverty situation many of the Asian countries follow neo-classical social protection programs since 70's, though the volume of the programs are nominal against the poverty reduction target; for example in Vietnam the state machinery suppose to distribute food for the hungry people. However since *doi moi* the public food distribution system has been squeezed leaving the distribution channel open to the small private enterprises. Meanwhile, the modern distribution channel through supermarket chain and trade centres only serve around 10 percent of upper-income population in big cities. The state-owned food corporations often focus more in export potential markets rather than domestic ones. Thus the state mechanism fails to address the challenges within food distribution chain by weakening its coordination mechanism, losing control on warehouses and retail outlets, and in consequence it fails to stabilize the domestic food market in case of extreme market fluctuation and inflation. Interestingly the national food reserves only utilized during the disaster and natural calamities, not to address the market failure and/or distortion.

On the other hand, in Bangladesh the Public Food Distribution System (PFDS) provides food grains to various food-based safety-net programs. It is to describe that about 40% of the total population of the country lives below poverty line and about 25% of the total population is ultra-poor according to Household Income and Expenditure Survey of the government. About half of the population does not have secured access to nutritious food in their daily lives. Here the safety-net

programs contribute to income and employment generation for the poor as well as development of human capital and infrastructure resources. Under this system food is distributed by the respective government agencies i.e. Ministry of Food & Disaster Management. But unfortunately from start to end the grass-roots political leaders of the ruling party are usually involved directly in this distribution system who exploits the ultimate target people in many ways at different levels. On the contrary, most of the poor people do not have adequate purchasing capacity to buy food from the market even when food is available in local markets. In this context the safe-net program is very popular in the country with all its controversies, however this initiative do not comply with the right to food philosophy rather it shifts the state's accountability to the poor people by inserting a charitable approach within the PFDS. Basically the lawmakers insist to increase this program to secure their vote bank in their respective constituencies. In the fiscal year 2010-11 the safety-net venture all together increased up to US \$ 2.3 billion which represents 2.8% of the GDP, however the allocation is inadequate for the large number of vulnerable population.

Therefore, the reality regarding the social safety-net programs of Asian-Pacific countries (Vietnam and Bangladesh) described that the volume of the programs are very nominal against the demand and did not address the right to food concern. Considering these, adequate allocation of resources to be provided to the safety-net programs and distribution governance to be improved, besides economic incentives from the state and overall targets of fiscal and macroeconomic policy to be revisited on periodic basis along with promoting transparency and accountability of PFDS programs. Furthermore, for improving governance system and to operationalize social safety-net programs smoothly institutional alignment with implementing agencies needs to be aligned properly with well defined scope of work and authority for each of the implementing agencies.

¹. *Doi moi* is the name given to the economic reforms initiated in Vietnam in 1986 for a "socialist-oriented market economy". As a result privately-owned enterprises were permitted in commodity production by the Communist Party of Vietnam;

Impact on poor people from large scale agricultural investment

When large scale investment comes to agriculture sector what happens at the end is obviously a grave concern to the food security observers. People in the south have noticed large scale agricultural investments in the developing countries in the name of green revolution with an aim to feed the surplus population since 60's. Millions of hectares of farmlands in the south have been occupied worldwide by the transnational food corporations to secure food supply for the developed countries leaving millions of poor farmers in hunger and to secure supply chain of raw materials and bio-fuels for the industrialized economies. Besides these corporations and their local allies are now

growing plants as carbon sinks by acquiring virgin lands across developing countries for carbon trading. In South Asia, many populations are evicted from their inherited land due to large scale farming projects as corporate based contract farming is becoming a growing phenomenon in this region. As a result marginal farmers are being shifted from peasant to agrolaborer. The promotion of large-scale agricultural investment is based on the belief that, combating hunger requires boost in food production. Hence the effect and impact of these big investments could be figured out by analyzing the following two case studies from Cambodia and Bangladesh.

CASE STUDY

Tumring Commune, Kampong Thom Province: Impact of a Concession

In 2001, the Chup Rubber Company granted a concession of 6,100 ha in Tumring Commune in Kampong Thom Province. Total 4,359 ha was granted for a rubber plantation and 1,841 ha for villagers to grow smallholder rubber. At the time of the concession, it was estimated that there were 2000 people living in the affected commune.

Prior to the grant of the concession, villagers grew rice, tapped resin trees and collected other non-timber forest products. They practiced shifting cultivation, moving their rice fields every three to seven years to allow land fertility to regenerate. As a result of the land concession, they were no longer able to practice shifting cultivation and their access to the forest was reduced.

In compensation for their land, villagers were supposed to receive a grant of 3 ha per household and monetary compensation. However, of 663 original families still registered in the commune in 2005, around 20 to 30 families reported receiving no compensation and around 56 families reported receiving no land. Those who received land were not given land titles. Around 40% of families were reported to have sold their land because of declining land fertility, poverty, or pressure from the rubber company.

Prior to the creation of the rubber plantation, villagers reported being able to grow enough rice for the whole year. By 2005, NGO Forum found that they were suffering significant annual rice gaps. Additionally, villagers had sold their livestock because of the risk of a high fine from the company if the livestock strayed onto the rubber company's land. In the follow-up research in 2007, Cambodia Development Research Institute (CDRI) found that people's main source of household income changed significantly as a result of the concession. As the main source of income, rice production dropped from 31% to 19%, and forest products dropped from 28% to 3%. Instead reliance on wage labour went from 8% to 26%. 77% of surveyed people stated they had insufficient income after the creation of the concession. People were generally unable to generate income from smallholder rubber as planned because most people needed to grow food for consumption and could not wait six to seven years for the rubber trees to start producing an income source. Some families moved into the commune to seek employment at the rubber plantation, and some families moved out in search of new land or livelihoods.

The case studies illustrated that, highly mechanized forms of agriculture failed to address marginalized farmers rights and the investors only analyzed the economic cost but the social and environmental costs were not counted. In Asian reality large scale farming promoted monocultures and served the interests of developed economies. Losing land has been increased during development cycle, integration and land accumulation has been contributed to decline of natural resources for production . Depending much on input sources (seed, fertilizer, food for animal, aquaculture breeding) and on financial regulation of international companies, limited opportunity for earning a living, lack of orientation on appropriate use of land, absence of pro-farmer credit policy, imposition of intellectual property rights by the WTO have constituted a giant wall for the poor farmers to come out from abject poverty.

Besides in Asia, a good numbers of donors are currently supporting development projects in agriculture, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, climate change adaptation and other sectors related to food security which are in fact detrimental to the small and marginalized farmers. The large scale investment in agriculture aggravates commercial farming & agricultural trade where the poor and marginalized are fallen into very uneven competition with the corporate giants where they have simply no chance to win. As a result, they are forced to give up agriculture and migrate to the cities in search of other works and became day laborer at the end. Moreover, in the name of agricultural promotion and food security contract farming for cash crops makes poor farmers bonded laborer. The case of tobacco farming in Bangladesh is an acute example.

CASE STUDY

Development disaster and struggle against water logging

Afser Ali (45), is a farmer lives at keshobpur Upazilla of Jessore district. He had 1.6 hectare of lands in 26 under water body areas and he started his life as a farmer and look after his father's farmlands. He produced rice, jute, sesame and other crops and vegetables and passed peaceful life with huge crops and vegetables. But lot of water related projects changed the whole situation. The cultivable fertile land turned into waterlogged barren land.

Decade of 60s in the name of green revaluation for growing more food government took the initiative to increase cultivable land by converting coastal wetlands into dry lands by implementing the Coastal Embankment Project (CEP) with the support of USAID and constructed embankment and polders around the coastal belt. As the immediate result of the CEP farmers got lot of crops. But 5-6 years after the total situation had changed. Water logging has been seen in these areas. Water-logging is a symptom of the consequences of CEP. Water logging exposes in some of the area and made the crop cultivation unfeasible.

After several failed attempt to address drainage congestion and water logging problem in southwest coastal districts of Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) in 1995-96 came up to implement Khulna Jessor Drainage Rehabilitaion Project (KJDRP) with \$ 62 million finance from Asian Development Bank to "support" the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh to reduce poverty by alleviating river drainage congestion. In the mean time, the flood tolerant and salinity tolerate rice varieties have mostly lost from the farmers' field and Afser Ali did not get any single crop form his land and he was bound to change his occupation and started fisheries in the waterlogged areas for survival.

The community of the waterlogged areas including his family is suffering from food crisis. The temporary drainage congestion, which first appeared in 1982, gradually became permanent water logged by 1990; an area of 100, 600 hectares in Khulna and Jessore districts alone was permanently water-logged. Afser Ali has been involved with the movement of Water Rehabilitation Struggle Committee, Water committee eradicating water logging. In his life time experience Afser ali understood and felt that lot of money have been spent in this areas for development but all are in vain and created development disaster like water logging.

Food productivity and women's access to natural resources

Women's participation in agriculture is even higher than their men co-worker/ farmer, but this is not recognized socially. Women's involvement mainly acknowledges in homestead gardening, management-related works which have significant contribution to national food security. But the patriarchal society does not interpret women's engagement in non-formal economic activities. So at the end of the days women as farmer and productive labor force are deprived from their due share. They also work as day laborer. They are always victim of wage discrimination. Though most of the women farmers are not fully occupied in the main stream farming but they give significant contribution during pre and post harvesting period. Due to corporatization of agriculture women lost their ownership and control on seed and indigenous farming knowledge. Rural women are still now practicing homestead gardening and conserving their surrounding uncultivated food sources to secure their family food needs. This process also strengthens the rural food economy.

Bangladesh agriculture policy 1999 addressed a particular agenda named, women in agriculture but women contributions are not accentuated in GDP. Government of Bangladesh has been providing capacity building training to the women, income generating training and also providing credit for small entrepreneurship. Government is inspiring women's involvement in the safety-net programs. Bangladesh government is the signatory of the Beijing platform for action and women's right to land and article 28 (2) of Bangladesh constitution says "Women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of the state and of public life". But in action women's access and control over natural resources, especially land, is vital as it symbolizes power in the society.

In addition to this, state land distribution system in Bangladesh, Cambodia and in Vietnam has negative biasness to the men as women have to share their entitlements with their husbands. The case study from Cambodia represents the vulnerability of women's access to land in this regard.

CASE STUDY

An Experience on Women's Access to Land

Saro is a 47-years old woman with five children. Her husband left her 13 years ago, when she was 7 months pregnant and never come back. Saro is the head of her household and works as a rice farmer. The land that was given to her by the state is the main source of livelihood for her and her children. She began her story by recounting her recent difficulties: "Because of the flood I didn't have a harvest this year. Life is very hard but I'm doing my best to raise my children."

Saro attended the land registration meeting in her community but could not remember the concept of joint land ownership. But she was able to explain very well why it is important for women to have their name on land titles. "For me it is important. I am the head of household. I am taking care of five children. Land is my life."

When asked in whose name her land is registered, she said that her name was sole name on the ownership title. However, an examination of the title showed that the land had been registered jointly with her husband. Saro said that the land registration officer looked at the family book while she explained to him that her husband had left her many years ago. She never read the title until now. "I am shocked, they broke my trust. What if my husband comes back and claims the land?"

Women have greater contribution to feed the nation and also contributes to the goal against poverty. So women's participation in the decision making process should be ensured. Access to land, agricultural inputs and credit are very limited for women and it is hard for them to get access in the public services. Moreover, women have no access to the market, on the contrary agricultural input

support from the government only targeted to the men. Women have no access to inherited land property in most of the Asia-Pacific countries. Women's access to land is dependent on allocation from their husband or from market based mechanism. So to establish an accountable agricultural governance system women's access to resources in all spheres should be ensured.

Farmers' institution for strengthening food governance

For making an effective food and agriculture governance system farmers' institutions should work properly. To make state accountable farmers organizations can work within the triangulation of state, market and civil society. The strong representation of farmer's organizations and their formal recognition as partner in agricultural development projects can officially recognize farmers' right. But in the Asian countries farmers' organizations are not too strong for collective bargaining and cannot work for protecting their rights and sovereignty. In Bangladesh there are four kinds of farmer organizations. Most of the national political parties have their own farmers' organizations. Some farmers' networks and groups are formed by NGO facilitation, some farmers' unions and cooperatives are associated with national agro-based companies, like 'Milk vita' etc.

Some community based organizations (CBOs) do also exist in the indigenous community and rural areas. However farmers' organizations and networks in Bangladesh are very weak and unorganized and it is a vital factor for their discrimination and sufferings. Though political parties, NGOs and even the government have been trying to organize farmers but those institutions are not owned by the farmers.

In Vietnam due to economic reform for developing agro-business, some kind of organized farms have been formed and other patterns of economic organizations in agriculture are also registered as farm. Farms also generate a large volume of agricultural

produces. However, due to the limited number of farms and small scale of labor used in each farm, the impact of farms on the poor in rural areas is not too big in general.

Asia gives significant contribution in world food production. Asian farmers still account for 92-percent of the world's total rice production. But the experience of the Asia portrays that farmers are not organized and they failed to bargain for rights with their policy makers and donors. The debt burden of farmers are gradually increasing in the Asian LDCs. Hence the underlying cause is absence of pro-poor governance in particular. Besides small farmers have lack of opportunities for participation in the decision making process. So to promote farmers participation in agricultural governance, strengthened local farmers' associations are required.

² Wikipedia, Rice, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rice>, 03 September, 2010.

CASE STUDY

Contract Farming: A Voice of Helpless Farmer

Mr. Habibur Rahman (50) a small farmer of Bijoypur village under Jhenaidah district. The total member of his family is five. He has a total of 1 hectre of land and use the total land for tobacco cultivation. Before cultivation tobacco he cultivated paddy, wheat, lentil, mustard and jute in his own land. Corporate company led commercial tobacco cultivation was started around 25 years ago in this area. Mr. Habibur Rahman started to grow tobacco about 10 years ago as a field worker of British American Tobacco Company (BATC). BATC was provoked the rural farmers to cultivate tobacco. From the beginning company advertised that tobacco cultivation is very much profitable than rice or other agricultural crops and the company will purchase the whole products at good price.

At present there are 65 tobacco growers in Bijoypur village and they are growing tobacco in almost 65.96 hectares of land while it was only 5-6 acres at initial stage. It was asked why the other farmers do not cultivate tobacco? He replied that most of the farmers of the village are very poor. Tobacco farming is not suitable for the poor farmers because it needs huge investment which is not affordable to them. But the farmers get all inputs support from the company and after their production they are also secured in term of marketing. However he knew that tobacco cultivation is harmful for soil fertility, local water body & productivity, health and environment. But, he cultivates tobacco mainly because he thinks that tobacco is more profitable than any other crops. Moreover, Company provides free seeds and technical support for his produce. The company also provides fertilizers & pesticides in credit which is deducted from the price of the products.

The most important motivation to cultivate tobacco for Mr. Habibur Rahman is assurance of marketing with fair price which is the persistent problem in case of growing other crops. When they get a good amount of money at a single time then they feel enormous pleasure and forget all sufferings and hard work. But, in the context of harmfulness of tobacco farming for health, environment, soil health and overall food security as well as hard family labour Mr. Habibur Rahman & his family do not want to cultivate tobacco if the fair price is guaranteed for other crops.

Civil society's responsibility for improved food governance

Civil society organizations (CSOs) will have to support to grow up independent institutions of farmers & vulnerable communities and then work with the institutions as a bigger pressure group to influence the decision making and policy forming bodies. CSOs improved food governance could be obtained by adopting the following measures:

- Building capacity for member organisations on food security.
- Conducting field research and develop appropriate and affective models in order to provide evidence on advocacy to ensure food security for the poor.
- Conducting community support intervention especially farmers led initiatives to improve food security condition.
- Sharing related lesson learnt (failed and successful) to avoid duplication.
- Strengthening peoples' forum and networks in order to affirm the role and position of CSOs.
- Strengthening voice of CSOs and farmers through their participation in the consultation processes of the policy actors.
- Community based field and research plots.
- Developing farmer organization and network.

Recommendations

To the governments

- The concept of sustainable and equitable agriculture be better integrated such as reduce the use of illegal pesticides and encourage the use of botanical/organic pesticides; give priority to small-scale irrigation systems and small-scale farmers; and continue support to community based organizations (CBOs) through training local farmers to maintain local resources and protect local seeds.
- Give priority to the development of small- and medium-scale irrigation systems with international funding in rural areas. A master plan should be produced entailing a clear study of water sources and effective distribution of water, along with the identification of poor communities in greatest need of improved irrigation in order to improve their livelihoods and reduce poverty. The quality of irrigation structures should also be strengthened.
- Define the targeted beneficiary farmers of each activity, with an emphasis on small scale farmers and farmers promoting mixed crops and organic farming, rather than large-scale monoculture production, which relies heavily on chemical pesticides and fertilizers or high-yielding varieties of seed. This will help ensure that the poorest farmers benefit from the strategy, while also ensuring long-term sustainability of agricultural production.
- Stop subsidies for chemical and pesticide purchases provided with donor money. This practice does not help improve the lives of small farmers in the long run. In contrast, it makes farmers dependent on external assistance and inputs and causes soil degradation, thus impacting long-term environmental security. Rather, skills training, such as on management, business, marketing, savings, credit, etc, should be emphasized. Donors should support law enforcement in order to eliminate illegal pesticide usage, while also supporting research on the impacts of pesticides and chemicals.
- Commit to cooperation and improving information sharing among development partners, government and civil society with regard to education and awareness raising among rural farmers.
- Enable women to be involved in all agricultural diversification, value-added and agro-processing activities. Develop innovative ways to provide agricultural services, extension and information to women.
- Ensure that small holder farmer and particular women farmers have access to the technical inputs and productive resources to increase the productivity of agricultural activities. Monitor and report on implementation of the land law to ensure that women are able to register their inherited land in their own name, and that land acquired during marriage is jointly registered.
- Promote an increased sharing of responsibilities and decision-making in both livelihood and household work.
- Increase the number of women service provider (e.g. agricultural extension workers, skill trainer, land registration agent...etc)
- Allocate more budget in agriculture sector especially to support smallholder farmers particularly women.

- Provide social land concession to landless and the poorest especially poor women head of household with ensuring the appropriate agriculture land and support to them.
- Increase spending on extension and research, supporting sustainable techniques for increasing yields and measures to overcome constraints specific to smallholder farmers.
- Provide accessible rural financial support/credit to small holder farmers with low and affordable interest rate.

To donors

- Increase appropriate aid to ensure National Development Plan to invest in agriculture particularly to smallholder farmers
- Provide direct support to women farmer groups and smallholder farmer organizations and government to improve the gender impact of their policies and spending through gender budgeting and collection and monitoring of sex-disaggregated data.

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