



Land and Vulnerable People in a World of Change

An appeal for collective action

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Importance of land tenure security and equitable access to land

1. Land tenure security² and equitable access to land and natural resources are a central yet generally neglected aspect of development and poverty reduction. Land is one of the most important assets that poor rural women and men have. It provides a basis for livelihoods, a safety net from absolute poverty, and is a basis for social and economic relations in a society.

2. Apart from being an important economic asset, land also contributes to identity, dignity and social inclusion. Secure land tenure is fundamental for ensuring the realisation of fundamental human rights, particularly the right to an adequate standard of living, which includes access to water, food and housing. Land is also an enormous political resource, defining power relations between and among individuals, families and communities under established systems of governance. Inability to access land has been a major contributing factor to social exclusion, instability and conflict in many countries.

3. In both rural and urban societies, the landless or near landless and those with insecure tenure rights often constitute the poorest and most marginalized and vulnerable groups. The rights that these groups have often tend to be secondary, rarely extending beyond use rights; moreover, these rights are often unprotected and weak, especially for women. In India, Nepal and Thailand, for example, fewer than 10 per cent of women farmers own land in their own right. The ability to access land is above all a question of power relations within a given society, and the inability of sections of society to gain secure access to land is an expression of the wider social and political dynamics that contribute their marginalisation and exclusion.

Emerging trends and heightened challenges in equitable access to land

4. Growing populations relying on a limited, and often-deteriorating, resource base has meant that in rising competition for land, those sections of society least able to defend their right to access land have for generations been vulnerable to losing it. However, it has become increasingly evident that land tenure insecurity in many contexts today is not primarily a factor of land availability, but it is increasingly a socio-political condition brought about by inappropriate policies and legal systems governing land. These systems often do not recognise the variety of local mechanisms by which rights to land are defined and allocated, resulting in millions of poorer land users becoming unable to gain legally recognised rights to land upon which they depend for their livelihoods.

¹ The International Land Coalition is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organisations working together to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men through advocacy, dialogue and capacity building. www.landcoalition.org, info@landcoalition.org

² Land tenure refers to the authorities, institutions, rules and norms that govern how, when and where people access land. These rules and norms are often complex and multidimensional, formal and informal, deriving from various state agencies as well as local institutions. Land tenure security refers to people's ability to draw upon these various sources of legitimacy and power to use, control and manage land over the long term. 'Land' in this paper refers to both land itself and the wider natural resources situated on and in it, including water.

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5. Some countries have initiated agrarian reform as a means of redistributing land from large landholders to landless producers. Some successes have been achieved, but as such measures strike to the centre of power relations in a society, unless political will is strong and sustained, the challenges encountered have often diluted its benefits for the poorest. The lack of political and economic strength of beneficiaries of redistribution has also meant that over time gains have been reversed as they have been unable to hold onto their land. In Peru, for example, the concentration of land property in the coastal region has reached a point similar to its pre-land reform status, and mining enterprises are accumulating large tracts of peasant community land in the Andean region, while in a northern coastal area of the country, over 21,000 ha are owned by only 11 proprietors.³ Another example of agricultural land concentration comes from Brazil, where 70% of land under sugarcane cultivation is owned by 340 industrial-scale mills, with average holdings of 30,000 ha and the remaining 30% is owned by 60,000 smaller scale landowners, with average holdings of 27,5 ha⁴

6. As land has increasingly become an economic asset, and the market for it has become increasingly globalised, poorer land users have increasingly become vulnerable to losing their land to those with greater economic, political or social ability than themselves to lay claim to, or acquire, the same tracts of land. These factors have contributed to an increasing concentration of landholdings in many countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America in particular. The globalisation of land markets, combined with increasing opportunities for profit from agricultural production, is provoking increased speculation in agricultural land by multi-national companies, including investment banks.

7. Within the wider context of gradual attrition of land used by the poor, a new set of global trends is currently emerging that vastly increases commercial demand for land. Sharply rising food prices have prompted food riots in 33 countries in the first few months of 2008 and currently around 45 violent conflicts are underway worldwide driven by contested land rights claims.⁵ Commodity prices continue to increase, fuelling the opening up of new areas for prospecting and mining. Accelerating agrofuel production is demanding large tracts of agricultural and virgin land for industrial-scale production. Carbon-trading mechanisms are likely to place a commercial value on standing forests and rangelands that have previously been marginal to commercial production. The confluence of these new demands to derive products from land and natural resources is generating a global commercially-driven demand for new land. The Rights and Resources Initiative report released in July 2008⁶ estimates that out of the 515 million hectares of land required for the production of agriculture, energy and forestry commodities by 2030, only 250 to 300 million hectares of land are globally available, the remaining 200 million will have to be obtained from forestland.

8. The new global trends are creating unprecedented pressures on land resources and placing new tensions on land tenure systems, leading to what RRI has labelled as potentially 'The Last Great Global Land Grab'. Little data as yet exists as to the magnitude of existing and anticipated impacts of the emerging trends on the tenure security of poor women and men. Nonetheless, it is clear in a context of increased global competition for land, that the poorest, who usually enjoy least tenure security, are least able to compete for land, and thus the most vulnerable to losing access to it. The trends towards trade liberalisation make land in regions and countries which has low commercial value by global standards attractive to investors.

³ Gobierno Regional de La Libertad, *Chavimochic en cifras 1986 - 2005*, Setiembre 2006.

⁴ IIED and FAO, *Fuelling exclusion? The biofuels boom and poor people's access to land*, 2008.

⁵ The Rights and Resources Initiative, *Seeing People Through the Trees: Scaling Up Efforts to Advance Rights and Address Poverty, Conflict and Climate Change*, July 2008.

⁶ The Rights and Resources Initiative, *Seeing People Through the Trees: Scaling Up Efforts to Advance Rights and Address Poverty, Conflict and Climate Change*, July 2008.

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However, it is also in such areas that local land users often do not have clear tenure rights, such as is the case in many common-property systems, thus making them particularly vulnerable to dispossession.

Anticipated impacts on poverty

9. A report released by FAO in April 2008⁷ warned that the rapid increases in the large-scale production of agrofuels in developing countries could exacerbate the marginalization of women in rural areas threatening their livelihoods. Since large-scale plantations for the production of agrofuels require an intensive use of resources such as land to which small farmers, particularly women, traditionally have limited access. The report concluded unless policies are adopted in developing countries to strengthen the participation of small farmers, especially women in agrofuel production by increasing their access to land, gender inequalities are likely to become more marked and women's vulnerability to hunger and poverty further exacerbated. FAO estimates that the amount of land that would be used for the development of agrofuels could increase from the present 1% of the world arable land up to 3% by 2030 and 20% by 2050.

Case study 1: Palm oil cultivation for biofuel blocks return of displaced people in Colombia

In Jiguamiandó and Curvaradó, following the end of the major clashes between the guerrillas and the national army and paramilitary groups in 2000, a group of companies started establishing African palm plantations on the land that local people had fled from. INCODER (*Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural*) concluded that between 2001 and 2004 a group of private investors took advantage of the forced displacements that these communities had been victims of, and developed a massive purchasing scheme to establish African oil plantations. They estimated that more than 3,800 hectares, or 93 per cent, of the land that the companies planted with African palm trees belonged to displaced Afro-Colombian communities. IDPs described a pattern of forced sales in which representatives of the companies colluded with paramilitary groups to present to the landowners offers far below the estimated market price which were backed up by indirect or direct death threats.

As an example, one African palm company had claimed to have bought 6,000 hectares of land from a settler who had been awarded only 18.3 hectares in the late 1980s. The ongoing human rights violations included killings, torture, looting, burning of crops and houses, arbitrary detention, forced sale and death threats. The Afro-Colombian communities in Jiguamiandó and Curvaradó reported more than 100 crimes committed against their members from 1996 up to late 2005 by paramilitary groups.

10. In addition to increasing agricultural values of land, the speculative value of forested land is increasing with anticipated carbon-trading mechanisms such as REDDs (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation). These are likely to allow carbon credits to be earned from standing forests, but these are likely to be captured by governments or private corporations, rather than local populations. Among the most affected will be Indigenous Peoples. According to the statement of the IFIPCC⁸ at the 13th Session of the UNFCCC, "REDD⁹ will not benefit Indigenous Peoples, but in fact, it will result in more violations of Indigenous People's rights." This statement is supported by a Forest Peoples Programme

⁷ FAO 2008 *Gender and Equity Issues in Liquid Biofuel Production – Minimizing the Risks to Maximize the Opportunities*.

⁸ International Forum of Indigenous People on Climate Change

⁹ Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation

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paper¹⁰ issued in June 2007 expressing concerns about “a serious risk that REDD money may reinforce State and private sector control over forests.” They reported an example of indigenous peoples and peasants communities in the Ecuadorian Andes, who were poorly informed of the consequences of a voluntary carbon-offset plantation project in which they were involved, and found themselves displaced from communal grazing lands and becoming indebted as a result of giving up land for the project.

Case study 2: Tanzania, biofuel targets and its consequences

Though there is currently no agrofuel policy or legislation to govern its production, the Biofuels Task Force established by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals in 2006 has set annual production targets of 26,7 million litres of ethanol and 138 million litres of biodiesel by 2010. This has attracted a number of international investors seeking fertile areas for agrofuel production, which the government has identified. However, many of these are those with the best access to water, where farmers are already growing food. A Swedish company, for instance, has expressed its intention to develop 400,000 ha of sugar plantations, including in areas such as the Wami Basin, where small scale farmers are already cultivating rice and other crops. In Kigoma, a palm oil biodiesel project by Malaysian and Indonesian investors will involve cultivation of 8,000 ha. In the Lindi region, the UK-based international company Sun biofuels is planning to plant 18,000 ha of *Jatropha* where farmers who currently grow cassava, rice and maize will be encouraged to become *Jatropha* out growers. Local farmers are thus likely to either lose their land, or become dependent on agrofuel companies for their livelihoods, rather than their own food production.

11. Many of those who lose their ability to derive livelihoods from land and natural resources end up burgeoning urban areas in search of work. For the first time in history, in 2008 more than a half of world's human population – 3.3 billion people – will be living in urban areas. The next few decades will see an unprecedented urban growth in the developing world, especially in Asia and Africa where the urban population will double between 2000 and 2030 when the towns and the cities of the developing world will make up 81 % of urban humanity.¹¹ The expanding urban periphery into a previously agricultural hinterland also prompts rising peri-urban land prices. Residents of such areas remain vulnerable to speculation and are unable to capture the full value of their land unless they can claim formal land rights.

Some options for strengthening security of tenure and equitable access.

12. The rapidity at which demand for commercial utilisation of land is increasing demands an urgent and coordinated response to protecting the ability of poor land users to continue accessing land and natural resources. The challenges faced are not new in that poor land users have often found their access to land insecure. However, the rate at which commercial demands for land is increasing presents a new set of challenges relating to how to rapidly scale up efforts to secure land for poor land users.

13. While these trends are generally global in extent, their intensity varies from region to region and context to context. Similarly, there is a huge diversity in tenure systems among regions, within regions and even within individual countries. A key challenge will be how to scale up initiatives to secure the land rights of poor women and men in a manner

¹⁰ Forest Peoples Programme, *Seeing 'RED'? 'Avoided deforestation' and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities*, Tom Griffiths, June 2007.

¹¹ Sources: UNFPA, “State of the world population 2007”; UN-HABITAT, Global Urban Observatory and Statistics Unit.

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commensurate with the scale of the challenges while at the same time adequately considering the national and local diversity in land tenure systems and contexts.

14. Strengthening security of tenure and equitable access to land is a diverse and complex challenge. The experiences of members of the International Land Coalition, among others, suggest that key elements in improving the ability of vulnerable populations to maintain access to land include: creating favourable land policy environments; developing appropriate approaches for the recognition of land rights; legal empowerment to defend access to land; and strengthening the capacity of civil society to represent their interests on land tenure and governance. The case studies below provide indications of possible areas of success that could be scaled up.

(a) Creating favourable land policy environments

15. The last two decades has seen a wave of interest in developing, or reviewing, land policies. Considering that a root of tenure insecurity in many countries has been inappropriate land policies, organisations representing the interests of poor land users have welcomed the opportunities such policy development processes have created. A considerable set of experiences has developed across various countries, on both the contents of appropriate land policies, and the processes by which to formulate them. One common challenge has been in developing policies and legal systems that adequately recognise the diversity of tenure systems employed at the local level. An increasing number of national and regional networks have facilitated the sharing of experiences on land policy reform for government officials, civil society and development partners.

Case study 3: Africa.

Over the past decade there has been a greater recognition in Africa amongst governments, civil society organisations and international development agencies of the importance of land tenure security for economic growth and poverty reduction. At the beginning of 2006 the African Union Commission, in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, NEPAD and the Regional Economic Commissions initiated a process for developing Africa-wide land policy guidelines as a basis for: (a) informing country-level land policy formulation, policy review and implementation strategies; (b) peer reviews on land policies and their implementation by African governments; (c) improved harmonisation and mobilisation of international support for land policy formulation and implementation.

The issue of rural poverty reduction and the need for pro-poor land policies is a central theme being emphasized by all stakeholders but particularly by civil society organizations. The initiative is creating new opportunities for increasing political will for land policies that are better able to protect the tenure rights of poor land users.

Burkina Faso is one of the many countries undergoing land policy reform whose experiences have informed the Africa-wide land policy guidelines. It was agreed early on in the policy formulation process that all stakeholders should participate equally, including farmers, local communities, local governments and the private sector, all of whom have legitimate rights to access land. Each stakeholder group organizes specific dialogue sessions, the objective of which is to allow each group to formulate its own vision of land tenure and land access. Common sessions are then organized at the local and regional levels where each stakeholder can challenge the views and interests of other stakeholders. A national forum will follow these local and regional sessions and final agreements on the land policy options will be drafted. The proposed land policy will then be submitted by the National Committee to the government for consideration and adoption.

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(b) Developing appropriate approaches for the recognition of land rights.

15. Recognising the land rights of poor land users has often been hampered by the lack of tools and mechanisms by which rights can be cost-effectively and appropriately formalised. Conventional methods are often oriented towards the needs of private title holders, and may be too expensive for poor land users to employ, or inappropriate to their land use patterns. Innovative use of GIS technology, for example, has resulted in cheaper and more widely replicable ways in which to register land rights. Some more recent land policies allow for the recognition of collective land rights, or other forms of customary land tenure. Land policies in some countries focus on developing agreements between communities on land use, rather than risk fostering conflict by attempting to delineate inflexible boundaries of land ownership. Many countries have developed specific legal mechanisms for vulnerable sections of their population, such as indigenous peoples, to gain territorial rights. As innovative approaches to land tenure are piloted successfully, they are often taken up and adapted to the contexts of other countries.

Case study 4: Land registration by the government in Rwanda

The National Land Policy adopted in February 2004 by the Government of Rwanda placed great importance on appropriate land administration systems as a key of land tenure security by providing for the possibility of registering and transferring land. A land office is being established in each district. This land office is responsible for land use planning, land surveying, land registration and land titles delivery. It also has the role of keeping and disseminating data. For land registration high resolution photomaps derived from aerial photography are used. These are also proposed as a tool for local level land use planning, to facilitate reconciliation of individual and family rights with land parcels.

Case Study 5: Participatory 3-D Modeling in Philippines

Achieving land tenure security through recognition of ancestral domains is a high priority of indigenous peoples in the Philippines. A law passed in 1998 has made this possible, but communities and their support groups often themselves lack the capacity to file legal claims over their ancestral domains. PAFID has supported the use of participatory 3-D modeling in order to integrate local knowledge and spatial information (i.e. contour lines) to produce stand-alone scale-relief models. The mapping process has helped to improve the capacity of indigenous communities to legally lay claim over their ancestral lands. Furthermore, the process of participatory mapping has been instrumental in facilitating resolution of conflicts over boundaries and land use.

Case Study 6: Improving access to land for the poor through the use of land funds in Ecuador

In Ecuador, many *campesinos* (small-scale land users) have ended up in the stranglehold of debt. They have used their land to borrow money at interest rates that are higher than the productivity of their land can support. In many cases, particularly along the coast, this has led to land being lost to lender banks or sold to urban buyers. An Ecuadorian NGO, the Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio (FEPP), with the support of IFAD and ILC, was able to successfully implement a land fund program by setting up a fund for land purchases by *campesinos*, accompanied by programs designed to give the poor access to other factors of

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production. The FEPP experience has brought about a measurable change in the living conditions of marginalized people.

Case Study 7: Local land certification in Madagascar

Most rural people who own land in Madagascar have no title formalizing their ownership, leaving them vulnerable to looting and claims by others. Conventional land titles take an average of six years to obtain, and cost an average of USD507, making them impossible for most poor landholders to obtain. In early 2008 the government of Madagascar, under the coordination of the *Programme National Foncier (PNF)*, completed the pilot phase of a much cheaper land certification process. Certificates secure the owners' legal rights to the plot, as if it were a real land title, but they take an average of only 3½ months to obtain, and cost USD24. Certificates are issued by local *Guichet Fonciers* (Land Offices), based on a participatory process of boundary identification and local consensus.

Civil society organizations have formed a common platform (SIF – *Solidarité sur les Intervenants Foncier*) that works with local communities and the government to ensure that the interests of small-scale land users are adequately represented in the reform process.

(c) Legal empowerment to defend access to land

16. In many cases, legal reforms that introduce mechanisms to improve tenure security are not taken up by marginalised sections of society. This may be due to, for example, local-level discrimination, or a lack of awareness of the law by officials or local people. An important aspect of empowering local communities to enjoy the rights to which they are entitled is thus enabling these rights to be more easily claimed at the local level. This may involve, for example, training law enforcers, building legal literacy at community level, or assisting communities to pursue their land rights through the judicial system

Case Study 8: Capacity building of the judiciary in Mozambique

Progressive new laws in Mozambique passed in the late 1990's provide an important legal foundation for enhancing and protecting the rights of local people to manage and use land and natural resources, within a participatory and democratic legal framework. However, implementation of these laws has been slow.

The government has initiated a training and support programme for the judiciary, with the support of FAO. It trains district judges on the Land Law, as well as related forestry and environmental legislation in order to enable them to respond more successfully to local-level needs. Over a three-year period, a total of ten two-week training courses were organized with participation of around 85 percent of Mozambique's over 200 District Judges. Training manuals were published and distributed to law schools. In addition to providing judges with information on the legal principles and details of the new laws, the courses have aimed to provide a greater understanding of the social, economic and environmental issues that lie behind the law reforms.

Case Study 9: The defence of the common property in Peru

The peasant community of San Cristóbal signed an agreement with a mining company in 1990 to prospect on its 100 hectares of communal land. This was conditional on the company respecting and preserving the agricultural lands and pastures on the land used by the

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community. Yet, in 1991, the company managed to exclude the 100ha from the community and register it as a reserve, with the subsequent right to exploit mining resources. This registration ignored the registration the community had made a year earlier of the 100ha as communal property with the public registries.

In 2000 CEPES, together with FEDECCH (Federation of Peasant Communities of Huencavelica), began an information campaign to bring attention to this conflict in the public arena. With their support, the community of San Cristóbal took the mining company to court in 2001, and won. Years after the end of the trial, the community is still waiting for a document formally asserting the communal property of the 100 ha. Nevertheless the case helped the community understand the importance of becoming more organized and updating their legal knowledge, as well as of networking with groups and organizations to protect their rights. The work of the CEPES legal team also succeeded in influencing the dynamics and institutional practice of state agencies involved in the execution of the rural property and the administration of justice.

Case Study 10: Access to justice for Mbororo pastoralists in Cameroon

North-western Cameroon has witnessed increasing conflicts between Mbororo nomadic pastoralists, who use the area seasonally, and agriculturalists who have been steadily expanding into the rangelands. In response, the Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUA) started an Access to Justice Programme in 2000. This programme carried out, among other things, research on the socio-legal environment of the Mbororo, community education campaigns on rights and responsibilities and the recruitment and training of community based paralegals and community facilitators.

In the past seven years, the programme has assisted 52 Mbororo people to obtain land titles. It has trained 150 Mbororo youths as paralegals, and carried out 156 awareness campaigns, including radio programmes on various topics. It has assisted in establishing a divisional farmer/pastoralist commission to promote cooperation and joint-management of the Ndop wetlands. With the successes of the initiative, there is now also an increasing use of the paralegal offices by non-Mbororo.

Case Study 11: No Sales Agreements for Cambodia's Indigenous Peoples

In 2001, a Land Law was passed in Cambodia which recognized communal titles issued to indigenous communities. However, due to a lack of enforcement of the Land Law indigenous groups remained vulnerable to land speculators and pressure from other outsiders. A lack of access to information meant that they often did not claim the rights the law granted them.

Starting in 2004, indigenous communities began developing networks, which facilitated regular consultative meetings to develop strategies to prevent further land sales. One such strategy has been the enforcement of commune-level No Sales Agreements by which villagers were encouraged to agree that their community would stop selling land. These agreements are handed to the Commune Authorities for its recognition and approval. In the first few months, four No Sale Agreements were developed and approved by communes in Ratanakiri. As such initiatives unfolded, it became evident that where communities have a better understanding of their legal rights, and where they are not so vulnerable to misinformation, the rate of land alienation tend to be lower.

(d) Strengthening the capacity of civil society to engage on land tenure and governance

17. National policy formulation processes that have allowed for a broad range of stakeholder consultation and input have generally produced policies that cater for the needs of a broader cross-section of society than those that have not. In cases where civil society organisations have been integrally engaged in the formulation of policy, this engagement generally carries into the implementation of the policy once it has been adopted. Civil society organisations also often play a crucial role in supporting communities to organise themselves and take advantage of policy prescriptions that could enable greater tenure security.

Case study 12: Reviewing land policies in Zambia

When the Zambia Land Act of 1995 was enacted, many civil society organizations expressed concern that it did not adequately consider the interests of marginalized social groups, such as women, orphans of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, common property users, and the rural poor in general. As a result, the government found it difficult to implement this law, and decided to initiate a countrywide land policy review consultation process with various key stakeholders. To contribute to this process some civil society organizations came together and formed a Civil Society Land Policy Review Committee under Zambia Land Alliance (ZLA) with the aim of advocating for fair land policies and laws.

During the first phase of the project in 2003 consultations were successfully carried out in all the country's nine provinces with the support of ILC and other cooperating partners. The 2002 first draft policy document has now been replaced by a second draft in which many of the views of rural stakeholders have been integrated. However, ZLA is still concerned that some measures to protect the tenure security of poor citizens remain unaddressed, and it continues to coordinate inputs from civil society, even drawing in comparative experiences from other land policies in the region through networks such as Landnet Southern Africa.

Case study 13: Negotiation on forest management in Bolivia to manage conflicts

A series of legal reforms in Bolivia in the mid 1990s enabled local communities, particularly indigenous peoples, to demarcate and protect common land rights. In the protected area of El Chore, the NGO CEDETI began in 2001 to assist the local municipality to identify and demarcate an area to assign to local indigenous communities, who had a little knowledge of their new legal rights to land. However, groups in the area did not acknowledge them as legitimate claimants. A roundtable dialogue was initiated by CEDETI, accompanied by land rights literacy training for local communities. The dialogue developed into a learning space for all actors involved. Indigenous Peoples were willing to contribute to a consolidated management plan for the municipal forest area together with other associations, but still wanted their own Community Territory of Origin. This claim was finally supported by other groups at the roundtable, including by the local municipality.

This process enabled a new round of negotiations with migrant farmers facing land scarcity. Again, the roundtable led to an agreement between indigenous peoples, small saw miller producers and migrants to improve the balance of agricultural and forestry exploitation in the area. Negotiations are ongoing as to which land can be allocated to migrants. The project has so far led to the demarcation of the area and to the legal establishment of one Community

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Territory of Origin, four community associations, and one more potential association representing the interests of migrant farmers.

Moving ahead beyond CSD16

18. Millennium Development Goal One, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, cannot be reached unless the ability of women and men to maintain access to land and natural resources can be secured. Current global trends, however, are likely to make this possibility more remote for large sections of the world's poorest, who are unable to successfully compete for access to land. These trends include: rising food and commodity prices, climate change, conversion of land to agrofuels, and carbon trading mechanisms. The evident impact of these trends has so far been largely to increase the precarity of those already under the poverty line. However, some trends – such as rising food prices - may also offer possible opportunities that poor land-users could take advantage of, if they are able to maintain access to land. But, improved infrastructure, market access, access to inputs and technology and access financing in sustained development support programmes are also required in order for small-scale farmers to benefit from these opportunities.

19. The magnitude of the challenges faced, and possible opportunities, demands a concerted response by stakeholders in governments, the UN system, and civil society. Through the CSD16, members and partners of the International Land Coalition are attempting to facilitate opportunities for increased collaboration and upscaling of efforts to secure the land rights of vulnerable populations. In the immediate-term this could involve coordination and harmonisation of efforts by development partners, research and stock-taking, heightened global advocacy, and a improved sharing of experiences so as to identify successes and scale up implementation. In the longer term the livelihoods and dignity of millions of poor land users will depend upon the willingness of their governments and development partners to make available the mechanisms for them to successfully defend their rights to land and natural resources on a global stage.

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