

UK Land Policy Forum – Third Meeting: Concept Note and Agenda

Date: Thursday, October 13, 2016

Time: 13:00-16:30

Place: ODI Conference room, London

Summary

The 3rd UK Land Policy Forum meeting will discuss women's land rights, provide updates on recent activities of Forum members, including DFID, and agree on the future direction of the forum.

Background

The first Forum meeting — held on 4 November, 2015 at ODI — concluded that the purpose of the Forum is to **provide a focus for debate, information and lesson sharing amongst UK stakeholders to inform DFID and wider UK policy and programming for strengthening of land governance and land rights protection.**

Theme for third Forum meeting: land and women's empowerment

DFID places high priority on both responsible land investment and secure land rights for women and views this as a central component of women's economic empowerment. The discussion at the 3rd UK Land Policy Forum aims to identify the key lessons that have emerged from recent work and analysis, and the tools and approaches needed to strengthen women's land rights and opportunities particularly in the context of agribusiness investment.

The UK is a founder of the High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, which aims to produce a report for publication at UNGA in mid- September 2016. This will "provide recommendations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to improve economic outcomes for women and promote women's leadership in driving sustainable and inclusive, environmentally sensitive economic growth", identifying key actions that can be taken by governments, the private sector, the UN system and other stakeholders, as well as policy directives needed to achieve the new targets and indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals which call for the economic empowerment of women.

Women account for nearly half of the world's farmers and grow much of our food, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) — and yet their access to and control over land in many low and middle income countries remains limited and fragile. Growing pressures on land — including from investments in large-scale, land-based agricultural projects — and rapid socio-economic changes are further undermining this. Land is central to women's empowerment — access to and control over this resource enables them to earn higher incomes, as well as improve their household's nutritional and educational outcomes.

The promotion of gender equality in land relations has never had as much global political support as it has today. Target 1.4 of the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims to 'ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property (...)' and target 5.a aims to 'undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property (...) in accordance with national laws'.

The UN's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) also affirm the principle of gender equality and spell out its implications. Ever more

countries' constitutions and laws also formally support gender equality. However, shortcomings often affect implementation, and fine-grained analyses and practical tools are needed to translate policy statements into real change.

Improving women's land rights implies better understanding of the role of these rights in promoting women's economic empowerment and potential tools for ensuring that these rights are promoted and protected.

Aim

The third meeting aims to facilitate discussion around land and women's empowerment based on recent research and activities.

In addition, the meeting aims to:

1. Share what is new and interesting on the agendas of Forum participants; and
2. Define themes for discussion for the next standing Forum meetings.

Agenda

Time	Theme	Presenter/Chair
13.00	LUNCH	
13.30	Welcome, aims and proposed outputs of session; recap from 2 nd UK Land Policy Forum	Anna Locke, ODI
13.35	Relevance of the theme for DFID	Iris Krebber, DFID
13.40	Round the table update from Forum participants	
13:55	Overview of HLP report findings on WEE in general, highlighting references to land issues. Present general findings of Evidence Update 2 on land and women's empowerment.	Moderator: Philippine Sutz, IIED Mel Bohannon, DFID Elizabeth Daley, Mokoro
15.00	Debate	
15:30	COFFEE BREAK	
15:45	Individual presentations on particular aspects and country experiences: discussants to relate points to country experience/particular issues. Overview of the two sessions, drawing out key lessons.	Felicity Buckle, DAI Kyssele Chérestal, RRI Elizabeth Daley, Mokoro Philippine Sutz, IIED
16:15	Discussion of objectives and themes and hosts for future meetings, including recap on poll on themes of interest	Giles Henley, ODI
16:25	Next steps and future meetings	Anna Locke
16:30	CLOSE	Iris Krebber