

2



STRONG SMALL-SCALE FARMING SYSTEMS

TOOLKIT 2

STRONG SMALL-SCALE FARMING SYSTEMS



The contents of this work may be freely reproduced, translated and distributed provided that attribution is given to the International Land Coalition and the article's authors and organisation. Unless otherwise noted, this work may not be utilised for commercial purposes.

[Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)

CONTENTS

- 2** **Welcome to the strong small-scale farming systems toolkit!**
- 4** **Small-scale land reform**
- 8** **Small-scale organic farming**
- 14** **Sustainable land and water management for secure tenure rights**
- 20** **Integrated crop and livestock farming**
- 24** **Legal assistance for land regularisation**
- 30** **Sustainable eco-tourism partnerships**



WELCOME TO THE STRONG SMALL-SCALE FARMING SYSTEMS TOOLKIT!

This toolkit gathers together information on six tools that have been successfully used by members of the International Land Coalition (ILC) to ensure equitable land distribution and public investment that supports small-scale farming systems. This is done through redistributive agrarian reforms that counter excessive land concentration, provide for secure and equitable use and control of land, and allocate appropriate land to landless rural producers and urban residents, while supporting smallholders as investors and producers, such as through cooperative and partnership business models.

It is intended to facilitate mutual learning based on the good practices of specific ILC members. The opportunity to share knowledge is one of the main benefits of being part of a network like ILC. Use these tools, adapt them to your specific context, share them with your partner organisations, and share with us your achievements and successes!

WHAT IS THIS TOOLKIT FOR?

This toolkit aims to provide information on a range of tools that are intended to be effective at global, national, and community levels, depending on their features. One of the main characteristics of the tools is their adaptability to different contexts and areas of work. ILC has aimed for these tools to be clear, replicable, and, above all, useful in ensuring equitable land distribution and supporting small-scale farming systems. This toolkit contributes to knowledge exchange within ILC's membership.

WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THIS TOOLKIT?

The tools presented in this toolkit have been either developed or implemented by ILC members. [The Database of Good Practices](#) gathers the good practices shared by ILC members and partners around the 10 ILC commitments for people-centred land governance. It also includes good practices developed and implemented to support small-scale farming systems. This toolkit is the result of an analysis of these good practices to extract information about six tools from eight good practices, selected for inclusion in this toolkit by using replicability as the key criterion.

ILC supports the Decade of Family Farming through global and regional initiatives led by the World Rural Forum (WRF), Red Nacional de Agricultura Familiar (RENAF), AirNow, Asian Farmers' Association For Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), and Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA).

HOW TO USE THE TOOLKIT?

Each section describes the characteristics of each tool, its goal, the actors involved, the ILC members that have used it, the expected outcomes of using the tool, and a step-by-step practical guide to implementation. The case studies at the end of each section summarise aspects of good practice connected with the tool's use by ILC members. Tools can be adapted to different contexts or needs. By using the links available, it is possible to access more information about each tool and to get in touch with the ILC members that have used it.

SMALL-SCALE LAND REFORM

THE TOOL

Small-scale land reform promotes an alternative mechanism for tackling unfair land distribution and enables new small-scale farmers to enter the agricultural sector. Using a rights-based approach, the tool provides a legal basis for challenging land concentration and unfair land distribution, and provides small-scale farmers with an opportunity to engage local government and national land agencies to design a more efficient and equitable land redistribution process.

ITS GOALS

- Strengthening **access to land and natural resources** for peasants, farm workers, and small-scale farmers
- Equitable **land redistribution**
- Creating **participatory land maps**
- Mobilising **institutional support** for small-scale farmers and participatory development of **small-scale land reform policy**
- Creating **appropriate legislative and administrative provisions** for **land registration and conflict resolution**

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Secure land title for small-scale farmers, farm workers, and peasant farmers
- Design and implementation of an equitable small-scale land reform policy
- Secure livelihoods for small-scale farmers, peasant farmers, and farm workers
- Enhanced collaboration between local and national government and small-scale farmers

ACTORS INVOLVED

Peasant farmers, small-scale farmers, local government, national land agencies, civil society organisations (CSOs), human rights commissions.

Already tested by:

KPA (Indonesia)
www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/asia/member/kpa

MORE INFORMATION

“Agrarian conflict settled through small-scale land reform”
www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/asia/goodpractice/agrarian-conflict-settled-through-small-scale-land-reform

KPA. Desa Maju Reforma Agraria (in Bahasa).
<http://kpa.or.id/menu/damara/>

HOW IT WORKS

The equitable redistribution of land to farm workers, small-scale farmers, and peasant farmers ensures the effective use of land and natural resources and protects the land rights, incomes, and livelihoods of beneficiaries of the reform.

SMALL-SCALE LAND REFORM: STEP-BY-STEP

1. COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

The community is sensitised about their rights, including their rights to access to land and options for enforcing these rights. In the process, the community is mobilised to enforce their land rights, especially in the case of a threat from the state or a large company, which often has more power and influence than peasant and small-scale farmers.

Trainings and community workshops are used to sensitise landless farmers about their roles as agents of policy change and land reform. Local farmers' unions and community leaders are also trained on their rights and roles.

2. DISCUSSION GROUPS

Intensive discussion groups are set up to enable dialogue between different stakeholders. The discussion groups also include local government representatives who are responsible for land administration, thus offering them an opportunity to engage with peasant farmers and understand their plight. The discussion groups provide a platform for landless peasants to plan and strategise how they can enforce their land rights, encouraging bottom-up solutions that influence land policies. Most importantly, the intensive discussion groups give the stakeholders space to formulate a small-scale land redistribution programme.

Farm labour movements and unions consisting of farm or plantation workers, who are often landless and poor, are important partners in advocacy for small-scale land reforms.

CONT.

3. PARTICIPATORY LAND MAPPING

Peasant farmers, farmers' unions, and community members work together to map the land that they use for their sustenance. Participatory mapping combines the tools of modern cartography with participatory methods to represent the spatial knowledge of local communities, thus reproducing a distinct social and cultural landscape that is normally excluded from mainstream or official maps. Data can be compiled via questionnaires, surveys, and interviews with local farmers.

The land maps that are created are used to support legal cases in courts of law or before committees or commissions with adjudicatory power. They can also be used to support an advocacy campaign for small-scale land reform.

4. ADVOCACY FOR POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Advocacy for policy change is all about collecting and using data to effectively communicate with policy makers, educating them on the importance of the change for beneficiaries of the policy reform. It also presents an opportunity to merge different and collective actions such as demonstrations, mediation, meetings with government officials, and negotiations. As such, relevant policy makers are engaged using the land maps to illustrate the implications of policies that are currently in place.

An advocacy campaign can highlight the importance of sub-dividing land for purposes of small-scale land redistribution, as opposed to the redistribution of large commercial farms as single operations, thus limiting the number of beneficiaries.

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: THE EXPERIENCE OF KPA

Competing pressures for land and natural resources and the lack of a coherent legal framework to promote small-scale farming initiatives have led to land conflicts, criminalisation of indigenous peoples' land tenure systems, and environmental degradation in Indonesia. KPA has worked with small-scale farmers, landless peasants, and farm workers' unions in partnership with the National Land Agency and local government to tackle unfair land distribution and its effects on the livelihoods of small-scale and landless farmers.

When the tea farming concession held by PT Sari Bumi Kawi Company expired, the peasants and small-scale farming communities of Kulon Bambang organised themselves into peasant movements that would occupy and cultivate disputed and unused land. After 12 years of occupying the land without legal rights, the land occupants saw an opportunity to campaign for an equitable and fair small-scale land reform. To initiate the process, KPA worked with peasants and former farm workers to map out the land that they had occupied. The land maps were later used to prove to the National Land Agency and local government that former farm workers and landless peasants would benefit from a small-scale land reform process.

On the strength of its engagements with all stakeholders, and with consensus as a key criterion, KPA launched an intensive discussion group, involving peasants, farm workers' unions, the National Land Agency, and the local government, to formulate a small-scale land redistribution programme.

On the recommendation of the Regent of Blitar, the National Land Agency expropriated 280 hectares of the former plantation and declared it the object of a small-scale land reform programme. Coupled with a Court of Land Reform judgement in favour of the farmers, it was able to parcel and register the land. As a result, 255 of the 280 hectares were registered in favour of small-scale farmers.

As a follow-up to the land registration process, KPA has introduced an advanced family farming strategy called Desa Maju Reforma Agraria (Damara). Damara is based on the principles of equitable land ownership at village level, participatory land use planning, inclusive land governance, and management of the production and distribution of villages' agricultural produce. The strategy has been recognised in Indonesia as a best practice in land rights advocacy work at village or grassroots level.

SMALL-SCALE ORGANIC FARMING

THE TOOL

Small-scale organic farming is used to strengthen farming initiatives of small-scale farmers by introducing chemical-free farming practices that improve soil and food quality. It is also used to resist the expansion of large-scale monoculture farming, allowing small-scale farmers to diversify their incomes and improve land fertility and their food and nutrition security.

ITS GOALS

- Enhanced **soil quality** through the use of **organic farming methods**
- Increased **agricultural productivity** and **family incomes** of small-scale farmers
- Sustainable **natural ecosystem management**
- Strengthened **land rights for small-scale farming indigenous communities**
- Explore **alternatives to large-scale monoculture farming**

Already tested by:

SARRA (India)
www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/asia/member/sarra

Trócaire (Guatemala)
<http://www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/global/member/trocaire>

MORE INFORMATION

"Natural farming technology strengthens food security of land reform beneficiaries"

www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/asia/goodpractice/natural-farming-technology-strengthens-food-security-land-reform-beneficiaries

"Negotiation of communal land ownership of an abandoned coffee plantation"

www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/latin-america-caribbean/goodpractice/negotiation-communal-land-ownership-abandoned-coffee-plantation

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Natural ecosystem management through the integration of organic farming
- Community-led land use planning
- Small-scale commercial farming initiatives
- Secure access to land for small-scale farmers

HOW IT WORKS

Small-scale farmers are assisted to secure their land rights and commence organic farming as a healthy and environmentally friendly alternative to monoculture or chemical-based farming.

SMALL-SCALE ORGANIC FARMING: STEP-BY-STEP

1. SECURING LAND RIGHTS OF RESETTLED FARMERS

Prior to investing in the rehabilitation of land, it is important to secure the land rights of the small-scale farmers who will participate in the programme. This may include negotiating with the government to give financial assistance to small-scale farmers and ensuring that they have land titles.

To meet both the household and small-scale commercial farming needs of the community, plots are distributed to families to grow food for their domestic consumption, and communal areas are jointly managed by community members. They practise organic farming for conservation and reforestation and to trade their organic agricultural produce.

It is important to note that using organic methods aims to improve soil quality for the future; as such, it is important to ascertain that communities will benefit from the change over time. Security of land tenure is, therefore, a prerequisite for a small-scale organic farming initiative, giving farmers an incentive to invest in programmes that will only bring them income in the future, rather than immediate rewards.

2. RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT ORGANIC FARMING

Once the organic farming method is defined, it is important to obtain the buy-in of local farmers. Farmers' concerns may include plant growth and health, and resistance to pests and plant diseases. It is essential to make sure that the identified organic farming method addresses these concerns.

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: THE EXPERIENCE OF SARRA



3. TRAINING OF TRAINERS AND UPSCALING OF ORGANIC FARMING

All participating small-scale farmers are trained on organic farming technologies that will be used by the broader farming community, through demonstrations and management of a training unit. The trained community members are then tasked to work with the rest of the community to transfer their new knowledge and practise organic farming.

It is essential to have a system for monitoring farmers' progress. Through this process, all the farmers' technical needs are identified in order to provide adequate assistance.

4. ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

Organic certification authenticates that the production line is health-, consumer- and environmentally friendly, with no use of chemical fertilisers, synthetic pesticides, hormones, or antibiotics. With a growing demand for organic food, third-party organic certification allows farmers to establish a long-term and sustainable reach to a wider health - and environmentally conscious market.

In India, land reform beneficiaries faced difficulties in adopting conventional farming processes due to their prohibitive costs. Furthermore, excessive use of chemicals had resulted in soil infertility due to the reduction of the soil's microbial population, leading to reduced production for small-scale farmers. To remedy this problem, SARRA started working with small-scale and family farmers to practise organic farming.

SARRA introduced a natural farming technology that uses lactic acid bacteria serum (LABS) to enhance soil fertility, protect crops against disease, and enrich compost. It can also be used to fortify water for livestock (cows, goats, pigs, and chickens) and humans too. Lactic acid bacteria (LAB) are anaerobic micro-organisms that, in the absence of oxygen, break sugar down into lactic acid, and aerate soil when applied to it.

To create LAB, rice water is mixed with unpasteurised milk in a clay or glass container and is allowed to ferment over a period of seven days. A light yellow liquid, which is the serum, collects in the middle part of the container, covered by a white layer on top. The serum is then strained and stored in a cool place. It can be added to water to enhance digestive processes in livestock, and is mixed with compost to enhance fermentation while also preventing decay.

Small-scale farmers who have adopted the LABS technology have reduced their production costs and have increased their output, self-sufficiency, and incomes. The use of LABS has also improved the productivity of homestead plots through an initiative called FAITH (Food Always In The Home) Gardens, securing livelihoods and incomes and providing food and nutritional security at family and community levels.



FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: THE EXPERIENCE OF TROCAIRE

In Guatemala, 80 family farmers and former farm labour tenants peacefully occupied a 400-hectare coffee plantation in Quetzaltenango that had been abandoned and was unproductive. After negotiations with the government for communal ownership, the farmers received legal title over the land on condition that they would rehabilitate the plantation and the local economy.

Once their land rights were secured, the community of La Florida divided the land into communal areas for the commercial production of organic coffee, banana, and macadamia; private plots assigned to each family to grow food for private consumption; and communal areas for conservation and reforestation. The plantation's cash crop, coffee, is cultivated exclusively on the communal areas of the Finca La Florida. As a result, the small-scale farmers are producing an average of 5 tonnes of organic coffee per year, 3.5 tonnes of banana per week, and 75% of the food consumed by their own families.

With organic certification by Mayacert, the Finca La Florida cooperative has been selling its organic coffee at local and international trade fair markets through networks of local peasant and indigenous producers that promote the commercialisation and sale of agro-ecological products.



SUSTAINABLE LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT FOR SECURE TENURE RIGHTS

THE TOOL

Sustainable land and water management secures land and water tenure by recognising the intrinsic link between the two, thereby ensuring that both resources are used more efficiently. Better management of land and water encourages small-scale farmers to adopt long-term farming perspectives, providing their families with sustainable incomes and improved livelihoods.

ITS GOALS

- Strengthen **rights to land and access to land and water**
- Develop and **manage water and irrigation infrastructure**
- Build and strengthen **local capacity to manage water bodies and irrigation infrastructure**
- **Reduce agricultural and economic shocks** caused by irregular rain patterns
- Establish **dispute resolution forums**

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Access to irrigated land for small-scale farmers
- Secure livelihoods for small-scale farmers
- Better management of land and water bodies

ACTORS INVOLVED

Small-scale farmers, local government, inter-governmental organisations (IGOs), traditional leaders and community leaders.

Already tested by:

IFAD (Senegal and Mauritania)
www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/global/member/ifad

MORE INFORMATION

“Securing Land Tenure in Senegal”

www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/global/goodpractice/securing-land-tenure-senegal

“Inclusive land and water governance in Mauritania”

www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/africa/goodpractice/inclusive-land-and-water-governance-mauritania

HOW IT WORKS

Irrigated land is distributed to small-scale farmers on a “one hectare, one household” basis, while ensuring that they have the necessary technical skills to manage irrigation systems. The community governance structure is capacitated to regulate the rights and responsibilities of community members, ensuring that youth, women, and the elderly have access to irrigated land.

SUSTAINABLE LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT: STEP-BY STEP

1. PREPARATORY PHASE AND COMMUNITY CONSENSUS

The community is engaged to gain insight on their agricultural practices, irrigation infrastructure needs, and their traditional land tenure systems. In order to enhance broader decision making, community leaders and village chiefs are also consulted. At the same time, this is an opportunity to conduct a feasibility study, determining areas to be irrigated, water sources, and potential beneficiaries.

Based on the engagement, community consensus is sought to install the irrigation system, paying particular attention to the three main physical resources of land, water, and irrigation infrastructure.

Some traditional communities observe patrilineal and caste-based land tenure systems, which bestow land rights on males and on a class basis, giving them the exclusive discretion to allocate land to anyone else.

2. SOCIO-LAND TENURE SURVEY

The socio-land tenure survey determines the laws and by-laws regulating the creation of water infrastructure (e.g. through permits for digging wells) and their land tenure implications; determines the nature, content, and duration of property rights over land, water, and water infrastructure; establishes systems for recording those rights; creates institutions and processes for resource management; and provides forums for the settlement of disputes.

Furthermore, the survey assists to identify, by village and extended family, all rights holders, both strong and weak; all the land owners and tenants; and all the different land categories. The survey provides more precise data on the location of plots, based on geographical features and approximate areas of the fields.

In patrilineal communities or communities that observe a class-based allocation of land rights, such rights may vary according to the status of the community member, with some having land use rights allocated by the traditionally recognised land owner.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF LAND GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS

A national coordination council (NCC) is set up with the mandate to facilitate negotiations between community representatives and the state, and to defend the interests of beneficiaries in the drafting and signing of contracts. At community level, village development committees (VDCs) are set up, with representatives being selected during village assemblies.

The NCC and VDCs are also tasked with developing a draft land use agreement, highlighting the rights and responsibilities of the beneficiaries of the irrigation system. The draft agreement will be used as a basis for negotiations with community members.

A dispute resolution mechanism is set up, tasked with the resolution of land tenure and irrigation use disputes and disputes arising from land use contracts. A communal land office can be assigned as an appellate body, with cases being referred to a court when all alternative dispute resolution channels are exhausted.

4. WRITTEN AGREEMENTS


Written agreements are signed, in which all parties commit to providing landless and vulnerable community members with secure access to land through long-term tenancy agreements. These tripartite agreements, signed by the local government, land owners, and community beneficiaries, serve as a legal basis for the installation of irrigation infrastructure in the community.

Special attention is given to gender mainstreaming, and women, youth, and the elderly are prioritised as beneficiaries. Based on the socio-economic challenges that women face, women's groups may be given irrigated gardens to supplement their families' nutritional needs.

5. LIGHT CONSTRUCTION WORK AND RULES FOR COMMUNAL USE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

A construction company can be engaged to carry out the heavy infrastructure work, but farmers should receive training on the operation and maintenance of water supply infrastructure, and are assisted to establish rules for communal use of the irrigation system.

The rules for use aim to maximise benefits to the broader community by addressing the multiple agricultural water needs of rural communities, including agricultural purposes, homestead gardening, animal water, and the management of dipping tanks.




FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: THE EXPERIENCE OF IFAD IN SENEGAL

IFAD's PRODAM agricultural development project, in the Matam region of Senegal on the border with Mauritania, has contributed to securing land and water tenure by supporting the "one household, one hectare" principle in the allocation of land in village irrigation schemes.

The project area consisted of rural households practising agriculture, livestock production, and, less often, river fishing. In many communities, rural hierarchies are based on family lineage, religion, and political party membership, and these rural governance structures dominate and control access to and rights over natural resources. A dramatic decline in rainfall (from 496mm to 250mm annually) and changes in the flood pattern of the Senegal River had increased economic insecurity and poverty for families living in this area.

PRODAM facilitated the redistribution of land amongst all the families living in each village. Each household received one irrigated plot of up to one hectare, with the actual size calculated on the basis of the household's operating capacity. The process was led by chiefs and facilitated by committees of elders, with support from the project.

More than 3,000 hectares of land were rehabilitated by PRODAM, of which 100 hectares were set aside for women's groups. On average, households managed to quadruple the size of the plot they used for agricultural production, due to improved access to water. Not only did the project help to improve the land tenure security of more vulnerable groups, namely women, returning refugees, and dispossessed people; it also indirectly succeeded in enabling them to participate in broader decision-making processes.



FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: THE EXPERIENCE OF IFAD IN MAURITANIA

IFAD worked with local communities in Mauritania to strengthen their access to flood recession land along the Senegal River valley, an area characterised by a semi-arid Sahelian climate and low but highly variable rainfall. The river constitutes an essential resource for the livelihoods of local communities that practise farming, fishing, and livestock rearing. Access to the Walo (flood recession farming area) is in high demand among community members as it offers the highest potential for increased incomes.

In Mauritania, for many community members the complex land tenure system constitutes a threat to their access to essential agricultural resources. The vast majority of the population live according to customary law, which recognises males as land owners and bestows upon them the power to exercise their discretion in land allocations and the responsibility to ensure that all members of the community have access to land. The land tenure system distinguishes between "strong statuses" (dieye and diengue) and "weak statuses" (loubal, rempetienne, ndiouldy). Community members with a strong status have the power to distribute land to people of a lower caste. The recipients of the land have to pay assakal (tithes) to the lineage which owns the property, by entering into sharecropping contracts and giving part of their crops in exchange for the use of Walo land.

To ensure that vulnerable community members have access to irrigated land, IFAD's PACDM project (Projet d'amélioration des cultures de décrue à Maghama) facilitated the installation of irrigation systems, prioritising effective land and water governance and the creation and regulation of the use of water infrastructure. It also focused on land tenure by determining the nature, content, and duration of property rights over land, water, and water infrastructure, establishing systems for recording those rights, creating institutions and processes for resource management, and providing forums for the settlement of disputes.

In order to develop the water infrastructure, land owners had to sign ententes foncières (land distribution agreements) that would govern land allocations. The ententes foncières have contributed to the elimination of the ndiouldy and rempetienne practices that required lower-status people to pay assakal to land owners and to develop the allocated Walo land. Overall, the project has helped give landless people secure access to land and clearly defined land rights.

INTEGRATED CROP AND LIVESTOCK FARMING

THE TOOL

Integrated crop and livestock farming integrates cropping with livestock farming by allowing interactions between spatial and temporal crop and pastoral land use systems. The tool presents small-scale farmers with an opportunity to form agro-pastoral farming alliances as an alternative conflict management (ACM) strategy for resolving land use conflicts between crop farmers and pastoralists.

ITS GOALS

- Strengthened **alternative conflict management mechanism**
- Mutually beneficial **community land use planning** between small-scale crop farmers and pastoralists
- Creation of **dialogue platforms** (DPs) as part of the ACM mechanism
- Strengthened **natural ecosystem management**

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Natural ecosystem management through an integrated crop and livestock farming system
- Community-led land use planning
- Secure access to land for crop farmers and pastoralists
- Implementation of an alternative conflict management mechanism

ACTORS INVOLVED

Small-scale crop farmers, pastoralists, local NGOs, community members.

Already tested by:

MBOSCUA (Cameroon)

www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/africa/member/mboscuda

MORE INFORMATION

"Agro-pastoral farming alliance in Cameroon"

www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/africa/goodpractice/agro-pastoral-farming-alliance-cameroon

HOW IT WORKS

Conflicting land users use dialogue platforms to negotiate farming alliance agreements that encourage natural ecosystem management through the integration of crop and livestock farming.

INTEGRATED CROP AND LIVESTOCK FARMING: STEP-BY STEP

1. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND SENSITISATION

Communities are consulted on the potential causes of land conflicts, and are encouraged to develop their own solutions. They are also advised about other available options for resolving conflicts, including courts and traditional authorities. They are also advised about the community-based alternative conflict management mechanism.

Through this process, community assemblies brainstorm on the procedures of each institution including the proposed ACM approach, highlighting the pros and cons of each. ACM is promoted as a reliable, people-centred, and cost- and time-effective procedure that prioritises the needs of all the parties involved. The ACM approach is generally accepted because it prioritises win-win solutions that are acceptable to all parties.

2. INTRODUCTION OF INTEGRATED CROP AND LIVESTOCK FARMING

As part of the ACM, integrated crop and livestock farming is introduced as a viable alternative land use plan that is mutually beneficial to crop farmers and pastoralists. Not only does the integration of the two systems help to keep the land fertile; it provides fodder for livestock and assists in resolving land use conflicts within the community.

Community members are introduced to integrated crop and livestock farming practices which encourage crop/livestock interactions in spatial and temporal land use planning. Communities are taught how dry crop matter that is used as forage for livestock, and livestock manure is used to fertilise the soil by increasing its microbial biomass and organic matter, resulting in higher production for both farmers and pastoralists.

CONT.

3. ESTABLISHMENT AND TRAINING OF DISPUTE PLATFORMS (DPs)

DPs are an essential part of the ACM as they provide a dispute resolution mechanism constituted by the community. The community defines a set criteria to select people who will be trained as mediators. Experts are brought in to train the DP members on basic conflict management and mediation skills. The trained DP members are then presented to the community in an open ceremony. To legitimise them, they are also presented to key stakeholders, such as chiefs, traditional leaders, and municipal councillors who manage the community's natural resources.

4. RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS BY DP MEMBERS

When a dispute arises between a crop farmer and a pastoralist, the DP has jurisdiction to adjudicate on the matter. It encourages the conflicting parties to take a lead in the negotiation process themselves by engaging in positive dialogue, while DP members play a facilitation and reconciliatory role. The DP does not usurp the functions of local courts, but rather presents the community with a speedy alternative and a community-led dispute resolution mechanism. In all cases, DP members encourage settlements that are amicable and mutually beneficial.

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: THE EXPERIENCE OF MBOSCUDA



In the Northwest Region of Cameroon, subsistence crop farmers and pastoralists live side by side and share natural resources such as land, water, and pastures for their livelihoods. However, improper land use planning often results in land conflicts that lead to the loss of lives, destruction of property, and deterioration of the relationship between farmers and grazers.

MBOSCUDA has worked with farmers and pastoralists to strengthen small-scale farming in the Bamenda area. Through their joint efforts, MBOSCUDA and community members have created and implemented an integrated livestock and arable farming strategy that allows interactions between spatial and temporal crop and pastoral land use systems. Through the integrated land use plan, crop farmers have access to land during the crop season, and during the fallow season pastoralists have access to the same land. Dry crop matter is used as forage for livestock, while livestock manure is used to fertilise the soil by increasing its microbial biomass and organic matter, resulting in higher production for both farmers and pastoralists.

The integrated farming system is accompanied by an ACM mechanism that prioritises positive dialogue, mutually beneficial agreements, and time- and cost-effectiveness. MBOSCUDA has worked with local farmers and pastoralists to set up DPs and to select men and women to facilitate them, and has trained these DP members in conflict management, mediation, and negotiation skills. It has also engaged local farmers and pastoralists on the advantages of a community-led ACM.

Armed with their new skills, the DPs have resolved 85% of local farmer-pastoralist conflicts, and small-scale farmers and pastoralists have seasonal access to land through the integrated crop and livestock farming system.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR LAND REGULARISATION

THE TOOL

Providing small-scale farmers with **technical and legal assistance** for land regularisation assists them to register and secure their land rights. The tool also prioritises peasant and small-scale farmers' access to information on their rights, including their capacities to engage in legal processes for land regularisation and titling, and access to micro-credit.

ITS GOALS

- Increase **land tenure security** by providing **land title to small-scale and subsistence farmers**
- Support the **identification, negotiation, purchase, and registration of land title** in favour of peasants and rural wage earners
- Review technical, legal, and organisational **land registration processes**
- Strengthen **administrative efficiency** of land registration offices

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Documented land rights
- Reliable land registry
- Certainty about land rights
- Increase in land-based investments
- Reduced number of litigated land disputes and land disputes in general

Already tested by:

NITLAPAN (Nicaragua)

www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/latin-america-caribbean/member/nitlapan

MORE INFORMATION

"Network of legal services facilitated the legalization of 3353 rural properties"

www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/latin-america-caribbean/goodpractice/network-legal-services-facilitated-legalization-3353-rural-properties

HOW IT WORKS

The tool assists informal or illegal occupants of land to legalise their occupation of the land by giving them land title.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR LAND REGULARISATION: STEP-BY-STEP

1. PREPARATORY PHASE AND COMMUNITY CONSENSUS

The community is engaged to gain insight on their agricultural practices, irrigation infrastructure needs, and their traditional land tenure systems. In order to enhance broader decision making, community leaders and village chiefs are also consulted. At the same time, this is an opportunity to conduct a feasibility study, determining areas to be irrigated, water sources, and potential beneficiaries.

Based on the engagement, community consensus is sought to install the irrigation system, paying particular attention to the three main physical resources of land, water, and irrigation infrastructure.

Some traditional communities observe patrilineal and caste-based land tenure systems, which bestow land rights on males and on a class basis, giving them the exclusive discretion to allocate land to anyone else.

2. SOCIO-LAND TENURE SURVEY

The socio-land tenure survey determines the laws and by-laws regulating the creation of water infrastructure (e.g. through permits for digging wells) and their land tenure implications; determines the nature, content, and duration of property rights over land, water, and water infrastructure; establishes systems for recording those rights; creates institutions and processes for resource management; and provides forums for the settlement of disputes.

Furthermore, the survey assists to identify, by village and extended family, all rights holders, both strong and weak; all the land owners and tenants; and all the different land categories. The survey provides more precise data on the location of plots, based on geographical features and approximate areas of the fields.

In patrilineal communities or communities that observe a class-based allocation of land rights, such rights may vary according to the status of the community member, with some having land use rights allocated by the traditionally recognised land owner.

CONT.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF LAND GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS

A national coordination council (NCC) is set up with the mandate to facilitate negotiations between community representatives and the state, and to defend the interests of beneficiaries in the drafting and signing of contracts. At community level, village development committees (VDCs) are set up, with representatives being selected during village assemblies.

The NCC and VDCs are also tasked with developing a draft land use agreement, highlighting the rights and responsibilities of the beneficiaries of the irrigation system. The draft agreement will be used as a basis for negotiations with community members.

A dispute resolution mechanism is set up, tasked with the resolution of land tenure and irrigation use disputes and disputes arising from land use contracts. A communal land office can be assigned as an appellate body, with cases being referred to a court when all alternative dispute resolution channels are exhausted.

4. WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

Written agreements are signed, in which all parties commit to providing landless and vulnerable community members with secure access to land through long-term tenancy agreements. These tripartite agreements, signed by the local government, land owners, and community beneficiaries, serve as a legal basis for the installation of irrigation infrastructure in the community.

Special attention is given to gender mainstreaming, and women, youth, and the elderly are prioritised as beneficiaries. Based on the socio-economic challenges that women face, women's groups may be given irrigated gardens to supplement their families' nutritional needs.

5. LIGHT CONSTRUCTION WORK AND RULES FOR COMMUNAL USE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

A construction company can be engaged to carry out the heavy infrastructure work, but farmers should receive training on the operation and maintenance of water supply infrastructure, and are assisted to establish rules for communal use of the irrigation system.

The rules for use aim to maximise benefits to the broader community by addressing the multiple agricultural water needs of rural communities, including agricultural purposes, homestead gardening, animal water, and the management of dipping tanks.

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: THE EXPERIENCE OF NITLAPAN

In Nicaragua, the agrarian reform of the 1980s left some 50,000 rural people without adequate land title. With a change of government in 1990 new laws were introduced, creating institutions to review the process of land reform, establishing compensation mechanisms for those affected by expropriation of their lands, and returning lands to their former owners. Despite new laws being in place, however, many confiscations, expropriations, and land reversions had taken place outside the legal system and without updating the cadastre and land registries. As a consequence, the land registry was outdated and the legal security and rights of land owners were uncertain.

The Programa de Servicios Legales Rurales (PSL) introduced by Nitlapan-UCA established a national network of lawyers and specialists in land regularisation, offering technical and legal assistance to small-scale farmers who had no formal land title. The programme created alliances with local leaders, whose knowledge of local issues made them key players in identifying potential beneficiaries among small-scale farmers and peasants.

The broader programme sought to promote access to credit for the purchase of land by peasants and rural wage earners. NITLAPAN and the PLS group conducted trainings and designed models to support short- and long-term financial services to rural farmers. Services pertaining to access to credit included legal advice necessary for the granting of loans, formalisation of financial operations, mortgages and their cancellation, and training and education of communities on rights issues. NITLAPAN also incorporated a network of 25 rural municipal offices to expand the programme and to register and secure more land rights. Furthermore, it facilitated the identification, negotiation, registration, and, in some cases, purchase of land for small-scale farmers and rural workers.

As a result of the project, NITLAPAN managed to register 3,353 rural property titles, with 46% of the titles registered in favour of women, 53% in favour of men, and 1% held under joint ownership. The beneficiaries also gained access to short- and long-term financing and to support to integrate them into the economic and productive sector. In addition, the programme trained 1,056 producers on civil and property laws affecting their land rights.

SUSTAINABLE ECO-TOURISM PARTNERSHIPS

THE TOOL

Community-led sustainable eco-tourism partnerships based on family farming and established by local small-scale farmers and pastoralists provides them with alternative land use strategies and family incomes, thereby preventing emigration to other parts of the country. Small-scale farmers and pastoralists who manage an eco-tourism partnership offer guests an experience of traditional village life along with guided tours, and promote sustainable ecosystem management.

ITS GOALS

- Strengthen **alternative land use and management**
- Increase family **incomes** and strengthen **livelihoods**
- Revive and strengthen **traditional land use practices**
- Revive and strengthen **traditional economic activities**
- Encourage **exchanges of traditional knowledge and culture** through tourism
- Create an **international audience to support communities' struggle for customary land rights and sustainable traditional land management**
- Create **economic opportunities for small-scale family farming**

ACTORS INVOLVED

CSOs, local family farming communities.

Already tested by:

Dana and Qadisiyah Local Community Cooperative (DQLCC) (Jordan)
www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/europe/member/dqlcc

MORE INFORMATION

“Sustainable tourism partnership with local farmers strengthens family incomes”

www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/global/goodpractice/sustainable-tourism-partnership-local-farmers-strengthens-family-incomes

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Alternative land use and management
- Small-scale traditional family farming practices
- Eco-friendly farming
- Economic opportunities for small-scale farmers, pastoralists, youth, and women
- Diversification of local incomes

HOW IT WORKS

Eco-tourism partnerships allow small-scale family farmers and pastoralists to showcase their traditional lifestyles and eco-friendly farming practices to tourists seeking to learn more about their way of life. At the same time, farmers and pastoralists draw an income from the management of an eco-tourism camp.

SUSTAINABLE ECO-TOURISM PARTNERSHIPS: STEP-BY-STEP

1. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

With the assistance of a team of technical experts, the first step is to conduct an assessment of the laws governing land use in the area.

The assessment should also identify potential sites to set up the eco-camp, farming projects by small-scale farmers, the needs of local farmers, and roles to be played by women and youth in the eco-camp. The needs of the community must be ascertained through inclusive processes such as community assemblies, community workshops, and interviews with local family farmers.

2. CREATION OF A MANAGEMENT BOARD

Local family farmers and pastoralists use democratic processes to create a joint management board (JMB) that oversees the day-to-day business of the camp. The board manages the camp based on the community's priorities, traditions, and available resources.

Other important factors to consider include general land use in the area: if there is a land use conflict, the assessment should highlight its causes and any encroachments by the state, private land owners, or nature conservation parks.

CONT.

3. CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

The farmers and pastoralists are trained to meet the needs of the eco-camp, including hotel management skills, customer care, language training, tour guide service training, and eco-friendly farming practices. Tools such as training workshops, computer programs, and experiential exchanges with tourists and visitors can be used to train farmers on the management of the camp.

4. CREATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE ECO-CAMP

The eco-camp is managed in a professional manner, with guest satisfaction, book-keeping, reporting systems, and financial accountability as priorities. Furthermore, local family farmers continue to manage their small-scale farms in an eco-friendly manner, in line with the camp's priorities. This may include nurturing rare species of plants, reducing livestock herds, and planting trees.

Where a community has lost its land through expropriation for the establishment of a conservation park, they can use the remaining land to establish an eco-tourism partnership, offering tourists alternative quality services, while also giving local farmers an opportunity to draw an income from the eco-camp.

When such partnerships include experienced civil society organisations like a community cooperative, the experience of the organisation provides a strong foundation for the partnership work.

5. CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The eco-camp and JMB continue to support the local farming community by creating economic activities such as showcasing crafts to tourists, collecting natural herbs, shepherding, and hiking and mountain guiding. By participating in the camp's activities, the local farming community gains employment and alternative sources of income, while being able to preserve their cultural and traditional farming practices.

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: THE EXPERIENCE OF DQLCC

In Tafila in southern Jordan, the Dana and Qadisiyah communities lost their customary land when the government ruled that it should be turned into a nature reserve. Along with their land, the local community lost traditional income-generating activities such as wood and herb collecting and hunting, and also lost access to pasturelands for their livestock.

Following this ruling, the Dana and Qadisiyah Local Community Cooperative (DQLCC) set up a sustainable tourism partnership with a group of local farmers and pastoralists by establishing a small camp for local and international tourists on the edge of the nature reserve. Although the local community has limited rights of access to its land and no rights of use, management, or alienation, DQLCC has worked to strengthen the livelihoods of community members.

The Wadi Dana Eco-camp, which is working towards eco status, is operated by local people and volunteers, and provides community members with employment and work experience opportunities. A small team of community members provides “hotel services” for guests staying in tents and chalets, offering traditional “village life experiences” and guided hikes, led by shepherds (mainly youths) and farmers.

Eco-tourism is strengthening the livelihoods of the small-scale farmers, promoting a traditional lifestyle, providing an alternative to migration, and promoting improved land and ecosystem management. It also showcases traditional livelihoods, and increases the status of local farmers and pastoralists within their communities and beyond.



READ MORE

Food And Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Family Farming Knowledge Platform

<http://www.fao.org/family-farming/decade/en/>

J.A. Osaba, L. Lorenzo, and L.M. Claps (2017).

Campana global por el Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar.

Case study from the ILC Database of Good Practices (in Spanish). Rome: ILC.

<https://www.landcoalition.org/es/regions/global/goodpractice/campana-global-por-el-ano-internacional-de-la-agricultura-familiar>

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

How to do Engaging with farmers' organizations for more effective smallholder development.

https://www.landcoalition.org/sites/default/files/documents/resources/htdn_fo_web-ifad.pdf

International Land Coalition (ILC)

ILC is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organisations working together to put people at the centre of land governance. The shared goal of ILC's over 250 members is to realise land governance for and with people at country level, responding to the needs and protecting the rights of women, men and communities who live on and from the land.

ILC's Database of Good Practices

We've created a space where land rights practitioners can look for and find inspiration and solutions to the challenges they face on a daily basis. ILC's Database of Good Practices is where you can learn from ILC members and adapt methodologies and tools that we know work!

Visit the Database to learn, share and be inspired!

www.landcoalition.org/good-practices

