



Land tenure and securing access to land for smallholder farms

Promoting inclusive land governance that supports the development of family farms.

Sub-theme factsheet



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BENCHMARKS

Work on this subject area since 1995.

9 countries of operation in 2018: Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Guinée, Laos, Mauritania, Myanmar, Niger, Senegal, Vietnam.

13 projects and consulting missions in 2018.

Fair access to land, managed according to legitimate, effective standards, rules and procedures, is a prerequisite for economic and social development, as well as for peacekeeping. Yet, in a majority of countries, land tenure policies are based on individual, private perceptions of property that ignore the rights of local populations. Changes that are currently underway (demographic growth, liberalisation of economies, massive investment in land, climate change) have deeply impacted land realities in countries, sometimes generating violent conflicts.

To meet these challenges, numerous stakeholders (civil society, local and national authorities and their technical and financial partners) undertake at various levels to promote fairer, more equitable reforms ensuring income for family farms, while at the same time enabling the most strategic ecosystems to be protected. Supporting these stakeholders with the formulation and implementation of responses to deal with these issues is at the heart of GRET's actions.

Methods of intervention

GRET works in partnership with a range of diverse stakeholders, producing quality material on land tenure dynamics and making it available to policy-makers, facilitating and supporting the creation of spaces for debate and networks. GRET supports experimentation of alternative approaches to formalise rights in various territories, to achieve more inclusive land governance, securing access to land and resources for smallholder farms.





GRET's approach

» “In Mauritania, GRET is strengthening communes and local development agents to facilitate consultations at various territorial levels. The objective is to generate a succinct model for development and local agreements on use of space. Participative mapping makes it possible for users to discuss rules on areas of cultivation, corridors for animal mobility and areas for watering and grazing. This approach mobilises users, local authorities and decentralised State technical services”, explains **Iba Mar Faye**, Project manager.

» “Informing debates among land tenure policy stakeholders to promote reforms ensuring fairer access to land in Myanmar can be achieved firstly through production of quality knowledge”, says **Céline Allaverdian**, Project manager. “With a view to this, GRET is conducting extensive research work on land issues in several of the country's regions and on a variety of subjects (resettlement, conflicts, migrations, etc.). In a context where the country is opening up, these studies are essential to support rural populations and inform dialogue with the authorities.”

Key stakeholders' views



“The National Council for Consultation and Cooperation in Rural areas (CNCR) initiated work on land tenure reform in the 1990s in Senegal, with the support of experts such as Jacques Faye. Thanks to its partnership with GRET, the CNCR was able to consolidate this approach, extensively share farmers' proposals for land tenure reform and convey these proposals to the authorities with other civil society stakeholders assembled within CRAFS. This contributed to considerably influencing current land reform processes and the final orientations of the land tenure policy document.” **Nadjirou Sall**, chairperson of the CNCR

“Chaired by AFD and the French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs, the “Land tenure and development” technical committee of the French cooperation has been producing useful references and supporting land tenure policy-makers to promote more inclusive land tenure reforms for more than 20 years. The community of thought made up today of researchers, operators, members of the administration and civil society owes much to the scientific development work conducted by GRET since the creation of the committee in 1996 and to its capacity to foster dialogue and joint work among stakeholders.” **Mathieu Boche**, Agriculture-rural development project team manager with Agence française de développement in Paris and co-chairperson of the Land tenure and development technical committee



SOME REFERENCES

- Comprendre les dynamiques foncières rurales pour appuyer les débats de politique publique en Birmanie, GRET, 2013-2019.
- Guide de sécurisation foncière sur les aménagements hydro-agricoles au Niger, IIED / UICN, Sandrine Vaumourin, 2017.
- Histoires divergentes d'une convergence sous tension – Les réformes foncières vers la propriété privée dans quatre pays du Mékong (Birmanie, Cambodge, Laos et Viêt-Nam), Marie Mellac, Christian Castellanet, Regards sur le foncier n° 1, CTFD, 2015.
- Quelles politiques foncières promouvoir pour sécuriser les agricultures familiales en Afrique?, Amel Benkahla, Aurore Mansion, C2A Brief n° 24, 2016.

Focus on two projects

Terra: Supporting secure access to land for agroecological intensification in rural areas in Senegal

2017-2020 | Budget: 680,000 € | Funding: AFD, CFSI | Partner: FONGS.



The Terra project aims to facilitate agroecological transition for the members of a national farmers' organisation in 3 communes in the groundnut basin in Senegal. It intends to provide support and advice on agroecological farming practices and securing the rights on which these are based, in particular through formalisation of local agreements, certificates issued by local authorities and agreements within families.



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MRLG: Support for land governance in the Mekong region

2014-2022 | Budget: 28 M€ | Funding: SDC, BMZ, Luxembourg development cooperation | Partner: LEI.



GRET supports the emergence of more inclusive and sustainable land tenure policies in 4 countries in the Mekong region (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam). The project, which was launched in 2013 for 8 years, works at various levels (local, regional, national) using flexible funds provided to coalitions of key land tenure policy reform stakeholders to produce knowledge, hold discussions and develop common references.

2019. Photos: © GRET.

GRET

GRET is an international fair development NGO that has been actively fighting poverty and inequalities for 40 years in the field and at political level. For more information on GRET's activities in the area of “Land tenure and securing access to land for smallholder farms”: www.gret.org/themes/agriculture-en/