



COMMITMENT 2



LEARN, SHARE AND BE INSPIRED

LEARNING FROM ILC DATABASE OF GOOD PRACTICES

INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION

**STRONG SMALL-SCALE
FARMING SYSTEMS**

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STRONG SMALL-SCALE FARMING SYSTEMS

ILC's **Commitment 2** seeks to ensure equitable land distribution and public investment that supports small-scale farming systems. **ILC's Database of Good Practices** provides concrete examples and guidance to Coalition members and partners on how to achieve this commitment.

What processes, tools, and methods have ILC members successfully used to overcome some of the challenges they face in supporting small-scale farming systems? Learn about:

ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

How ILC members have created a sustainable tourism partnership to strengthen the land rights of small-scale farmers.

ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNING

How ILC members have held international campaigns and used negotiations to promote small-scale farming systems.

APPLICATION OF LAWS, GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS, AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

How ILC members have used training, technical legal support and engaged quasi-judicial bodies to assist in the application of laws and guidelines, and in strengthening access to justice for small-scale farmers.

LAND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

How ILC members have implemented small-scale land reforms as a tool for resolving land conflict in favour of small-scale farmers.

PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

How ILC members have developed and implemented an organic farming project to rehabilitate land for the benefit of local community farmers.

ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

▶ The creation of a **sustainable tourism partnership** with a local farming community can strengthen the livelihoods and incomes of small-scale and family farmers. In **Jordan**, **DQLCC (C0130)** partnered with local farmers who lost their land to a newly designated natural reserve, to improve their family incomes. They promoted the tradition, culture and lifestyle of small-scale and family farmers to visitors and tourists who stayed at the small camp they established. DQLCC worked with the local farming community to create a community-ran tourism camp, providing an alternative to the camping and hiking facilities operated by the reserve management. DQLCC and local farmers worked together to create a joint management board that oversees the camp and ensures its professional management. They also supported women's income streams by promoting their craft and food as part of cultural exchanges with tourists, and encouraged local participation in the management of the camp. DQLCC used capacity building and experiential exchange with the tourists to promote the camp and lifestyle of the Dana and Qadisiyah communities, and to showcase their traditional eco-friendly land-based economic activities that include farming, shepherding, and the collection and use of herbs. The Dana

and Qadisiyah communities are able to sustainably manage the tourist camp, and promote their small-scale farming initiatives to an international audience.

▶ **Participatory community planning** is instrumental to the preparation of comprehensive and sustainable community development plans that enhance agricultural productivity. In **Bolivia**, with the support of **CERDET (C0111)**, in the community of Timboy Tiguasu, indigenous farmers carried out a participatory assessment, that in turn informed their community development plan. They described the community on social, economic, production and land rights levels in order to shape the community development roadmap. As part of this exercise, it became apparent that the community wanted to protect their communal land rights in order to strengthen their agricultural productivity. The community's priorities were cultivating corn, peanuts and vegetables, and raising pigs, sheep and cows. Thanks to a clearer vision of the community's needs, resources and aspirations, engaging in agricultural production and welfare initiatives became possible. In addition, the government granted the community legal personality, recognised communal land rights and the community development plan.

ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNING

► **Advocacy and continued negotiation** with the government can influence the government's response to natural disasters that affect small-scale and family farmers. In **India**, the government bears a constitutional obligation to minimise inequality; and a duty to develop and implement disaster preparedness and response plans. This also entails the provision of alternative land for people who cannot afford to purchase it for themselves. **SDF (C0037)** worked with local communities living in flood prone areas to hold peaceful demonstrations to raise awareness of the plight of displaced indigenous small-scale farmers. Through negotiations, they secured temporary relief for 580 families and the long-term relocation of indigenous small-scale farmers and families living in flood-prone areas. As a result, over a two-year period, a total of 100 farmers received land with title deeds in an area less prone to floods, and financial assistance to rebuild their homes.

► **A global campaign for the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF)** promoted family farming as a sustainable model for ending hunger and poverty; ensuring food security and nutrition; and improving livelihoods. The IYFF-2014 reinforced the importance of family farming on the international agenda. To organise an international campaign supported by 350

organisations, across 5 continents, **WRF (C0061)** worked to get consent and support from INGOs, NGOs, family farmers' organisations, rural development organisations, research institutes, IGOs and governments. They held World Conferences on Family Farming to promote the role of family farming in feeding the world and caring for the earth. As a result, in 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a unanimous resolution to declare 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming. After the enormous impact of the International Year in raising awareness and improving public policies focused on family farming, an international campaign to declare the Decade of Family Farming was developed. It was coordinated by the WRF, supported by regional family farmers' organizations together with FAO and IFAD and introduced by the government of Costa Rica. In November 2017, the UN General Assembly declared 2019-2028 as the Decade of Family Farming. The draft resolution was supported by 104 States, highlighting the importance of family farming.

► **Negotiations with the government** for communal ownership of an abandoned plantation can lead to the granting of legal title over the land. As a last resort, and to provide for their families, 50 families and farm labour tenants occupied a 400 hectare abandoned farm in **Guatemala (C0035)**. Following the occupation, **Trocaire** and their partner, SCIDECO assisted the farmers to negotiate with Bancafe, the farm owner and the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry purchased the land on

condition that the farmers would rehabilitate the plantation and the local economy. Once purchased and 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. 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 food consumed by their families.

APPLICATION OF LAWS, GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS, AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

► **Technical support to a government in the application of national policies** can assist in guaranteeing farmers' land rights. In Bangladesh, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (C0087) worked with the government's district and sub-district land offices, and the public extension agency to better align their work with the national policy for the management of state-owned khas land. Public khas land is held by the state in trust for peasants, whose lives depend on agriculture. The land must be allocated to them for free upon application and on condition of utilisation. The procedure for applying for the land was very inefficient

and bureaucratic, to the disadvantage of the landless peasants. With technical support and training from HELVETAS, the land offices were able to expedite the process of granting khas land to eligible landless people. In the Sunamganj District, 10,000 families applied for formal access to khas land, and 3,000 received titled land. Furthermore, in the sub-districts of Derai and Sulla, where HELVETAS worked with the land offices, all applications were processed and families received access to their khas land.

► **Training and capacity building on laws and land rights** strengthens the capacity of CSOs and small-scale farmers that seek to protect land rights through the application of laws. In India, SDDPA (C0038) works with local farmers to ensure the implementation of the Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings Act; a law that aims to ensure equity in land distribution, efficiency in agricultural production for the poor and to facilitate the review of fraudulent land allocations. Through workshops led by legal experts, SDDPA and farmers were taught about land verification and application procedures stated in the Act. On the strength of their newly gained information, the small-scale farmers were able to verify land holdings, and negotiate with the land revenue office to have title over previously idle land that they occupied for 20 years. The small-scale farmers had occupied and nurtured 1,400 acres back to fertility by practising agro-forestry and organic farming. As a result of the implementation of the Act, 370 families received land with title, and continued with their organic dryland farming activities.

COMMITMENT 2 STRONG SMALL-SCALE FARMING SYSTEMS

► **Approaching a quasi-judicial body** like the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) can assist in enforcing the land rights of small-scale farmers and expediting land distribution. Although outlawed by the Prevention of Atrocities Act, and the Feudalism Abolition and Land Reform Act, land rights in **India** are allocated according to a caste system. Small-scale farmers, who often belong to the lower caste, constantly suffer violation of their land rights. **SDF (C0036)** consolidated information on the violations of land rights into a report and sought the assistance of the NHCR to enforce and implement a decision of the Village Council to grant non-transferable land title to the Muhasar people. Based on the duties of the NHRC to ensure equality before the law, SDF managed to challenge the illegal occupation of Muhasar land by the social elite. The NHRC in turn approached the district government to ensure the protection of rights of the small-scale farmers. Consequently, 92 families obtained land title and government sponsored grants to build houses with safe drinking water, toilets, drains, and access to roads and schools.



Land conflict resolution

▶ **Small-scale land reform initiatives** can be used to tackle unfair land distribution, and to secure and protect the land rights of small-scale farmers. In **Indonesia**, **KPA (C0013)** and partnering organisations engaged the National Land Agency and local government on the plight of landlessness caused by unfair land distribution and its effects on small-scale farmers. Landless small-scale farmers organised themselves into peasant movements that would occupy and cultivate disputed and unused land. KPA and its partners worked with local communities to map and measure the disputed land. Thereafter, KPA and the peasant organisations engaged the National Land Agency and the local government to launch an intensive discussion group and formulate a small-scale land redistribution programme. The National Land Agency expropriated 280 hectares of land from a private company, and declared it an object of a small-scale land reform programme. Coupled with a Court of Land Reform Judgement in the small-scale farmers' favour, they were able to parcel and register the land. As a result, 255 of the 280 hectares were registered in favour of small-scale farmers.

PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

▶ **Organic farming projects** can rehabilitate land for small-scale and community farming initiatives for rural populations. **Guatemala** has the highest rate of land inequality, with 60% of agricultural land held by monoculture producers. **CODECA (C0064)** worked with the Monseñor Romero community to develop an organic farming project on their newly received land, that was previously a monoculture plantation. In order to rejuvenate the land, CODECA and the local farmers began farming loroco flower and using organic pest control methods, instead of farming the traditional maize and sesame seeds, and using pesticides. The farmers sell the high valued loroco flower at the market, improving the community's livelihoods and incomes. Inspired by the loroco farming industry in El Salvador, CODECA and the farmers are looking to expand their business to include packaging and value addition, and market expansion.

The ILC **Database of Good Practices** is organised around the **10 commitments for people-centred land governance**. The case studies in the Database provide concrete examples and guidance to the members and partners of ILC on how to achieve each of these commitments.