



# Accelerating the implementation of SDG15 through Women's Land Rights

*"Advancing the 2030 Agenda: Interlinkages and Common Themes at the HLPF 2018"*

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Leveraging the opportunities to make the change we need to see!





**Commitments!**



**Accountability!**

# Why Land Rights Matter

## A BETTER TOMORROW

SECURE LAND RIGHTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE WORLD'S POOREST FAMILIES

Agricultural production  
**increased by 60%**<sup>1</sup>



Annual family income  
**increased by 150%**<sup>4</sup>



Investment in property  
improvements **doubled**<sup>2</sup>



High school graduation  
rates **doubled**<sup>5</sup>



Number of hours worked  
**increased by 17%**<sup>3</sup>



Teen pregnancy  
**reduced by half**<sup>6</sup>



*Evidence is growing. Results vary by context.*

1. C. Chen, Land Reform In Taiwan (1961), p. 84, chart 12.

3. E. Field, "Property Rights and Household Time Allocation in Urban Squatter Communities: Evidence from Peru" (2003).

5. S. Gallani and E. Schargrodsky, "Property Rights for the Poor: Effects of Land Titling," 84 *Journal of Public Economics* 700 (2010).

# Why Women's Land Rights Matter?

## A BETTER WORLD

### STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

#### PROSPEROUS

Women with strong property and inheritance rights earn up to **3.8 times more income**



#### NOURISHED

Children whose mothers own land are up to **33% less likely to be severely underweight**



#### EDUCATED

Families where women own more land devote **more of their budget to education**



#### SAFER

Women who own land are up to **8 times less likely to experience domestic violence**



#### RESILIENT

Where women's property and inheritance rights are stronger, women's **individual savings are up to 35 percent greater**



#### HEALTHY

Children in households where women own land are up to **10% less likely to be sick**



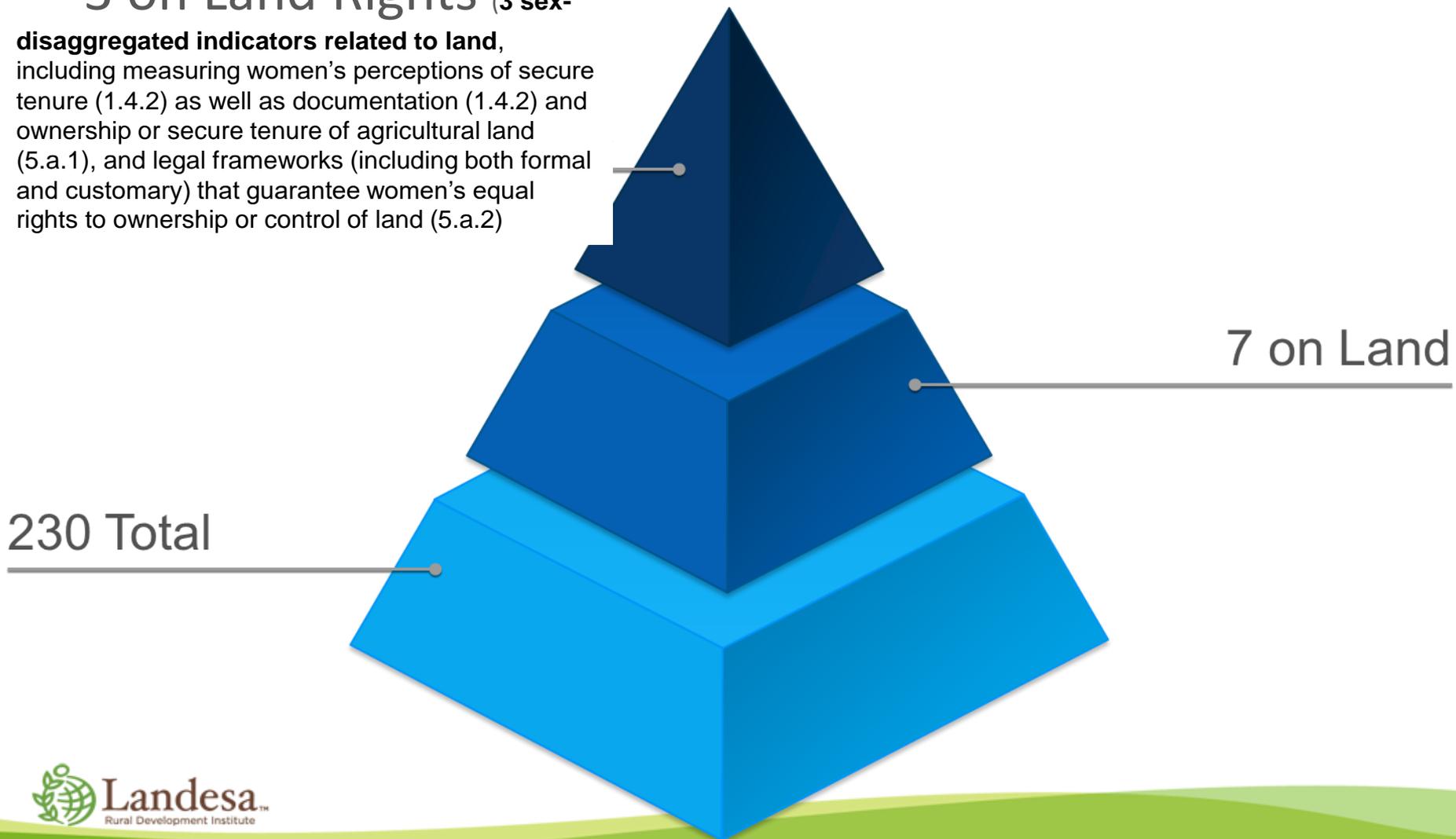
# THE SOLUTION: A SHIFT TOWARD PEOPLE CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE.



# Indicators in the 2030 Agenda

## 3 on Land Rights (3 sex-

**disaggregated indicators related to land,** including measuring women's perceptions of secure tenure (1.4.2) as well as documentation (1.4.2) and ownership or secure tenure of agricultural land (5.a.1), and legal frameworks (including both formal and customary) that guarantee women's equal rights to ownership or control of land (5.a.2)

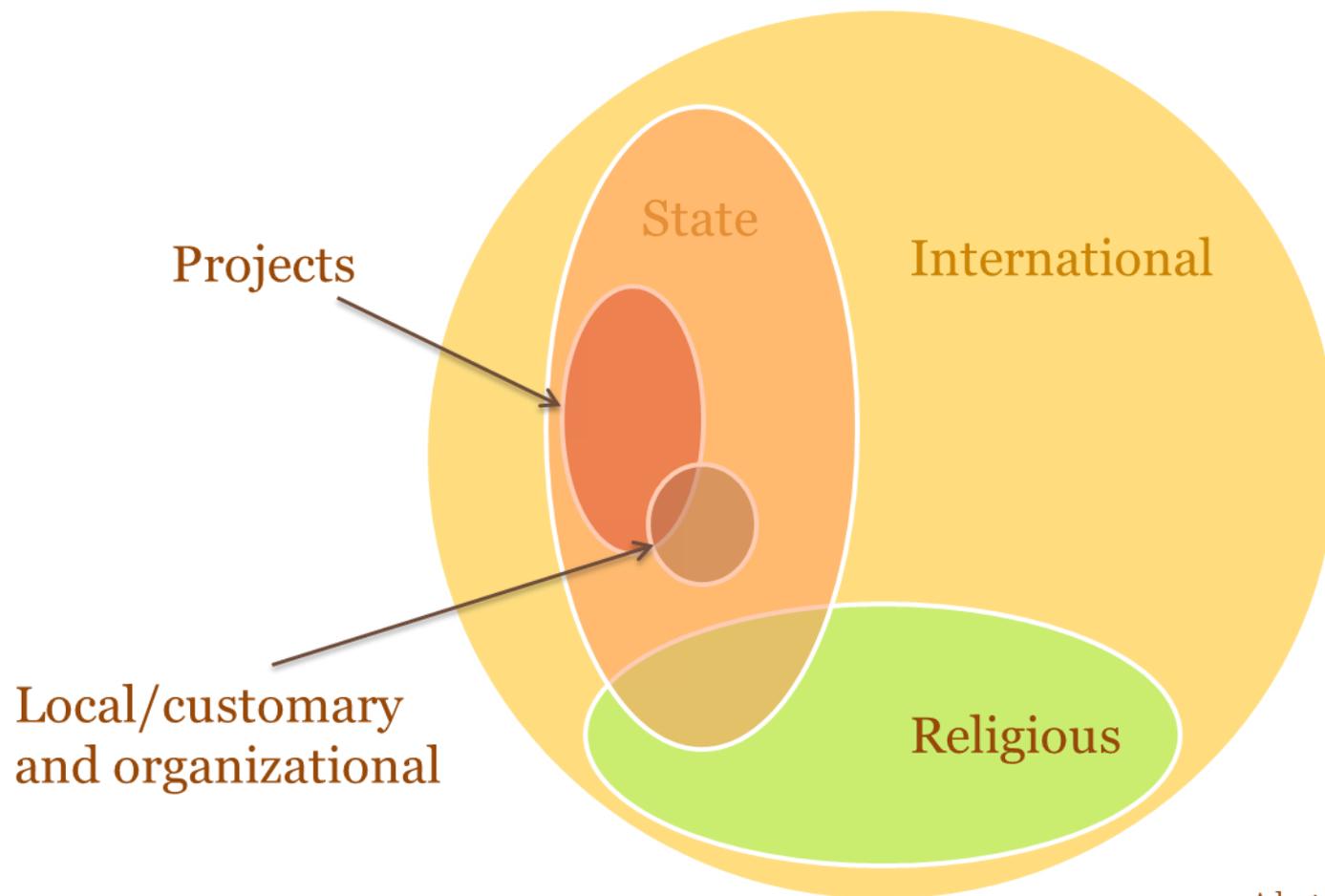




**Land Rights  
Indicators**



# Sources of Rights



Adapted from: Meinzen-Dick et al.

# What do we mean by **SECURE RIGHTS to LAND**?



# The women's land rights are insecure...

When her community has insecure rights to land



When her household has insecure rights to land, even if other households in the community are secure

When she has insecure rights to land, even if others in the household are secure



# WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

In more than half of all countries, laws or customs hinder women's ownership or access to land, undermining women's empowerment.



**15** Countries where women do not have equal ownership rights to property

**34** Countries where daughters do not have equal inheritance rights

**35** Countries where widows do not have equal inheritance rights

**90** Countries where customs inhibit women's access to land

**Yet, globally more than 400 million women farm**

The percent of employed women who work in agriculture:

IN SOUTH ASIA

70%



IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

60%



## Significant interlinkages:

**There are strong interlinkages for Goal 15 (land and life) with Goal 1 (end poverty) and Goal 5 (gender equality) through the explicit inclusion of land rights in their respective indicators.**

**3 sex-disaggregated indicators related to land**, including measuring women's perceptions of secure tenure (1.4.2) as well as documentation (1.4.2) and ownership or secure tenure of agricultural land (5.a.1), and legal frameworks (including both formal and customary) that guarantee women's equal rights to ownership or control of land (5.a.2)

target 15.3 and indicator 15.3.1 (proportion of land degraded) which aims to strive towards land degradation neutrality (LDN) by 2030. This has opened a 'window of opportunity' for many countries to strengthen policies for sustainable use of land and soils.

**Achieving land degradation neutrality via reduction in degradation or through rehabilitation and restoration of degraded land will require a shift in many countries away from migration and towards people staying to work on the and rehabilitate or restore their land – a change from “degrade-abandon-move” to “protect-sustain-rehabilitate-restore:.”** To that end, ensuring women's land rights can generate the incentive, security, opportunity and authority to make decision about ways to conserve the land and to ensure its long-term productivity.

**Poverty is “a root cause, and at the same time a consequence, of land degradation, and gender inequality plays a significant role in land-degradation related poverty”.....most developing countries, land degradation impacts men and women differently, mainly due to unequal access to land, water, credit. Extension services and technology’ - *UNCCD Science Policy Interface***

# Land Rights Indicators

1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure

5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

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**5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control**

**5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex**

## Indicator 1.4.2

Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land

with legally  
recognized  
documentation



*Governments can demonstrate that they are taking steps to formally grant and implement land rights*

who perceive  
their rights to land  
as secure



*Summary of the economic, social, and political risks affecting individuals, their households, and their communities as they perceive them*

# Indicator 5.a.1

- (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and**
- (a) Share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure**

# Indicator 5.a.2

**Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control**

# Four Principles in norms and practice



## QUALITY

All types of tenure



## LEGALITY & IMPLEMENTATION



## INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION at ALL levels in particular LOCAL level



## ENFORCEABILITY



# Countries Must Prioritize Land Rights Global Indicators

+ Complementary Indicators



# Documenting Women's Rights



## Rwanda

- 2.5 years after regularization significant increase in soil conservation investment, particularly pronounced for female-headed households

## Vietnam

- When women hold land title in rural Vietnam, their households are more prosperous, poverty is less and capital investment levels higher than in households where a man holds sole title.

*“The legal recognition of women and men’s rights to land is important, but not always sufficient to fully guarantee that women and men experience these rights in practice. Field experience around the world suggests that for these rights to be secure in practice, they must be backed by effective, inclusive and gender-responsive systems of land administration and justice. By tracking the extent to which these rights are documented, we allow governments to demonstrate that they are taking steps to formally grant and implement the rights. By tracking individuals’ perceptions of their own tenure security, we summarize in one measure the economic, social, and political risks affecting individuals, their households, and their communities as they perceive them. Individuals may face different kinds of threats to their land rights. Examples of these threats include the possibility of losing land due to adverse economic circumstances, to conflict in their communities, to large scale land acquisitions, or as it is often the case for women, to intra-family dynamics such as losing a husband.”*

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Integrate gender perspectives and increase women's meaningful participation in sustainable land use and resource management. To implement effective and sustainable resource management programs, women must be engaged in the decision-making process, as they are most affected by land and resource inequities. Failing to recognize the unique challenges and opportunities women face – especially in conflict settings, which includes the risk of physical insecurity linked to their role in collecting natural resources or growing food for the family – has the potential to further perpetuate inequalities regarding land and natural resource rights, access and control.
- Ensure gender responsive implementation strategies, women-led mitigation of land degradation and desertification, as well as gender-sensitive, community-led sustainable resource and land management is critical to ensure women's land rights will not be dropped during implementation phase. Moreover, there needs to be sustained awareness on the critical role of securing land tenure rights to women in achieving SDGs 1, 5 and 15 among others.

- Close the gender data gap in evidence-based responses by collecting sex-disaggregated evidence of actual and perceived tenure security nationwide in conjunction with gender-sensitive disaggregation gathering on proportion of land that is degraded as per definition of indicators 1.4.2 and 15.3.1 to better inform programs and policies. Clearly defined, recognized, durable and documented rights to land and natural resources in a manner that are gender-responsive in law and practice, to increase accountability to secure conservation and sustainable land use, and a precondition for women (as well as men and communities).

**Thank you!**