

**LAND POLICIES AND MDGS  
IN RESPONSE TO NEWLY EMERGING CHALLENGES**  
March 9-10, 2009, The World Bank, Washington DC

## **Land Governance and Security of Tenure in Developing Countries**

**White paper of the French Development cooperation**

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### **1. The French White Paper: authors and context**

- Over last 20 years, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Development Agency deeply involved in cooperation programmes in DCs, especially in sub-Saharan African Countries.
- Prepared by the Technical Committee on "Land tenure and Development", co-chaired by representative of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs & representative of French Development Agency.
- Technical Committee = multidisciplinary group involving researchers, experts & development practitioners.
- Prepared in context of the French presidency of the European Union (July-December 2008).
- Summary of the W.P. published in November 2008
- Final full version of W.P. being edited for publication in April 2009

### **2. Analytical framework**

- Land tenure = major economic & political issue.
- Impacts on agricultural policies, rural development, urban development, national & regional planning.
- Land is a social relation: definition & allocation of property rights, and land administration reveals how a society is organised and governed.
- Strong interactions between land tenure, land administration and governance
- Land management & administration has an influence on the conditions political power is exercised.
  - Key role in development policies and poverty reduction
  - Can help prevent conflict / can generate conflicts
- Land policies are key elements in environmental protection

**Clear intention to go beyond technical dimension of governance and tenure issues**

### 3. Purposes of the White Paper

- **Offers the French Cooperation a diagnostic** of current situation and trends in relationship between land tenure governance.
- **Broaden the French Cooperation approach of relationship between land and governance**, long restricted to :
  - Sub-Saharan African countries
  - Bilateral interventions
  - Land and tenure issues in rural areas
- **Proposed approach** in the white Paper :
  - To go beyond rural / urban divide
  - To emphasize dynamics observed at global level (not only Africa)
- Contribute to **international debate on land in governance**
- Contribute to the **involvement of European institutions to implementing recommendations of the European Land Policy Guidelines** (November 2004)
- Ensure a **more active presence in multilateral institutions**

### 4. Content of the White Paper

- **Assessment of land and tenure issues in the context of DCs : historical perspective (Part 1).**
- **Proposed analytical framework of land tenure understood as a social relation (Part 2).**
- **Suggested land policies to meet the challenge of diversity and sustainability in globalising world (Part 3).**
- **Proposals for the French Development Aid on land governance and security of tenure (Part 4).**

### 5. Proposals to French Aid land and governance related interventions

- Suggested **policy orientations and aid strategy on land issues in compliance with the Paris Declaration on Efficiency of Development Aid** (February 2005)
- Reflections in the White Paper : a **continuation of those undertaken by French Cooperation on democratic governance strategy, adopted by Inter-ministerial Committee of International Cooperation & Development** (December 2006).
- Three basic principles
  - Encourage and support **national public debate** processes
  - Support **civil society organizations and NGOs** involved in definition of land-related interventions
  - Contribute to elaborating and implementing **effective and inclusive land management and governance policies**

### 6. White Paper proposed orientations (1)

Three main orientations suggested to the French Cooperation

- **Integrating land tenure and land governance issues in country diagnostics and in elaboration of partnership agreements with countries** (Partnership Framework Documents)
- **Defining priorities of French Cooperation land-related intervention on basis of assessment of current land policies, of land reforms under preparation and of the state of the debate on land and governance issues at national level** in order to:
  - Improve access to information
  - Provide support and operational expertise
  - Strengthen independent expertise capacity at national level
  - Improve links between research and expertise
  - Develop monitoring and assessment tools
- **Stimulating and supporting exchange of experiences, build capacity and promote debates at regional and international levels**

### **White Paper proposed orientations (2)**

#### **Proposal to create an informal Exchange Group within the European Union**

- > Role: **establish and formalise contacts with international institutions** involved in land and tenure-related governance issues
- > **Monitor and assess land policies & intervention strategies**
- > **Improve coordination of interventions between donors**, in collaboration with aid agencies and IFIs

### **7. Way forward**

- > Next step: on the basis of the White Paper, **Strategy Paper** under preparation by the French Development Agency
- > Ongoing cooperation on land governance related programmes, especially:
  - FAO initiated project on **Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance** of Tenure of Land and other Natural Resources.
  - In WB, FAO on **Large-scale acquisition of land rights for agricultural or natural resource-based use**
  - In the AU-ECA-ADB initiative on **Land policy in Africa: a framework to strengthen land rights, enhance productivity and secure livelihoods**