FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

David Palmer

International Seminar of Land Administration Trends and Issues in the Asia and Pacific Region

Malaysia 2008
About FAO
Established in 1945 with the mandate:

- raise levels of nutrition and standards of living.
- improve agricultural productivity.
- enhance condition of rural populations.

FAO is one of the largest technical agencies in the United Nations system and has 191 member nations.
FAO’s role:

• Serves as a knowledge network.
• Provides a neutral meeting place for countries to negotiate agreements.
• Shares policy expertise to support legislation and strategies.
• Brings knowledge to the field through projects around the world.
Trends affecting food security:

- Further, but uneven population growth.
- Urbanization, and changing food production, distribution and consumption.
- Increased mobility of goods, capital and labour in countries and across borders.
- Climate change.
- Increasing demands on agriculture to provide food and energy resources.

➢ Growing pressures on natural resources.
FAO’s work in land tenure and land administration
FAO Land Tenure and Management Unit

Together with

• Development law
• Fisheries
• Forestry
• Gender
Cooperation within the UN system

Together with

• UN-Habitat

• IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)

• World Bank

• UNECE
Secure access to land and other natural resources

- Land reform
- Post-violent conflicts
- Natural disasters
  - Land consolidation
  - Land registration
  - Property taxation
  - Compulsory acquisition
  - Public land management
Land Tenure Studies:
Guidelines for land tenure and land administration specialists

FAO LAND TENURE STUDIES
8
Access to rural land and land administration after violent conflicts

FAO LAND TENURE STUDIES
9
Good governance in land tenure and administration
Land Tenure Policy Series:
Guidelines for policy-makers

European Union accession and land tenure data in Central and Eastern Europe

Opportunities to mainstream land consolidation in rural development programmes of the European Union
Land Tenure Notes:
Guidelines for grassroots organizations
Land Tenure Manuals:
Technical manuals for specialists

Operations manual for land consolidation pilot projects in Central and Eastern Europe

Land tenure alternative conflict management
Guidelines are closely linked to field projects:

- FAO projects
- FAO – Donor Trust Fund projects
- World Bank
- IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)
Building a network of land administration specialists:

A case in Eastern Europe
Farms in Eastern Europe are small and fragmented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bulgaria</th>
<th>86% of farms under 1 ha</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>14 ha in 2 – 15 parcels</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>6.3 ha in 2 parcels</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>1.7 ha in 3 parcels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restitution</td>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>1.2 ha in 3 - 4 parcels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Privatization</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>0.9 ha in 4 - 5 parcels</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>1.4 ha in 3 parcels</td>
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<td>Survival of old</td>
<td>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</td>
<td>3 ha in 8 – 10 parcels</td>
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<tr>
<td>tenure system</td>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>1.9 ha in 8 parcels</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>70% of farms under 5 ha</td>
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Land consolidation is a useful tool:

* reduce fragmentation
* improve parcel shape
* increase parcel size
* improve access
Land consolidation projects can also improve local infrastructure.
... and improve environmental protection
FAO programme to introduce land consolidation

Multi-year with regional partners:
• Technical guidelines
• Field projects
• Regional workshops
Regional workshops provide opportunities for specialists to:

• Share their own experiences.
• Learn about international good practices.
• Develop a network of people working in the same technical area.
The Czech Republic has been an important partner

A Czech trust fund with FAO has funded regular regional workshops in Prague between 2002 and 2008
Voluntary guidelines on responsible governance of tenure and land administration
FAO has been working with partners on governance in tenure and administration since 2005

Weak governance:

• can undermine development efforts

• affects mainly the poor and vulnerable
Voluntary guidelines to be adopted at the international level

To assist countries improve the governance of tenure and its administration as a means to:

- alleviate hunger and poverty
- support economic development
- enhance the environment
- reform public administration
The purpose of voluntary guidelines

• Raise awareness in governments, private sector and civil society.

• Provide principles, standards and strategic actions.

• Provide technical advice.
FAO’s experience with voluntary guidelines

- Distribution and use of pesticides (1985)
- Responsible fisheries (1995)
- Right to adequate food (2004)
- Fire management (2006)
- Planted forests (2006)
Voluntary guidelines on governance of tenure and land administration

Preparatory work has started.

The guidelines should be drafted during 2009-10.

We look forward to collaborating with you.