



Dear all,

in May 2006, some of us met in Rome for the Advisory Group Working Meeting on “Women’s Access to Land: Gender Relations in Tenure” jointly convened by IDRC (International Development Research Centre) and ILC (International to discuss key issues regarding women’s access, review gaps in research, and define elements of a strategy to move the research and development agenda forward. IDRC had commissioned scoping studies in 9 sub-regions as part of a larger project on Women’s Rights and Access to Land, several of which had not been completed, or existed only in draft form, at the time of the meeting. While the discussion focused on the completed studies, a need to continue such discussion based on the remaining studies emerged very clearly. The participants, as well as other interested parties unable to attend, expressed a strong interest in providing their feedback to the studies. It was also suggested the studies be widely disseminated to gather additional information and feedback from a variety of stakeholders in the countries covered.

It was for that purpose that this DGroup was set up shortly after the meeting. We would now like to animate the discussion, focusing on specific scoping studies each week to gather additional inputs and feedback to the studies, but also inform on progress and bottlenecks and allow lesson sharing. Please go to the DGroups page at www.dgroups.org/groups/genderandland for a list of key themes. This space can be used to pose questions and participate in an interactive discussion with other members. We would also like to encourage all members of this Group to post relevant materials on the Resources page or provide references where an electronic document is not available.

Most importantly, we would like to encourage a wider debate to broaden the understanding and learnings on gender and land tenure. Therefore, we would like to involve more stakeholders and encourage you to pass an invitation to this Group on to anyone who you think may be interested in participating, not only among those already working on women’s access to land and other natural resources, but also among those interested in gender issues and/or natural resource management in general.

To begin, we would like to ask everyone to **post a short profile** to the Group, indicating their research interests, institutional affiliation, and recent work on women’s access to land and other natural resources they have been involved in. We would then like to move on to discussing specific scoping studies, starting with Ritu Verma’s paper on Esat Africa that was presented at the May meeting.

To keep everyone's inboxes from overflowing with messages, the administrators will group messages and send out a digest every few days, so don't be alarmed if a message you posted does not show on the Group page immediately.

We are looking forward to an animated discussion, and, first of all, an interesting round of introductions!

Greetings from the International Land Coalition

The following scoping studies and additional documents have been posted so far:

- **China** “Women and Land Tenure in China” by Centre for Chinese Agricultural Policy (Linxiu Zhang)
- **East Africa** “Without Land You Are Nobody - Critical Dimensions of Women's Access to Land and Relations in Tenure in East Africa” by Ritu Verma

- **India** "Women's Access and Rights to Land: Gender Relations in Tenure A Scoping Study in the Indian Context" by Nitya Rao
- **Latin America** (Spanish) "Estado de la cuestión sobre el acceso de las mujeres y su derecho a la tierra en Bolivia, Ecuador y Perú" by María Amelia Trigos Barentzen (also available in English)
- **Middle East and North Africa** "Womens' Access and Rights to Land: Gender Relations in Tenure" by Michelle Obeid
- **Pakistan** "Women's Access and Rights to Land and Property" by Khawar Mumtaz and Meher M. Noshirwani
- **South East Asia** "Women's Access and Rights to Land in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam" by Yaoyi Fujita
- **Southern Africa** " " Report on the IDRC's Rural Poverty and Environment program's gender and tenure study" by Donna Hornby
- **West Africa** (French) "Femmes et Accès a la Propriété Foncière en Afrique de L'Ouest" by Marthe Diarra.
- Global Issues paper by Susanna Lastarria-Cornhiel commissioned for the Advisory Group meeting
- Meeting report
- Additional resources posted by group members on women's access in Niger and Ghana.