

Chapter 5

Land Governance Measurement

ABSTRACT

The chapter analyzes the land governance measurement. The land as crucial in any public policy and can be a constraint for the territorial development strategies. Frameworks for land governance are presented including The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security known as the VGGT, the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa, and the Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF). Initiatives for developing indicators for land governance and security of tenure are presented.

INTRODUCTION

Around the world, land is an essential source of income, food security, cultural identity and housing. It is also a fundamental asset for the economic empowerment of the poor and provides a safety net during times of hardship. To improve access to information and awareness of the land community and data and broader stakeholders around land-related indicators in the SDGs and associated processes for their monitoring, specific Land indicators related to land were produced.

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BACKGROUND

The Agenda 2030 clearly recognised that without progress on land rights, the SDGs will not be achieved. For this reason, all UN Member States agreed to include land as an important element in a number of the Targets set in the Agenda.

There are a number of SDG Targets and Indicators relevant for the land agenda because of the critical importance land is to realising sustainable development and due to the cross-cutting impacts of land rights.

The Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), composed of United Nations Member States, developed global indicator framework to track progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, which were adopted by the UN ECOSOC in March 2016.

Among the indicators proposed by the IAEG-SDGs are numerous indicators related to land, advocated for and supported by various global land community actors including the Global Donor Working Group on Land, members of the Global Land Indicators Initiative, FAO, UN SDSN and others. Indicators in the SDGs monitoring framework have been categorized and assigned a ‘tier status,’ meaning that the indicator does not yet have a methodology for tracking it (Tier 3), has a methodology but no regular data (Tier 2), or has both a methodology and regular data (Tier 1). The development of a methodology for measuring respective indicators is assigned by IAEG-SDGs to various UN agencies, in collaboration with other stakeholders as “custodian agencies”.

MAIN FOCUS OF THE CHAPTER

The chapter presents the major framework for indicators on Land Governance measurement.

THE LAND GOVERNANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

The Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) developed by the Bank and its partners (FAO, IFAD, UN-Habitat, African Union, IFPRI) precedes the VGGT. Its development was inspired by the consultations leading to the guidelines. The LGAF methodology piloting started in 2010, the Bank report was published in 2012, and a peer reviewed article in 2014.

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