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Edited by Emerita Professor Carolyn E. Sachs, Pennsylvania State University, USA and Dr Paige Castellanos, Oxfam America, USA

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Approaches to strengthen women's land rights and tenure security through agricultural programming

Krista Jacobs, Caitlin Kieran, Tatiana Gumucio, Nayna Jhaveri, Landesa, USA

This chapter is an introduction for gender and agriculture practitioners on why and how to integrate approaches to strengthen smallholder women's land rights and tenure security into agricultural development programming.

Smallholder women farmers are critical for the productivity and resilience of food systems as women comprise 38% of the workers in primary agricultural production (FAO, 2023). Compared with men, smallholder women farmers have disproportionately limited and insecure land rights and also have less access to agricultural inputs and services (FAO, 2023). Without confidence that in the long-term they can access a given parcel of land, make decisions about the land and agricultural production on it, and control corresponding earnings, farmers (of all genders) have less incentive and ability to invest in agricultural productivity and sustainable practices (e.g. tree planting, terracing, fallowing). Efforts to ease both land tenure constraints and agricultural input/service constraints are essential for advancing women farmers' productivity and empowerment, their families' welfare and food security, and the performance and inclusivity of the food system.

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Although integrating land interventions into agricultural programming is not the norm, we make the case that it is feasible and impactful for women and for agricultural projects and businesses. We use examples from development projects, government programs, and the private sector to draw lessons and show practices that agricultural projects and private sector actors can apply to improve both smallholder women farmers' land tenure and the sustained application of good agricultural practices. We separate development programs and private sector examples not because the approaches are meaningfully different but to increase the visibility of relatively nascent and less documented private sector efforts.

1 Review of concepts and evidence on rural women's land tenure

1.1 The bundle of rights and their security

Land tenure refers to a 'bundle of rights' that a person has over land (Von Benda-Beckmann et al., 2006). Doss and Meinzen-Dick (2020) organize land rights into

- use rights, including rights of access and taking or using resources on the land;
- rights to manage, build, or make physical changes to the land;
- rights to earnings from what is produced on land;
- rights to prevent others from using land;
- rights to transfer land, whether temporarily or permanently; and
- inheritance or other rights that can be realized in the future.

A person may hold one or more of these rights by themselves, with other people, or as part of a community. Different people or groups can have different rights over the same piece of land, and those rights may be separate, joint, overlapping, or competing.

Understanding women's and men's rights to use and manage land and to make decisions about agricultural earnings is key for developing interventions that sustainably increase agricultural productivity and increase women's economic empowerment.

Much of the existing literature and evidence on land tenure focuses on 'ownership,' which typically covers all or most of the rights in the bundle. Ownership does not have to be legally recognized for someone to have the rights associated with ownership. For example, in customary tenure systems, although much of the agricultural land is not legally registered, people may still be able to use, bequeath, rent, etc. the land (Slavchevska et al., 2021).

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Joint ownership is especially important for women because land owned or held jointly with husbands is a substantial portion of women's landholding, and for many women, the only land they hold. Governments are increasingly promoting or requiring joint land registration of spouses as a tactic to increase legal recognition of women's land rights (Jackson, 2003). Over one-third of the countries that have reported on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 5.a.2 – the proportion of countries where the legal framework guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control – allow for or require joint registration of land between spouses (FAO, 2023). However, having their names on land documents does not guarantee that wives will have the same decision-making power over land as their husbands or that wives will receive their share of the land or its value if the marriage dissolves (Alvarado et al., 2022; Jacobs and Kes, 2015; Doss et al., 2014; Agarwal, 2003).

Land tenure security is how confident a person feels that they will not lose any part of their bundle against their will. Tenure security is important because farmers make decisions based on their perceptions. Institutional and social conditions that affect women's land tenure security are

- legal recognition – statutory law recognizes women's land rights;
- sociocultural legitimacy – families, communities, and traditional and religious leaders recognize women's land rights;
- exercisability – women know their rights and do not need approval to exercise them;
- durability – the bundle of rights does not change if women's marital status changes; if there are changes in family composition or local traditional or political leadership; or if women do not use the land for some time;
- enforceability – women know where and how to make claims and can afford to do so. When women do make claims, authorities hear the claims and take them seriously, adjudicate fairly, and maintain a setting that is accessible to and feels safe for women; and
- Duration – rights in the bundle are for a known time period and long enough to benefit from the land.

(Jhaveri, 2021; Doss and Meinzen-Dick, 2020; Scalise and Giovarelli, 2020; Giovarelli et al., 2016)

Social norms are an underlying factor influencing many of the conditions. Norms influence how duty bearers choose to implement or enforce laws as well as the extent to which women and men choose to comply and so determine the sociocultural legitimacy, durability, and exercisability of women's land rights. Many norms are embedded in customary land systems that make women's land rights contingent on their male relationships can be barriers to women's tenure security (Doss and Meinzen-Dick, 2020; Tibenkana, 2020; Ghebru 2019;

O'Sullivan, 2017; Banerjee et al., 2014). Such norms and rules make marriage and its dissolution potentially dangerous inflection points for women's tenure security. The durability of smallholder women farmers' land rights tends to depend on their marital status, the quality or duration of her marriage, the actions of male family members, and the actions of local authorities – all of which depend on what people know and see as socially acceptable regarding women's land rights. Examples from Rwanda and Nepal highlight the importance of norms to sociocultural legitimacy and durability of women's land rights.

- Local authorities in Rwanda related that even after the national land registration program which emphasized joint titling 'Many men still have the thinking that the land belongs to them and that their wife doesn't have the right to that land … [they] still believe that they don't have equal right on land' (Kloos et al., 2016).
- Bayisenge's (2018) research in Rwanda found that women noted that although husbands now involved them in decisions about land transactions because of the legal requirement for wives' signatures, daily management of the land had not changed. Several women expressed that land was for the husband or the family generally and that women having their own property would create conflict.
- In Nepal, Pradhan et al. (Pradhan et al., 2019) found that for some women exercising their claims on personal assets (e.g. small livestock) can damage their standing as a 'good wife' and weaken their claims on jointly held land. They also found that land registration efforts had little impact on women's empowerment because of the social risks women faced to register land in their own names.

1.2 Evidence on the state of women's land tenure

Studies on gendered land rights in developing countries, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, consistently conclude that while there are substantial gaps in the availability of data, the existing data reveal large gender gaps in land rights (Slavchevska et al., 2021; Gaddis et al., 2018; Doss et al., 2015; Kieran et al., 2015; Gaddis et al., n.d.).

Data from the 46 countries reporting on SDG Indicator 5.a.1(a) – proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, disaggregated by sex – convey that we are far from achieving global gender equality in ownership. *Figure* 1 presents the publicly available data on 5.a.1(a), with women's land rights on the *x*-axis, men's land rights on the y-axis, and a dotted line depicting equality between women and men. A higher proportion of men than women own or have secure rights to agricultural land in all countries to the left of the dotted line. In 87% of countries reporting, a larger

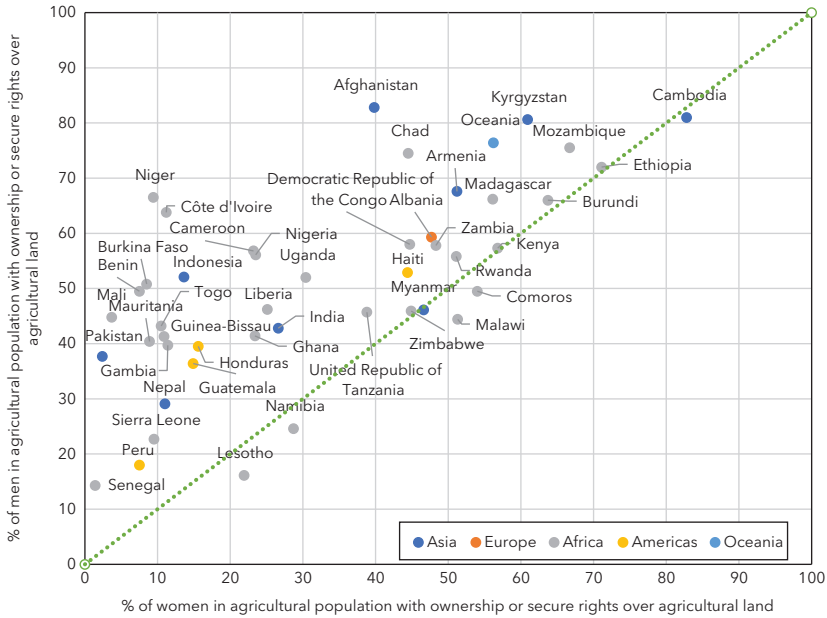

Figure 1 Proportion of total agricultural populations with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land. Note: Data available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/ database. *Figure* 1 presents the most recent data on indicator 5.a.1(a) for each country. *Figure* 1 re-creates a figure presented in 'The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems' (FAO, 2023). For this indicator, land ownership is defined as a legally recognized right to acquire, to use, and to transfer land, while secure rights include land ownership as well as the right to sell and the right to bequeath land.

share of men than women have ownership and/or secure rights to agricultural land (FAO, 2023).

Table 1 illustrates the variation in *which rights* women have over agricultural land within a country and also that the size and direction of gender gaps in any given right varies across countries. All data are nationally representative and focus on agricultural land. Within countries, the proportion of men and women with a right varies across the different rights. For example, in Malawi, both men's and women's rates of documented ownerships (e.g. land certificates, titles) are nearly zero, while over half of men and women have management rights. More men than women have land rights in Ethiopia, Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Niger. In both Cambodia and Malawi, a slightly higher proportion of women than men have land rights.

Globally, approximately 20% of rural women and 20% of rural men are tenure insecure in that they believe they could lose land against their will within

Table 1 Percentage of women and men with rights over agricultural land

Country		Cambodia	Ethiopia	Malawi	Nigeria	United Republic of Tanzania	Uganda	Niger
Year		2019/20	2013/14	2013	2012/13	2012/13	2010/11	2011
Documented ownership	Male	67%	38%	1%	3%	10%	–	–
	Female	69%	30%	2%	0.4%	8%	–	–
Reported ownership	Male	–	48%	33%	23%	42%	43%	63%
	Female	–	45%	42%	4	32%	38%	35%
Reported sole ownership	Male	–	14%	24%	17%	23%	14%	40%
	Female	–	11%	33%	2%	13%	9.%	14%
Exclusion rights	Male	71%	63%	28%	50%	50%	–	–
	Female	74%	58%	30%	14%	38%	–	–
Right to sell	Male	70%	63%	28%	50%	50%	–	–
	Female	73%	58%	30%	14%	38%	–	–
Land Managers	Male	–	57%	56%	32%	44%	44%	72%
	Female	–	48%	58%	11%	41%	54%	50%
Sole land Managers	Male	–	16%	18%	25%	15%	5%	39%
	Female	–	8%	18%	6%	12%	10%	19%
Control over output	Male	–	52%	50%	30%	40%	45%	–
	Female	–	55%	51%	13%	37%	50%	–
Sole Control over output	Male	–	9%	19%	20%	12%	9%	–
	Female	–	14%	20%	4%	11%	15%	–

Note: Cambodia data are from the Living Standards Measurement Study – Plus. Data from Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Niger are from the Living Standards Measurement Study – Integrated Surveys on Agriculture. Statistics on the land rights depicted in green were presented in Box 3.3 Table A of 'The Status of Women in Food Systems' (FAO, 2023), while statistics in yellow were presented in *Figure* 1 of 'Beyond Ownership: Women's and Men's Land Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa' (Slavchevska et al., 2021). Dashes denote estimates not reported in either source.

5 years.[1] Although the most common sources of insecurity were the same for women and men globally – being asked by the owner to leave, insufficient economic resources, and family disagreements – women are more likely than men to cite family disagreements, divorce, or death of a spouse as a source of insecurity and men are more likely than women to cite potential seizure by governments or companies (Prindex, 2020). Globally, 48% of married women worry that they would lose rights to land if their marriage ended compared with 34% of rural married men (Prindex, 2020).

1.3 Roles of women's land rights and tenure security in agriculture

Here we highlight the empirical evidence for women's land tenure affecting agricultural outcomes.[2] This evidence sits within a broader literature on the relationship between land tenure and agricultural outcomes that does not consistently differentiate between women's and men's tenure or between women's and men's agricultural decisions, practices, or production. Despite gendered data gaps, existing evidence and experience show that secure land tenure is foundational to women farmers' agricultural production and that there are approaches projects and companies can incorporate to expand women farmers' bundle of land rights and increase their security.

There is strong evidence that strengthening smallholder women's land tenure increases their investments in soil and water conservation, enables them to more securely rent out land, and increases their decision-making power within the household. Several studies find positive impacts of female-headed households or female farm managers having land titles on making investments in soil and water conservation (e.g. terracing, bunding, channels), fallowing, planting trees, and other agroforestry practices (Ali et al., 2014; Goldstein et al., 2018; 2015; Alvarado et al., 2022; Meinzen-Dick et al., 2019). Moreover, these impacts tend to be larger than for male-headed households or male farm managers who may already have more secure tenure. Quisumbing and Kumar (2014) find that increasing women's knowledge about their land rights also promotes women's uptake of soil and water conservation and agroforestry. Alvarado et al. (2022) found in the 12 years following receiving a land certificate in their name, female-headed that female-headed households in Ethiopia were 2–14 percentage points more likely to rent land out, potentially because the certificate gives legal recourse if tenants try to appropriate the land. This aligns with other findings from Ethiopia that more female-headed households began

1 Authors' calculations using Prindex's nationally representative survey data for 140 countries, available at https://www.prindex.net/.
2 For a more detailed theory of change and summary of evidence, see Lisher (2019) and Stanley and Lisher (2023).

renting out land after receiving certificates with their name (Deininger et al., 2011).

Evidence across several contexts indicates that having more secure land rights increases women's decision-making in her household (Alvarado et al., 2022; Meinzen-Dick et al., 2019). Researchers hypothesize that women having more secure land tenure, often in the form of documentation, shifts perceived gender roles and changes in women's relative power within the household. Meinzen-Dick et al.'s (2019) review of impacts of women's land rights notes positive relationships between women's land ownership and women having more control over food consumption decisions, greater household food availability, and lower risk of being underweight for children.

Evidence is mixed on the extent to which stronger land tenure and its effects on agricultural investments and practices translate into increased agricultural productivity, incomes, and food security (Stevens et al., 2020). The ambiguity at least partially results from the historical design of empirical studies. Much of the empirical evidence is from evaluations looking for impacts of land titling in contexts of missing credit markets, sparse agricultural extension services, and improved inputs being difficult to access. When agricultural services and inputs are difficult to access, land tenure interventions would not likely have widespread, large, or immediate impacts. Women smallholder farmers have less access to these services and inputs, making it more difficult to observe land interventions' impacts on women's agricultural productivity (FAO, 2023). Evaluations also have tended to look for effects within 1–6 years of the intervention, which may not be long enough to see impacts on productivity because it can take several seasons for farmers to change behaviors and to access and effectively apply inputs and services. Finally, historically, empirical data on land tenure and agriculture have been available mainly at the household level, meaning the majority of existing evidence focuses on female-headed households instead of women as individuals whose land tenure and agricultural options are influenced by their marital status, household dynamics, age, parental status, socioeconomic status, and other factors (Feyertag et al., 2021; Meinzen-Dick et al., 2019).

2 Approaches to promote and protect women's land rights for agricultural projects

Agricultural projects and private sector actors need to understand which land rights women smallholder farmers do and do not have, how secure they believe their rights to be, and the factors behind gendered differences in tenure and security. These rights, beliefs, and factors affect women farmers' incentives and abilities to engage with the project/company, apply desired practices, and otherwise benefit themselves and the project/company. Devoting attention to

expanding women's land rights and tenure security is a means to shift local land and agricultural systems to perform better in general and for women in particular by increasing women's decision-making power in agricultural production and land use, women farmers' ability to adopt climate-resilient practices, and women farmers' benefit from agricultural production.

In this section, we describe approaches that agricultural projects could integrate or have integrated to expand the bundle of land rights women smallholder farmers have, increase their tenure security, or enable women to better leverage their land rights for agricultural production. For each approach, we draw from projects or government programs in the land or agriculture sectors to identify practices that were important in advancing women's land rights or tenure security. We also describe concrete examples of implementation and outline tenure, agricultural, and empowerment outcomes the approach achieved.

We reviewed peer review and gray literature (e.g. project reports, manuals, and evaluations) for development projects in the land and agriculture sectors and major land certification programs. After selecting efforts with well-described land tenure interventions or that documented impacts on women's tenure, we arrived at 20 projects spanning five general approaches:

- Awareness raising;
- Expanding women's land access and governance roles working with customary leaders;
- Land certification;
- Combining land and agricultural interventions; and
- Addressing social norms.

Appendix 1 provides an index of approaches programs in Sections 2 and 3 applied and general tenure and agricultural outcomes.[3] Appendix 2 summarizes the projects.

Although projects often applied multiple approaches, we separate them here to be able to delve into good practices and examples from each approach. Some approaches, such as land certification, may not be suitable for modestly sized agricultural projects/companies to undertake at a large scale. However, agricultural projects and agribusinesses can coordinate with national or large-scale certification efforts and for their participants, outgrowers, communities, etc., as several examples highlight. Other approaches, such as raising awareness of women's land rights or women's land literacy, are logistically simpler and can

3 Scalise and Giovarelli (2020) is also a valuable summary of evidence on programmatic approaches that improve women's land tenure. However, its target audience is land practitioners not agricultural practitioners.

still lay groundwork for the exercisability and social legitimacy of women's land rights.

2.1 Awareness-raising and legal literacy

Women and men typically have different knowledge and understanding about their land rights and about how to access land administration and governance services (e.g. reporting or resolving a land dispute or registering land that is inherited). It is also common for women, men, and leaders to have a limited understanding of women's land rights. These knowledge gaps are foundational to gender bias in land tenure in rural areas: if women do not understand their rights, they cannot fully demand them; if leaders do not know women's rights, they cannot fully uphold them. Understanding their land rights can also enhance women's decision-making authority in households and also improve local land governance bodies' inclusion of women in decision-making.

Awareness-raising and legal literacy activities are relatively simple to integrate into projects, and there are variety of modes, intensities, and scale that can be tailored to agricultural projects. In-person training, short plays, traditional media, and new digital technologies all can educate about women's land rights (United Nations, 2013). An example of a light-intensity activity is adding a women's land rights education session to farmer group meetings; a high-intensity example is creating mass media campaign or an edutainment radio or television program.

Whatever method is used, two lessons from several projects are the importance of having multiple, iterative interactions and for the awareness-raising activities to reach and be interesting to women, men, and leaders in order to create deeper understanding of women's land rights and expand women's options for exercising them (Sutz, 2021). The examples discussed in the following sections also illustrate these lessons.

2.1.1 Radio programming

The Rwanda LAND project collaborated with Radio Ishingiro on a 10-month campaign to enhance peoples' understanding of women's land rights and promote gender equality as part of good land governance (Chemonics, 2016). The project developed a series of radio dramas, talk shows, and quiz programs. Informed by results from a survey of women's and men's knowledge and attitudes about women's and girls' rights to land, the content emphasized equitable inheritance and rights of marital property, including for informally married women. A poetry, song, and dance competition was an opportunity for people to express what they had learned about women's and girls' land rights in their own words and create excitement and greater acceptance. The campaign produced substantial changes in knowledge and attitudes. For example, at the

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campaign's end, 91% of men surveyed supported daughter's rights to inherit equally with sons, compared to 71% before the campaign.

2.1.2 Talking books and town halls in Liberia

In six counties in Liberia over 2021–2023, the NGO Landesa and partners used a combination of pre-recorded digital messages and town hall meetings to educate communities on Liberia's recently passed Land Rights Law (2018). Messages covered fundamentals of land rights laws, community land formalization, land and property rights for women in customary marriage, services of the Liberia Land Authority, and alternative dispute resolution.

Example messages include the following:

- A woman who is married the traditional way can have her own property, whether she has had it before the man has paid her dowry, or after he has paid her dowry.
- When a community owns customary land, all the members of that community – women and men – together are the owners of that land, not one person or a few people.
- When the land-owning community decide[s] to go through the step that will make them get to their land deed, it is important that everybody in the community – including the men, women, young people, disable[d] people and even strangers, women who moved in the community to marry, single women, women who living with men but not married to the men and other people who have been living in the community for long – be a part of this decision.

The messages were recorded on small, rugged, portable digital devices called Talking Books[4] that households had for 3–4 weeks. Women-headed households, youth-headed households, women's groups, and youth groups were prioritized to receive the books. People could play messages as many times as they liked, listen on their own schedule, take the Talking Book with them wherever they worked or spent time, and listen by themselves or in groups. This flexibility enabled more people, and people who were not typically active in community land decisions, to learn about women's land rights and community land formalization than the typical practice of community meetings.

The percentage of women and men who correctly answered questions about alternative dispute resolution, who qualifies as a community member, married and single women's rights to hold and manage community land, and legal requirements for women in community land governance increased from

4 https://www.amplio.org/.

0–20% before the Books to 90–100% after the Books.[5] Anecdotally, multiple chiefs shared with project that they began inviting women to meetings about land after listening to the Talking Books.

Critical to the success of the Talking Books were (1) that the content was in local languages, (2) hiring community members to help with technical difficulties and encourage people to use the Talking Books, and (3) that after each set of households completed their time with the Talking Books, the project held town halls and also a separate meeting for women for participants to discuss the topics together and pose questions to legal experts.

2.2 Expanding women's land access and governance roles in customary tenure systems

Especially in areas with customary land tenure systems, it is important to tailor activities to the gender norms and traditional governance structures that affect women's access to land for farming, decision-making over production and earnings, and tenure security.

Several projects working in customary tenure systems applied one or more of the following strategies – all of which hinge on customary leaders' roles as gatekeepers, social authorities, and rule-makers – to increase women's land access or tenure security:

- Sensitization and dialogue with traditional leaders to make the case for women's land rights;
- Strengthen local governance by including women and promoting gender integration; and
- Facilitate group access to customary lands for women's use and management according to and motivated by existing culturally appropriate roles prescribed to women in the community.

As illustrated in several examples, projects often also incorporated awareness-raising among women community members on their land rights and leadership training for women. These trainings enable women to be active members of local governance bodies and to seek out promoted customary leaders for assistance in resolving disputes.

Findings across the projects indicate that the three strategies can

- directly improve women's access to land;
- shift communities' perceptions toward seeing women as competent land managers and farmers;

5 These figures are across Landesa's internal assessments across multiple rounds of Talking Books deployed in communities.

- increase women's decision-making in land use, agricultural production, and use of agricultural produce or income;
- increase women's active participation in land meetings and confidence in customary land governance;
- expand women farmers' application of improved technologies or cultivation of higher value crops; and
- increase women's self-confidence and sense of collective empowerment.

(Bessa et al., 2023; Dungumaro and Amos, 2019; USAID, 2019; Winrock International, 2019; Van Den Bold et al., 2015; Rolfes and Seitz, 2013; USAID, 2013)

2.2.1 Make the case to customary leaders

Key actions to influence change through customary leaders were dialogues that push for change but engage respectfully with cultural norms, collaborating with local organizations and actors familiar to the community, and using messages that resonate with community goals. For example, the Enhancing Customary Justice Systems in the Mau Forest, Kenya Project engaged traditional elders in a series of trainings, conversations, and mentoring sessions on women's constitutional rights. Having a female lawyer from the area's ethnic group on the project team also conveyed to participants that the project appreciated their community's customs and traditions. These activities shifted the elders' from feeling threatened to becoming supporters of women's land rights (USAID, 2013). In particular, sessions highlighting local gender inequalities in the division of labor helped illuminate to elders the critical role that women play in working the land and in ensuring the family's survival. The project team worked with elders to create a pie chart of the of the number of hours that women and men worked during a typical day, visualizing women's greater labor burden. Through these sessions, elders came to support that women ought to have a say in land use decision-making, incorporated gender considerations into the elders' constitution and code of conduct, and established a new requirement for written spousal consent for land transactions (USAID, 2013).

The Feed the Future Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement II (USAID, 2019) and AgNRM projects in northern Ghana made the benefits of women's land access more visible to traditional leaders and helped achieve traditional leaders signing MOUs to set aside parcels of land totaling 1600 acres for 1000 women over a 10-year lease. ADVANCE II leveraged networks of local farm service providers[6] to raise traditional leaders' awareness on why women should have rights to manage land (USAID, 2019). Drawing

6 Local, farmer-run businesses that provide services to or buy produce from smallholder farmers.

from their experiences, the service providers conveyed women smallholder farmers' capabilities and contribution to the local agricultural economy, and the need for secure land rights to enable them to do so. ADVANCE II also collaborated with the local advocacy organization NORTHCODE, which held a workshop with traditional leaders to share research findings that women having land far from their homesteads negatively impacts their productivity and that having access to closer land would improve agricultural productivity. AgNRM identified male champions to advocate on behalf of women and disseminate messages highlighting how women's increased tenure security can enhance household food security, nutrition, and income (Winrock International, 2019).

2.2.2 Promote women's roles in land governance

Women-focused Women Rights and Leadership Fora (WRLF) were created in Tanzanian pastoralist communities with the aim of strengthening women's voice in land use decisions. Including customary leaders in the Fora was critical to raising their status and social legitimacy as was the local government's recognition of the Fora. All WLRF members receive training on women's land rights; customary leaders in the WRLFs receive specific training on women's social welfare challenges, and women members alone receive training on leadership and entrepreneurship skills (Dungumaro and Amos, 2019).

The USAID Integrated Land Resource and Governance (ILRG) Project supported women's participation in community land governance through training both women and men leaders. In Malawi, the project trained women and men members of Customary Land Committees together to promote male committee members' acceptance of women in the Committees. The project also provided stipends to committee members which promoted female members' husbands' acceptance of their service on the committee (Bessa et al., 2023). In Zambia, the project engaged traditional male leaders in community sensitization sessions before Community Resource Board elections to promote acceptance of women's participation and leadership on the Boards (Malasha, 2020). In both Malawi and Zambia, the project provided technical training and socioemotional skills to women in the Customary Land Committees and Community Resource Boards to more effectively exercise their new roles.

2.2.3 Allocate customary lands to women's groups

Keys to convincing communities and traditional leaders to allocate customary lands to groups of women were aligning the lands' use with women's locally defined sociocultural responsibilities and projects providing additional support to demonstrate that women can manage the land well.

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The Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) Alatona Irrigation Project in Mali facilitated allocation of land for women's market gardens, noting that market gardening was a socioculturally acceptable role prescribed to women in local communities (Rolfes and Seitz, 2013). The project also helped establish women's associations as legal entities to own and manage the land by developing model articles of incorporation and by-laws for the associations and a model agreement between the associations and members that granted members legal access to individual garden parcels. Once established, land titles were issued to the associations.

The Enhanced Homestead Food Production (E-HFP) project in Burkina Faso worked with landowners in communities to identify land that could be used for a Village Model Farm (VMF) run by the project's women lead farmers for women in the village. E-HFP provided initial agricultural and animal inputs to the VMFs where women received training on crop production and animal rearing. Women often applied what they learned in the VMFs in their own home production. Women's successful production in the VMFs positively shifted community members' opinions on women's capabilities to manage land (Van Den Bold et al., 2015).

2.3 Support gender-responsive, participatory certification of land rights

Certification of land rights can either solidify existing gender inequalities in land rights by legally registering the status quo or, if done in a gender-responsive manner, legally protect women's land rights and expand them in practice. Correspondingly, government certification programs can either limit or expand women's incentives to invest in agriculture and their access to financial services, government programs, and commercial opportunities that depend on being recognized as landholders.

Agricultural projects and agribusinesses have supported participatory land certification as a pathway to

- promote farmers' uptake of agricultural inputs, climate-smart agricultural practices, and other investments in productivity and sustainability through improving farmers tenure security; and
- lower business risk in the agriculture sector by clarifying land rights, reducing uncertainty and risk of disputes, and resolving existing disputes.

Participatory land certification typically includes the following steps that require several months and close coordination with local leadership:

- Raise public awareness about land rights and the certification process;
- Identify and resolving existing land conflicts;
- Visit land parcels to document their boundaries and occupancy;
- Create maps of parcels within a community;
- Public viewing of maps and opportunities for corrections and identifying additional disagreements;
- Verification of parcel data;
- Registration with the government/other authority; and
- Issuing certificates to landholders.

Whether and how an agricultural program incorporates aspects of land certification can be tailored to the project's scale, participants, and scope. There may be opportunities to coordinate with ongoing national certification efforts to assist project farmers (women and men) to certify their lands or enable women farmers to participate in one or more of the certification steps; to provide education on the steps of certification and women's rights to be certified landholders; to register newly allocated land to formerly landless women and men; or to encourage government to apply gender-responsive practices to land certification, including practices outlined in this section. Among the examples we examined, most projects that integrated gender aimed to increase women's access to information about the land certification process, increase women's participation in land certification, and promote supportive attitudes for women's land rights among community members and leaders.

Evidence across the programs suggests that the participatory certification efforts

- increased women's and men's knowledge of their land rights;
- increased women's and men's tenure security;
- increased women's and men's uptake of agricultural inputs, uptake of improved and sustainable practices, and ability to participate in commercial agriculture;
- had mixed effects on women's decision-making over land, agricultural production and earnings, and other measures of empowerment; and
- may have reduced violence against women.

2.3.1 Joint rights and joint participation

Certifying spouses' joint rights has become more common as governments adopt gender-equitable laws. Joint registration is an important step forward in legal recognition of women's land rights and moving toward their enforceability. Having both wives and husbands listed as owners/rightsholders

is also often more socioculturally acceptable than married women having rights by themselves to land.

All of the examples in this section registered joint spousal rights, and most certified rights to land that women, men, and their households were already farming. Two examples are notable because they promoted joint rights for women and men who were not yet using the land. In allocating state lands to people who were landless, the Homestead Land Grants Program in Odisha State in India required joint titles in dual-/male-headed households, conveying that the state was giving land to both women and men. During the certification process, Rwanda's Land Tenure Regularization registered both female children and male children as having interests in their parents' land, strengthening legal recognition of daughters' inheritance rights in a context where inheritance favors sons (Hoza, 2012).

Projects also took action to make sure that husbands and wives were together at key points in the certification process and that both spouses received a certificate. Rwanda's Land Tenure Regularization requested both women and men to be present when people registered claims to a parcel. The Land Investment for Transformation (LIFT) Project in Ethiopia required that wives be present during meetings to publicly display maps and resolve land disputes. When wives were not present, husbands had to provide evidence for the reason (e.g. notes from health workers if a wife had recently given birth). The LIFT team did not release any certificates or other documents to the household until wives were present.

2.3.2 Build support for women's land rights in communities and among project staff

During trainings, meetings, and religious or social gatherings, projects used the following strategies to promote the social acceptability and perceived benefits of couples jointly registering land: male staff held conversations with male community members and leaders; emphasizing the security and well-being of family and children; and using real examples of consequences of women losing land rights or of being able to prosper or protect family interests because they had registered rights. Local staff led these discussions and trainings. Their understanding of social dynamics and how communities would receive messages was critical to crafting and delivering credible content.

LIFT and PROMAC II developed messages to encourage seeing women's land rights and joint registration as practical protection for children and as a moral good. LIFT tailored messages to all community stakeholders, including husbands, fathers, brothers, fathers-in-law, brothers-in-law, wives, guardians and caregivers, mediators, and government administrators. A selection of LIFT's target messages includes the following (DAI Guide, n.d.):

- Wives
  - Women work outside the home. They are farmers. Therefore, they should know about the land they are farming and have their rights to the land protected.
- Husbands
  - Families have greater land tenure security when wives are aware of household assets and can contribute to decision-making.
  - Allowing women to participate in land registration is an expression of manhood and modernity. It shows respect and acknowledges human dignity.
- Brothers-in-law
  - Do you want to see your sister-in-law and her children lose their land rights and live in destitution?

In Malawi, USAID ILRG provided gender equality and social inclusion training to all stakeholders at every step of the land registration process, including government officers, project data collectors and processors, members of customary land tribunals and district land tribunals, and members of the Customary Land Committees (Bessa et al., 2023). The training promoted buy-in and understanding the importance of gender integration throughout the registration process. Particularly critical was training on gender-based violence (GBV), recognizing that the land registration process can inadvertently create or exacerbate intrahousehold tensions.

2.3.3 Have a designated staff person to engage women throughout certification's steps

The LIFT Project's Social Development Officer (SDO[7]) spent time in communities to identify women (and other vulnerable persons) who were experiencing land disputes or who were vulnerable to either to harm during the certification process or to being left out of the process (e.g. widows, pregnant women, polygynous wives, women with disabilities, orphaned girls). SDOs and LIFT field teams could then better ensure these women and girls had the attention needed from the project to participate and to manage conflicts.

SDOs targeted awareness-raising to women by

- announcing meetings at community events and places where women were present (e.g. churches, mosques, and ceremonies) and communicating to men that women should attend certification meetings;

7 Based on their experience with SDOs in LIFT in Ethiopia, DAI created a SDO manual to promote the use of SDOs in other certification programs. https://www.dai.com/uploads/DAI%20SDO%20Guide-3ddf0d.pdf.

- making house visits to women identified as vulnerable to personally invite them to events and provide basic information about the certification process and women's land rights; and
- holding women-only meetings.

During awareness-raising activities with communities, local leaders, government, and other LIFT staff, SDOs explained the law behind women's legal rights. They also facilitated conversations about land rights violations that women face, drawing from local cases and encouraging participants to share their own experiences.

Having SDOs increased women's and men's understanding of and confidence in the certification process and benefits of certificates. They enabled women to have their disputes settled and raise questions and reduced violence toward vulnerable landholders. By increasing women's and men's participation from the beginning, identifying conflicts and problems early, and ensuring all landholders were able to present their interests on a parcel, were present for mapping boundaries, and were present for final decisions on parcels and rights to them, SDOs improved the efficiency of the overall certification process (DAI Guide, n.d.; LIFT Final Report, n.d.).

2.4 Combining land tenure and agricultural interventions

Although secure land tenure and access to resources are important for all farmers to be productive, women smallholder farmers, more than their male counterparts, tend to have a slimmer bundle of rights, less secure land rights, and less access to financial and extension services, accessible and timely inputs (FAO, 2023). Projects that both expand women's access to agricultural inputs and services and strengthen their land rights and tenure security may have better outcomes both for women and for productivity than projects that address only one.

We highlight different ways, five projects pursued a combined approach to address land tenure and access to agricultural inputs, training, or financial services, often with a focus on women. Across the projects outcomes included

- smallholder women farmers either feeling more tenure secure or having access to more land;
- women having greater access to financial services;
- women having greater roles in decisions about production, land use, or using income; and
- greater use of agricultural inputs (e.g. improved seeds or fertilizer) and application of sustainable agricultural practices in general.

(Pieters, 2023; Landesa, 2016, 2020; Nathan London Associates and SIAPAC, 2020; LIFT, 2019a, 2019b; Van Den Bold et al., 2015; Fletschner and Kenney, 2014; LIFT, n.d.).

A lesson from projects that included a land certification or registration component is that efforts to get women's names as rightsholders on land certificates were essential to women being able to access agricultural inputs and services, especially financial services.

2.4.1 Land Investment for Transformation Project, Ethiopia

LIFT in Ethiopia was the first large-scale land certification project to deliberately include a way to leverage land certificates to access loans. LIFT worked with local microfinance institutions (MFIs) and the Government of Ethiopia to pilot a loan linked to the land certificates. People listed on the certificate as landholders could apply for loans as individuals (instead of as part of a group) on the basis of their land certificate, business plan, and personal creditworthiness. This enabled flexibility in loan size and repayment options. The land use rights, validated by the certificates, or the produce of their land served as collateral. If borrowers defaulted, lenders would have temporary use rights to the land until the outstanding value was covered or up to 2 years.

The combination of more women having land certificates in their name with the certificate-linked loan expanded agricultural finance to smallholder women farmers, especially female household heads. Female household heads were often previously unable to access credit, including through group loans because group members saw them as a default risk. More than 22 000 people received loans using their land certificate, with only a 2% default rate. Eleven percent were women in female-headed households; 23% were women in male-headed households. All borrowers were first-time borrowers for formal credit. Farmers on average received loans two-to-three times the size of loans typically offered through groups (LIFT, n.d.). MFIs benefited through an expanded customer base and improved liquidity and had more demand for the certificate-linked loans than they could initially meet. (LIFT, 2019a, 2019b, n.d.).

2.4.2 Promotion of Climate Smart Agriculture Project II (PROMAC II), Mozambique

PROMAC II directly provided land certificates and agricultural inputs to the same set of project farmers, rather than linking services or making them available in the same geography. The project viewed the certificates and inputs as a necessary combination to build farmers' sustainable productivity and restore depleted soils. Preliminary evaluation findings[8] suggest that the land certification process increased demand for agricultural inputs and willingness

8 Internal project materials shared with authors. The World Bank Gender Innovation Lab is conducting the evaluation, with results forthcoming.

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to make agricultural investments only among women farm managers, who may have initially been more tenure insecure. There were no similar effects among male farm managers or women working on farms their husbands managed.

2.4.3 My Home My Land (Nijo Griha Nijo Buhumi) Microplots, West Bengal, India

The NGNB Microplots Program shows that a very small portion of land combined with agricultural inputs and training can have substantial impacts. West Bengal's state and local government institutions allocated and registered small parcels (mostly between 0.10 and 0.16 hectares) to landless households, prioritizing female-headed households and households with daughters and no sons. Since 2007, 73% of titles included women's names. Households that received microplots were also targeted to receive a variety of inputs and government services, including seeds and saplings, micro-irrigation, chicks and small livestock, extension and animal husbandry services, and microcredit. Agricultural training programs intentionally targeted women to enable them to produce for home production and their own earnings (Landesa, 2016). Results of this integrated program included

- women felt secure that they would be able to reside and farm on their microplots in the future;
- women in households that received a microplot were more likely to be involved in decisions about the use of the microplot, decisions about other land the family used, household food consumption, whether to take out loans, and whether to buy productive assets; and
- households that received microplots were more likely to use fertilizer and pesticides, rent agricultural equipment, and plant seedlings.

(Landesa, 2016; Fletschner and Kenney, 2014)

2.4.4 Support to the Government of Myanmar's Land to the Landless Program

An example of less intensive, informal coordination of land, financial, and agricultural extension projects generating impacts for farmers comes from Myanmar. From 2017 to 2021, Landesa partnered with the Government of Myanmar's Land to the Landless program to allocate and register farmland to rural and landless households.[9] Connected by a common funder, Landesa, the Helen Keller Institute (HKI), and the microfinance institution Proximity Designs identified common sites and coordinated scheduling of activities to encourage

9 Content for the Myanmar example comes from Landesa reports to the private funder, internal project records, and personal communication from Landesa staff.

farmers working with each organization to take advantage of the services offered by the others.

In Ayeyarwady Region, Landesa introduced Proximity Designs to villages where Landesa supported the government to allocate farmland. Proximity Designs then held meetings with farmers in these villages explaining Proximity Designs' services and criteria. Landesa discussed the merits of women taking out loans with men and women villagers. Messages concentrated on the household functioning well as a unit if wives and daughters manage finances because men are busy in the fields and encouraging women to take out loans and attend capacity-strengthening events to support managing the loans. Landesa's and Proximity Design's common funder partially guaranteed the loans. Approximately 30% of borrowers were women.

HKI and Landesa directly provided seeds, tree seedlings, fertilizer, farm equipment, and poultry to farmers who had received farmland. Landesa also encouraged women in its project villages to attend HKI meetings that provided training for cultivating home gardens to support child nutrition. Over 1014 women farmers and 1440 male farmers in households that were recently allocated farmland received agricultural training or inputs.

2.4.5 Expanding the PepsiCo potato supply chain to women farmers in the USAID ILRG Project

In West Bengal, India, a partnership funded by USAID and PepsiCo implemented under the USAID ILRG project supported of approximately 40 landless women in seven groups to collectively rent land and farm potatoes for PepsiCo's supply chain. The women were mainly from scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and religious minorities. The women's land-leasing groups were formed from existing self-help groups with women who had prior farming experience. Women in the leasing groups received agronomic training through PepsiCo's extension services, which USAID supported to make more gender-responsive by training farmer-facing staff in basic concepts of gender, barriers and benefits to women producing PepsiCo potatoes, and reasons and impacts of women having less access to agricultural training.

The land leasing groups demonstrated that women could manage a farm, perform to commercial quantity and quality standards, and engage with aggregators and suppliers. Over the course of the project, women in the groups increasingly saw themselves as farmers in their own right rather than helpers or laborers, as did their families and other community members (Brooks and Sommerville, 2023).

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2.5 Social norms and behavior change interventions

A woman's ability to exercise her land rights is often influenced by social norms in her community. Land and agricultural projects run the risk of not only failing to benefit women but potentially harming women if they do not address norms that present barriers to women's land rights.

We outline three good practices from projects that focused specifically on strengthening women's land tenure and tenure security: engage men, identify and support champions, and facilitate local solutions. In addition to these practices, most trainings involved repeated interactions with participants to build trust, create opportunities for participants to practice and reflect on new behaviors, and influence a core group of people before pursuing widespread reach.

2.5.1 Engage men

Securing Your Family's Future (SYFF) was one of the first projects to engage men in an intervention to shift social norms related to women's land rights. Launched in 2016, the SYFF course enrolled men in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania to build positive norms and attitudes, accurate knowledge, and self-efficacy among men to encourage specific behaviors: (1) fathers allocate land to daughters and sons equally; (2) husbands include wives as joint owners and/or managers of land; (3) husbands and fathers bequeath wives and daughters land in their wills; and (4) husbands seek wives' consent before selling family land or making other major decisions about land. Each of these behaviors had specific activities and key messages integrated throughout the course. The course, comprised of six 2-hour sessions conducted over several weeks, employed interactive storytelling, role playing, and small- and large-group discussions. For example, small groups prepared and presented skits about men calling into a radio station for advice on land questions, followed by group discussion. Participants also received a take-home activity every session to reflect on and practice skills from the session in their daily lives.[10]

The Rising Up! Project, implemented in the Democratic Republic of Congo by Women for Women International (WfWI) and Innovation and Training for Development and Peace (IFDP), aimed for women to safely receive customary land titles. The project adapted WfWI's women's empowerment and GBV prevention approaches to the land sector and adapted IFDP's existing Customary Decentralized Land Management Resource Model to incorporate GBV prevention and response. IFDP and WfWI used these tools to train male community leaders about women's land rights and how to identify and address

10 This description is based on a review of the curriculum materials, which were shared with Landesa but are not publicly available.

GBV. The project encouraged male leaders to reflect upon and shift norms and customs that limited women's access to land, to use gender-sensitive practices in dispute resolution, and provide referrals for GBV survivors (Women for Women International, 2022).

In turn, trained male leaders facilitated a 16-week 'step-down' training for the husbands of women interested in obtaining customary land titles. The curriculum covered gender concepts, men as role models, positive masculinity, managing couple relationships, land rights and women's access to land, customary land management, land conflict management, and personal behavior change. All male leaders served as role models by granting land to their spouses to register in their names, and 95% of the men they trained did the same (Women for Women International, 2022).

2.5.2 Identify and support champions

There will be pushback to any project that attempts to change the status quo. It can be more effective to invest resources in champions of a cause instead of spending resources to change the attitudes of people very resistant to the change. Champions should be influential people with enough social capital that they are unlikely to experience social harm when they question social norms or encourage others to do so.

As part of customary land registration, the USAID ILRG project partnered with the Government of Malawi to facilitate household dialogues on harmful gender norms. Over five participatory sessions, household members discussed gendered roles and responsibilities, power dynamics, GBV, and decision-making. After the dialogues, the project supported the most engaged participants to serve as community gender champions. After an orientation on facilitating discussions about the benefits of gender-inclusive land ownership and decision-making, community champions received a discussion guide, FAQ document, comic booklet, posters t-shirts, and a small stipend. The champions worked in pairs to spread messages at community gatherings and by going door-to-door, reaching over 4500 people (Bessa et al., 2023)

2.5.3 Facilitate local approaches

USAID ILRG engaged *indunas*, customary chiefs and their advisors, to design actions to strengthen women's land rights in Zambia's Eastern Province. *Indunas* not only allocate land but also serve as cultural custodians. The project facilitated three dialogues over 1 year in which *indunas* analyzed gender inequalities in land ownership, access, and control; envisioned the change they wanted to see and how they could contribute to this change; and discussed achievements and challenges. Although some *indunas* were resistant to changes in norms, others embraced them. In five of the seven chiefdoms, *indunas* facilitated community

discussions about harmful traditions such as forcing divorcees and widows to leave the villages where they lived. In four chiefdoms, *indunas* drafted by-laws to protect women's land rights and ban property grabbing. *Indunas* also encouraged men to include women's names on land documents, and some led by example. This locally led process promoted ownership, accountability, and sustainability (Malasha, 2021).

3 Private sector examples

Companies, cooperatives, and other private sector actors can decrease risk, expand their supplier base, and encourage investments in productivity through actions to strengthen women's land tenure. Several of the approaches outlined in Section 2 are relevant for private sector actors. Because private sector action on women's land tenure is relatively new and undocumented in agriculture, it is useful to make these examples more visible. The following examples of certification, activities to address norms, and a company rule change show that companies and cooperatives, large and small, can take action to strengthen women's land tenure and security.

3.1 Promoting joint land rights in law and practice in a coffee cooperative

The Bukonzo Joint Cooperative Union (BJCU), a microfinance and coffee cooperative union in Uganda with mostly female membership, began in 1992 as a savings self-help group. At the time BJCU was forming, few women had land ownership (sole or joint) despite doing the bulk of agricultural work. Without registered ownership, women were ineligible for membership in coffee cooperatives and not able to directly access the credit or savings services cooperatives provided. Women often strategically harvested coffee cherries before their husbands returned from migratory work so they could directly control the income, resulting in low quality coffee harvests.

In 2007, BJCU began applying the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) across its entire coffee value chain (from farming workshops to board meetings) (Bukonzo Joint Coffee, 2015). GALS engages both women and men in participatory activities such as drawing, discussions, and role plays. In one activity, women and men listed the activities of women and men in coffee farming and placed them on a picture of a tree, with women's land rights at the foundation and income-generating activities on branches and leaves. This activity created a community vision of women's land rights as a foundation for the benefits coffee production generates, emphasized the benefits of cooperation between women and men, and opened opportunities for women's greater involvement in household and cooperative decisions. Greater cooperation and women's increased involvement in decisions eventually enabled BJCU

to shift production into higher qualities of specialty coffee. GALS activities combined with awareness-raising on gendered inheritance rights also laid the groundwork for BJCU to support wives and husbands to legally register their land as jointly owned. One of BJCU's mottos is, 'Balanced trees bear richer fruit.'

3.2 Succession of outgrower contracts

Women's ability to participate in outgrower schemes is often limited because they are less likely to have recognized rights to land and to have the economic resources and social acceptance to lease land as individuals. The KASCOL (Kaleya Smallholder Company Limited) that produces fair trade sugar cane in Zambia developed an arrangement whereby family members can inherit an outgrower contract for a 14-year renewable sub-lease on company-leased land if the household head dies (Wonani et al., 2013). Once women join the outgrower scheme, they can also access fire and rain insurance and join the outgrower association that holds equity in KASCOL.

Contract holders have increasingly opted for female successors because they believe women will use the earnings to care for family (Manda, 2021). Over time, this has led to many women joining the scheme and increased the stability of KASCOL's outgrower base in an area with a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Benefits from the contracting change included marginally higher yields among women outgrowers than men and greater food security in households with women outgrowers because they had stronger decision-making over income. However, these changes were not accompanied by efforts to enhance women's roles in the sugar associations (Manda, 2021).

3.3 Cooperative-issued land certificates to reduce risk

A partnership between Illovo Sugar Company and USAID in Mozambique issued land certificates through agricultural cooperatives as precursors to fully legally registered certificates, which took additional time and effort to obtain. Illovo and other sugar companies accepted the cooperative-issued certificate as validation of landholdings required for farmers to register with them as outgrowers. Farmers reported that the certificates were easier to obtain than other documents companies accepted to register as an outgrower. The cooperative-issued certificates increased women (and men) farmers' perceived tenure security and their ability to pursue commercial production while strengthening the breadth and stability of the company's supply base (Persha and Taha, 2022).

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4 Recommendations for integrating women's land tenure

Sections 2 and 3 show practical steps and lessons to strengthen women farmers' land tenure that agricultural programs and private sector actors can integrate into their own activities. Examples demonstrate how these approaches increase not only women's land rights and tenure security but also women's uptake of agricultural inputs and sustainable practices, access to information and services, commercial participation, and economic empowerment – goals for development actors and companies.

Programs and companies should match the intensity, scale, and nature of activities for smallholder women's land tenure to their engagement with farmers. The goal is to identify activities that will have meaningful impact on women smallholder farmers' land rights and tenure security that are also feasible given available resources. The following paragraphs are lessons emerging across the five approaches.

To determine entry points and avoid harm, research existing laws, customary rules, and norms to understand barriers and opportunities to women's land tenure. Also review project/company practices and policies related to land that may affect women's eligibility or ability to engage. Adding women's land tenure as a topic to the gender analyses required by many funders is one place to begin. Private sector actors similarly can include women's land tenure as part of their gender, sustainability, or responsible investment analyses. (Toolkits in Section 6 outline key questions to address in your analysis.) In examining their rules and practices, projects and companies should pay attention to requirements for land ownership, land area, minimum production values, being named on land documents, and cooperative membership that may disproportionately exclude women. Also, interventions do not always have to be about land ownership or access rights – advancing women smallholders' ability and power to manage land, production, and agricultural earnings are natural choices for agricultural programming.

In these analyses and during design and implementation, engage land experts to advise on or to lead activities focused on land rights literacy, mapping and certification, land governance, or gender norms around land. Agricultural practitioners and land practitioners who were collaborating found it helpful to have a designated liaison and to understand key terminology that the other used.

Combine multiple approaches as feasible. Applying every approach outlined in this chapter or addressing every barrier to women's land tenure is unrealistic. However, most examples applied at least two approaches – most often awareness-raising with another approach. Awareness-raising about women's land rights is often necessary before or alongside other approaches

so that women know their rights and how to exercise them and so that leaders know and can uphold women's land rights. In certification programs, awareness-raising was often necessary for people to understand that women can be on certificates and what the benefits are. Training government and traditional leaders on women's land rights combined with registering land certificates with local authorities can increase the enforceability of women's land rights, making them matter of public record and public responsibility.

Awareness-raising and norm change activities need to be tailored, iterative, and locally led. Both land rights and gender are sensitive and deeply felt topics that affect agricultural systems. Establishing trust and accompanying people, communities, and institutions to understand new content and practice new behaviors takes time. Successful efforts were conducted over several months, had multiple in-person interactions, created opportunities for people to learn together and reinforce each other, and were guided by leaders or people from the local area. Tailoring messages to the local context and to specific stakeholders or social roles (e.g. recognizing women as farmers or highlighting community mediators' responsibility to be equitable in LIFT or encouraging fathers to supportive of daughters' rights and well-being in SYFF, LIFT, and Rwanda LAND) conveyed respect those roles and were relevant to the people in them. Similarly, building on socially acknowledged and valued roles for women – such as growing food for the family, gardening or keeping small livestock to supplement children's diets or household income as in the E-HFP project in Burkina Faso and NGNB Program in India – created opportunities to secure or expand women's land access that communities could see as legitimate or even beneficial.

It is important to include men, especially traditional leaders, regardless of the approach because smallholder women farmers' access to land, access to inputs and resources to cultivate it, and power to decide how to use earnings and other benefits from land are greatly dependent on their male relatives and (mostly male) leaders. Most examples in Sections 2 and 3 engaged men in activities related to women's land rights. Applying any of the approaches needs male engagement for women to be able to safely participate. Even community meetings for awareness-raising, a relatively simple activity, benefits from men in the community encouraging women to attend or at least not impeding women's participation. As active champions, men can model and support each other in positive behaviors – from seemingly small behaviors like encouraging their wife to attend or speak at a land certification meeting to allocating wives land for their own use or jointly registering land. Over time, these changes can increase the sociocultural legitimacy of women's land rights; reduce the risk of women exercising land rights; reduce the burden of asking husbands' permission to exercise rights; and increase the likelihood that leaders or local institutions provide equitable services and dispute resolution.

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Land certification can benefit agricultural programs' and companies' farmers tenure security and access to services and has multiple entry points for agricultural programs and companies to choose their involvement. Involvement can vary from linking farmers pursuing or who recently received land certificates with agricultural services or vice versa, financially and logistically supporting a project's women farmers to certify their land or incorporating training on women's land rights or certification into the project.

For combined land and agricultural interventions, fundamental good gender practices meant that more women could participate fully, to their benefit and to the project's or company's benefit. Practices from programs in this chapter included, but are not limited to, holding meetings at convenient times for women, inviting women to public meetings, having separate meetings as needed for women, having female project staff or lead farmers, providing childcare during trainings, and having channels for women's input throughout the project. They engaged a larger number of women overall who then had opportunities to learn about their rights, gain certificates in their name, participate in community land governance, and be in a better position to access agricultural loans and apply agricultural knowledge and inputs gained through the project.

Finally, agricultural projects are well-placed to contribute evidence on women's land tenure and practical ways to strengthen it. Including gendered measures of land rights and tenure security in project evaluations, documenting lessons from efforts to address social norms affecting women's land tenure, and examining gendered rights in addition to ownership, including managing agricultural land and earnings, are valuable additions to the evidence base that programs of any scale can contribute. Programs can also address two important limitations of this chapter – few examples outside sub-Saharan Africa[11] and no exploration of gender's intersections with age, Indigenous identity, or other aspects of identify – both of which are partially due to a lack of documented or accessible information. Sharing examples of *how* communities, projects, and companies approached addressing women's land tenure and the corresponding challenges, successes, and lessons is incredibly valuable for creating more effective programs and policies and influencing not only practitioners but governments and funders.

11 That the majority of examples are from sub-Saharan Africa reflects that research on women's land tenure programing draws heavily from sub-Saharan Africa (Meinzen-Dick et al. 2019) and reflects recent donor attention to land tenure in sub-Saharan Africa. For example, over half of active or completed single-country projects listed on USAID's LandLinks and dating back to 2003 are in sub-Saharan Africa (accessed https://www.land-links.org/usaid-land-projects/ November 12, 2023). Although the approaches and lessons are likely to be relevant globally, specific activities and messages may be less relevant in Latin American or Asian contexts.

5 Conclusion

Integrating interventions for women's land tenure into agricultural programming is feasible and impactful in a variety of settings. The examples in this chapter – of varying scales and drawn from rural development projects, government programs, and agribusiness – demonstrate that enhancing women's land tenure in agricultural programs can not only increase women's access to land and perceived tenure security but also increase women farmers' use of agricultural inputs and good agricultural practices and their participation in commercial agriculture, which can create a larger and more stable supplier base for agribusinesses. Combined, women's enhanced land tenure, women's increased agricultural production, and women's greater role in decisions about land, production, and income are recognized building blocks of women's economic empowerment, overall food security, and healthy rural economies.

While there remains much to learn about the practicalities of how to implement integrated agricultural and land tenure programming, the examples in this chapter illustrate that it is possible and valuable to address underlying gendered land tenure issues using approaches and degrees of intensity that align with programs' and companies' contexts and available resources. Key lessons from the examples are that good practices for gender-responsive agricultural programming (e.g. conducting a gender analysis and engaging men) are critical to identifying and creating opportunities to increase women's participation and everyone's benefit. Also critical are collaboration between land tenure and agricultural development practitioners and ensuring that communities and other stakeholders understand key aspects of gendered land rights.

Integrating women's land tenure and agricultural programming is not effortless and may not result in the full range of potential positive outcomes, especially in the short term. However, because women's land rights are part of the underlying foundation of agrifood systems, it is critical to address them in the iterative, long-term, multi-sector endeavor of making agrifood systems more effective and equitable.

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7 Where to look for further information

Concepts and definitions for land tenure

- USAID. Property Rights and Resource Governance Issues and Best Practices Module 1: Introduction to Land Tenure and Property Rights (LTPR) Concepts Selected Land Tenure Definitions. https://www.land-links.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/USAID_Land_Tenure_2012_Washington_Course_Module_1_LTPR_Concepts_and_Definitions.pdf.

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- Responsible Investments in Property and Land – Guidebooks for businesses, governments, and communities. https://ripl.landesa.org/.

- LandAssess - a risk management and assessment framework and checklists to help agricultural companies to assess and manage how they respect land rights. https://www.landesa.org/what-we-do/landassess-tool/.

National-level data on women's land rights

- Prindex. Gender-disaggregated, nationally representative data on perceived tenure security and documentation of land rights and analytical reports based on the data. https://www.prindex.net/.
- LandEx Global Land Governance Index. https://www.landexglobal.org/en/datasets/view-and-use-data/.

Projects and places to watch

- The Responsible Land-Based Investment (RLBI) Navigator 2.0, developed by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the Land Portal Foundation, in another useful source created to help government, civil society, and private sector actors to identify and access guidance and examples on responsible land investments. https://landinvestments.org/.
- Securing Women's Resource Rights through Gender Transformative Approaches is a joint project by the International Foundation for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry Centre, the International Food Policy Research Institute, and the Alliance of Bioversity International, and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) to pilot gender-transformative approaches to strengthening women's land rights in a portfolio of IFAD's agricultural projects. https://www.cifor.org/wlr/.
- The International Institute for Environment and Development's land acquisitions and rights collection. https://www.iied.org/theme/land-acquisitions-rights.
- Landesa's Center for Women's Land Rights. https://www.landesa.org/what-we-do/womens-land-rights/.

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Appendix 1 Programmatic examples and outcomes by approach

Approach	Awareness raising of women's land rights	Land access and governance in customary systems	Gender-responsive, participatory land certification	Combining land tenure and agricultural interventions	Addressing social norms
Outcomes for agriculture and women's empowerment	(Not consistently assessed)	Women farmers' increased application of agricultural knowledge, improved technologies, or higher-value crops Women's increased decision-making in land use and agricultural production Higher self-confidence and empowerment among women	Women farmers' increased application of agricultural inputs and improved/ sustainable practices More women farmers enter commercial supply chains Expanded and more stable supply base for agribusiness Mixed outcomes for: women's decision-making over agricultural production and agricultural earnings; women's empowerment	Women farmers' increased application of agricultural inputs and improved/ sustainable practices Women's increased decision-making in land use, agricultural production, and agricultural earnings Increased access to credit / financial / insurance services Expanded customer base for microfinance institutions More women farmers enter commercial supply chains Expanded and more stable supply base for agribusiness	(Not consistently assessed)
Improved outcomes for women's land rights and tenure security	Rights: – Conditions for security: Exercisability, Enforceability Notable outcomes Women, men, and leaders have improved knowledge of women's land rights	Rights: Use, Manage, Earn from land Conditions for security: Sociocultural legitimacy, Enforceability Notable outcomes Women's increased access to land Women's increased participation in land meetings and decision-making bodies	Rights: Use, Transfer, Use as collateral, Ownership Conditions for security: Legal recognition, Sociocultural legitimacy, Durability Notable outcomes Women perceive their tenure to be more secure Women, men, and leaders have improved knowledge of women's land rights	Rights: Use, Manage, Use as collateral, Earn from land Conditions for security: Legal recognition Notable outcomes Women's increased access to land Women perceive their tenure to be more secure	Rights: – Conditions for security: Sociocultural legitimacy, Enforceability Notable outcomes Male leaders and community members become champions for women's land rights

(*Continued*)

Appendix 1 (*Continued*)

Approach	Awareness raising of women's land rights	Land access and governance in customary systems	Gender-responsive, participatory land certification	Combining land tenure and agricultural interventions	Addressing social norms
Program / private sector examples highlighted in chapter	Rwanda LAND Talking Books / LSRD II, Liberia	Enhanced Homestead Food Production, Burkina Faso Enhancing Customary Justice Systems in Mau Forest, Kenya Project Feed the Future ADVANCE II and AgNRM Projects, Ghana MCC Alatona Irrigation Project, Mali USAID ILRG (Malawi and Zambia) Women's Rights and Leadership Fora, Tanzania	Homestead Land Grants Program, India LIFT, Ethiopia PROMAC II, Mozambique Rwanda's Land Tenure Regularization Program USAID ILRG (Malawi) USAID and Illovo Sugar Company	KASKOL, Zambia LIFT, Ethiopia NGNB Microplots, India PROMAC II, Mozambique Support to the Government of Myanmar's Land to the Landless Program USAID ILRG and PepsiCo, India	Bukonzo Joint Cooperative Union Rising up!, Democratic Republic of Congo SYFF, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda USAID ILRG (Zambia)
Programs / private sector applying the approach not highlighted in chapter	Bukonzo Joint Cooperative Union Enhancing Customary Justice Systems in Mau Forest, Kenya Project LIFT, Ethiopia PROMAC II Rising Up!, DRC Rwanda's Rural Land Transformation Program SYFF, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda USAID ILRG (Malawi, Zambia, PepsiCo) Women's Rights and Leadership Fora, Tanzania	Talking Books / LSRD II, Liberia	Bukonzo Joint Cooperative Union Support to the Government of Myanmar's Land to the Landless Program Talking Books / LSRD II, Liberia	Enhanced Homestead Food Production, Burkina Faso MCC Alatona Irrigation Project, Mali	Enhancing Customary Justice Systems in Mau Forest, Kenya Project Rwanda LAND USAID ILRG (Malawi, PepsiCo)

Appendix 2 Summaries of project and private sector examples

Program Name: Alatona Irrigation Project (MCC Mali)
Countries: Mali
Years: 2007–2012
Implementers: MCA-Mali; MCC; AECOM; ACDI/VOCA; G-Force; Nyeta Conseils, *Institute Géographique du Mali*; and the *Direction Regionale des Domaines et du Cadastre*.
Funders: Millennium Challenge Corporation
Funding amount: $253 000 000
Description: The Alatona Irrigation Project sought to convert nearly 5000 hectares of Sahel scrubland in the Segou region of Central Mali into high-value irrigated farmland. The project consisted of various components including irrigation infrastructure development, resettlement, land allocation, agricultural services, and financial services. To promote gender equal land allocation, the project followed a three-part strategy: titling of women's market gardens, encouraging allocation of 5-hectare farmlands to women, and gender-responsive awareness-raising to encourage joint titling. Of 4940 hectares of irrigated land allocated, 1648 were titled jointly and 174 were titled to women alone.

Company Name: Bukonzo Joint Coffee
Countries: Uganda
Description: Bukonzo Joint Coffee is a majority-women, member-owned coffee cooperative union in Uganda. The cooperative provides technical training, financial services, marketing assistance, and organic certification training to its members. They have undertaken and train other cooperatives in Women's Empowerment Mainstreaming and Networks and Gender Action Learning Systems approaches.
Links: https://bukonzojointcoffee.wordpress.com/author/bukonzojointcoffee/

Program Name: Enhanced-Homestead Food Production Programme (E-HFP)
Countries: Burkina Faso
Years: 2010–2012
Implementers: Helen Keller International
Funders: USAID
Description: E-HFP aimed to improve maternal and child health and nutrition through a nutrition-sensitive agriculture program. The project helped communities identify land that women could communally farm, provided women participants with agricultural inputs and small animals, and trained women participants in optimal agriculture, animal-raising, health, and nutrition

practices delivered via a behavior change communication strategy. E-HFP reached over 1500 women in the Eastern region of Burkina Faso.

Program Name: Enhancing Customary Justice Systems in the Mau Forest, Kenya (Kenya Justice Project)
Countries: Kenya
Years: 2010–2014
Implementers: Landesa
Funders: USAID
Funding amount: $490 000
Description: The project piloted an approach to improving women's access to customary justice, particularly related to land rights, to help implement new guarantees in the 2010 Constitution on gender-equal land rights. The project developed and delivered training to traditional leaders and strengthened their capacities in gender-responsive land governance and dispute resolution. It also supported women's and communities' learning understanding of the 2010 Constitution and National Land Policy, and women's land rights within them.
Links: Project site – https://www.land-links.org/project/enhancing-customary-justice-systems-in-the-mau-forest-kenya/#project-content; Implementation guide – https://www.land-links.org/tool-resource/kenya-justice-project-implementation-guide/.

Program Name: Feed the Future Ghana Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (AgNRM)
Countries: Ghana
Years: 2016-2021
Implementers: Winrock International, Nature Conservation Research Centre, Center for Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies
Funders: USAID
Funding amount: $24 900 000
Description: Using an integrated landscape approach that aligned development with conservation, AgNRM sought to integrate food security and water systems, highlighting their importance to nutrition and resilience. The project was implemented under four outcomes: (1) Increased Incomes from Natural Resource Products; (2) Improved Food and Nutritional Security; (3) Increased Farmer and Community Security/Access to Land and Natural Resources; and (4) Strengthened Environmental Stewardship. The project sought to secure land tenure rights for women and vulnerable groups through negotiation and respect for local norms, focusing on use and management rights. The project sought to enhance tenure security through land agreements, but also through approval and support from husbands and other male household members. The project trained 9620 individuals on improved agricultural practices, increased

incomes of 3,507 rural people, and supported the proposal, adoption or implementation of 30 land use plans.
Links: https://winrock.org/project/protecting-food-security-and-natural-resources-in-ghana/

Program Name: Feed the Future Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement II (Advance II)
Countries: Ghana
Years: 2014–2018
Implementers: ACDI/VOCA, Technoserve, ACDEP, PAB Consult
Funders: USAID
Description: As part of USAID/Ghana's Feed the Future program, ADVANCE II sought to enhance the livelihoods of 113 000 smallholder farmers by increasing the productivity of rice, maize, and soy value chains. The project sought to improve women's rights to use and manage farmland, recognizing that limited land rights inhibited women's value chain participation. The project used existing outgrower business networks to influence, collaborated with other Feed the Future projects, and worked with local advocacy groups to facilitate farmland allocations to women in customary communities.
Links: https://www.land-links.org/2021/08/increasing-womens-access-to-land-through-public-private-partnerships-in-ghana/

Program Name: Homestead Land Grants
Countries: India
Implementers: Government of Odisha, Landesa, Action Aid, Vasundhara
Funders: The World Bank
Description: The homestead land grants program sought to settle landless persons on government lands, increase women's participation in land policy-making processes and institutions, and increase women's access to land dispute resolution services. The program worked with civil society, local government, and funders to reach ensure the program benefited vulnerable women, including women who were wives, widows, divorced, and single.
Links: The Voluntary Guidelines and The World Bank: Gender Equitable Land Governance in Odisha. https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/836001470747254790/WEB-Good-Practices-Brief-3-FINAL.pdf
Company Name: Kaleya Smallholders Company Ltd (KASCOL)
Countries: Zambia
Description: KASCOL is a private company with approximately 160 smallholder sugar farmers.
Links: https://kascol.co.zm/about; Wonani, CM, WS Mbuta, and AM Mkandawire. 2013. "The Gender and Equity Implications of Land-Related Investments on Land Access, Labour, and Income-Generating Opportunities. A Case Study

of Selected Agricultural Investments in Zambia." FAO. https://www.fao.org/3/aq536e/aq536e.pdf

Program Name: Land Investment for Transformation (LIFT)
Countries: Ethiopia
Years: 2013–2021
Implementers: Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI), Nathan Associates Incorporated, NIRAS A/S
Funders: Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (Government of the United Kingdom)
Funding amount: £72.7 million
Description: LIFT operated in the Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regions, where it legally registered and certified over 15.7 million land parcels in support of the Government of Ethiopia's second-level land certification process. LIFT combined land certification with several interventions aimed to help farmers to leverage their new certificates or invest in improved agricultural inputs and practices. Interventions included working with local microfinance institutions to pilot loans for smallholders linked to the certificates; creating a standard land rental contract and training licensed facilitators to verify information, facilitate connections and negotiations between landlords and tenants, and to register the transaction with local government; partnering with government extension and local suppliers to make agricultural inputs more accessible to smallholders; and provided policy support and review of regulations related to land tenure and allocation to the Government of Ethiopia.
Links: https://www.dai.com/our-work/projects/ethiopia-land-investment-transformation-lift

Program Name: Nijo Griha Nijo Bhumi (NGNB) / My Home My Land
Countries: India (West Bengal State)
Years: 2007–2015
Implementers: State Government of West Bengal, Landesa
Funders: State Government of West Bengal
Description: Through NGNB (and its predecessor Cultivation and Dwelling Plot Allotment (CDPA)) the Government of West Bengal and local governments to allocate and register small parcels (mostly between 0.10 and 0.16 hectares) to landless households, giving priority to female-headed households, to households with daughters and no sons, households that were landless for two or more generations, households dependent on agricultural labor or artisanal production. The program targeted households that received microplots to also receive a variety of inputs and government services for home agricultural production, including seeds and saplings, micro-irrigation, poultry and small

livestock, extension and animal husbandry services, and microcredit. The program reached over 275 000 families that had been landless.
Links: https://wb.gov.in/government-schemes-details-nijogriha.aspx

Program Name: Promotion of Climate Smart Agriculture Project II (PROMAC II)
Countries: Mozambique
Years: 2017–2022
Implementers: NCBA/CLUSA
Funders: The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Maputo
Funding amount: US$14 500 000
Description: PROMAC II operated in Zambezia and Manica Provinces to reach over 31 500 smallholder farmers with the aim of promoting climate-smart agriculture in areas where soil had become degraded. The project combined a lead-farmer model of extension for training on climate-smart practices; community-based service providers to increase access to inputs and markets through aggregation points; promoted small-scale mechanization; functional adult literacy and numeracy education for smallholder farmers; land rights education and land certification for project farmers.
Links: https://ncbaclusa.coop/project/mozambique-conservation-agriculture-promotion-promac-ii/

Program Name: Rising Up! Promoting Congolese Women's Land Access and Preventing GBV in Eastern DRC
Countries: DRC
Years: 2020–2022
Implementers: Women for Women International (WfWI) and Innovation and Training for Development and Peace (IFDP)
Funders: USAID
Description: This project aimed to increase women's land rights while preventing GBV. WfWI and IFDP trained male community leaders, community Land Reflection Groups, and women Change Agents on land rights, gender-sensitive approaches to resolve land disputes, and how to identify and address GBV, including providing referrals to support services when necessary. The project integrated GBV prevention into IFDP's existing Customary Decentralized Land Management Resource Model. This project reached 2,859 project beneficiaries and trained 173 people on GBV prevention.
Links: https://genderandenvironment.org/rising-up-promoting-congolese-womens-land-access-and-preventing-gbv-in-eastern-drc/

Program Name: Rwanda LAND
Countries: Rwanda
Years: 2012–2017

Implementers: Chemonics, Radio Ishingiro
Funders: USAID
Funding amount: US$12 million
Description: Overall Rwanda LAND aimed to increase understanding of the legal framework around land among government, civil society, and citizens and improve Rwandan institutions' capacity to generate evidence for public sector and civil society use. The project developed and facilitated local implementation of a national land research agenda (which included a theme on gender and land), trained community mediators, increased cooperation among government actors to improved land dispute resolution services, and supported communications and public awareness campaigns to enhance citizens understanding their land rights and the land research findings.
Links: https://www.land-links.org/project/rwanda-land-project/

Program Name: Rwanda's Rural Land Transformation Program
Countries: Rwanda
Years: Approximately 2008–2013
Description: The Government of Rwanda's Land Tenure Regularization Program was a national effort to map and register all parcels of land in Rwanda, recorded in a national registry. It is considered to be one of the most cost-effective land certification and registration programs that also build administrative capacity to reduce the time from parcel identification, mapping, and adjudication, to issuing of certificates.
Links: https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/anrc/AfDB_RwandaLandReform_FA.pdf; Ali, D.A., Deininger, K. and Goldstein, M. (2014) 'Environmental and gender impacts of land tenure regularization in Africa: Pilot evidence from Rwanda', *Journal of Development Economics*, 110, pp. 262–275. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2013.12.009.

Program Name: USAID and Illovo Sugar Partnership Pilot
Countries: Mozambique
Years: 2016-2019
Implementers: Conducted under the USAID Evaluation, Research, and Communications Task Order and then under USAID ILRG.
Funders: USAID, Illovo Sugar Company
Description: The pilot included land rights sensitization, participatory mapping and parcel registration, and a local cooperative issuing eligible participants certificates to prove ac USAID, Illovo Sugar Company acquisition of Land Use and Benefit Rights (DUATs). The project took place in an sugarcane growing area.
Links: Persha, L. and N. Taha. (2022). Follow-on Performance Evaluation of the Responsible Land-Based Investment Pilot in Mozambique: Final Report.

Washington, DC: USAID Communications, Evidence and Learning (CEL) Project. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0211HT.pdf

Program Name: Securing Your Family's Future (SYFF)
Countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda
Years: 2016-2021
Implementers: Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV & AIDS (KELIN), the Pastoral Women's Council in Tanzania, the Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children's Welfare (UCOBAC), and Lori Rolleri Consulting
Funders: Wellspring Philanthropic Foundation
Description: The goal of the course was to increase women's access to, use, ownership, and control of, as well as decision-making about land. The course aimed to achieve this by promoting behaviors that strengthen women's land rights, which required shifting key determinants of the behaviors, including social norms, knowledge, attitudes, self-efficacy, and future intentions. The specific behaviors targeted by the course for men include: (1) fathers allocate land to daughters (regardless of marital status) as they do for sons; (2) husbands include wives as joint owners and/or managers of land; (3) husbands and fathers bequeath wives and daughters land in their wills (inheritance); and (4) husbands seek women's consent before selling family land or making other major decisions about land. Across the three countries, 412 men were trained (192 in Kenya, 100 in Tanzania, and 120 in Uganda). The course included a series of 6 2-hour sessions over 3–6 weeks using a variety of interactive teaching methods.

Program Name: Support to the Government of Myanmar's Land to the Landless Program
Countries: Myanmar
Years: 2017–2021
Implementers: Landesa
Funders: King Philanthropies
Description: In close collaboration with the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in addition to other King Philanthropies grantees, Landesa worked to reduce landlessness and bolster agricultural productivity through increasing land access and agricultural extension and other services for landless families and other smallholders; strengthen land tenure security; and support legislation and policy development. Efforts provided Ministries, parliamentary committees, and regional governments with legal and policy analysis and training and learning opportunities on issues of land access, customary tenure, gender integration and smallholder support services; provided technical assistance to support government allocation of public land

to the landless, return of land to smallholders, and protection of customary use rights in accordance with Myanmar laws and policies; and gathered accurate and gendered information regarding the prevalence of landlessness and experiences of landless people, available state land, and other critical matters to support design and modification of government programs.
Links: https://www.landesa.org/what-we-do/asia/myanmar/

Program Name: Talking Books, part of the larger Land Rights for Sustainable Development II Project (LRSD II)
Countries: Liberia
Years: 2021–2023
Implementers: Landesa, Amplio, Development Education Network – Liberia
Funders: King Philanthropies
Funding amount: US$3 million (LRSD II Project as a whole)
Description: The LRSD II Project focuses on implementing the 2018 Land Rights Law by supporting communities, policymakers, government officials, and civil society organizations. The Talking Books activity is part of the LRSD II workstream of legal awareness-raising and capacity-strengthening of community-based organizations and civil society. This workstream also included radio programming and technical and financial support to local organizations and working groups with emphases on women's and youths' land rights. The Talking Books also support LRSD II's workstream to accompany communities throughout the process of community land formalization. The process included awareness-raising, supporting community self-identification, drafting by-laws, mapping and harmonizing boundaries, and training community land governance committee members. The Talking Books initiative in the LRSD II project seeks to raise awareness at scale among customary communities on their land rights within the 2018 Land Rights Law. Talking Books are battery-powered audio devices that can play messages on demand. Each month, 400-600 participants use the Talking Books to learn about various topics along with their household members, after which Talking Books are rotated to new households. Community animators visit households in use of the Talking Books to provide additional technological support, and town hall meetings are used to reinforce and review recipients' engagement with the Talking Book messages. The activity seeks that 60% of Talking Book recipients are female, and it has a target number of beneficiaries of 50 400.
Links: https://www.landesa.org/what-we-do/sub-saharan-africa/liberia/

Program Name: USAID ILRG Malawi
Countries: Malawi
Years: 2021–2023
Implementers: Tetra Tech; Government of Malawi

Funders: USAID
Description: 'The Government of Malawi enacted a series of land laws in 2016, including the Customary Land Act that allows customary land holders to formalize ownership by registering their parcels. Building on this new legal framework, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Integrated Land and Resource Governance (ILRG) program partnered with the Government of Malawi to register all customary land within a traditional land management area (TLMA). The program applied a strong gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) lens to ensure that women, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups were included throughout the process.' The ILRG project successfully documented 9272 parcels. 42 620 people had their customary land rights documented under the project, including 17 536 landowners (47% women) and 25 084 beneficiaries (50% women/girls).
Links: Lessons Learned: Integrating Gender Equality and Social Inclusion into Customary Land Documentation in Malawi – https://www.land-links.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ILRG-Malawi-GESI-lessons-learned_June_2023-508.pdf;
ILRG MALAWI FINAL REPORT – https://www.land-links.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/ILRG-Malawi-Final-Report-508.pdf

Program Name: USAID ILRG – Women's Economic Empowerment in PepsiCo's Potato Supply Chain in West Bengal
Countries: India
Years: 2019–2023
Implementers: TetraTech, Landesa, PepsiCo
Funders: USAID, PepsiCo
Description: This partnership under the USAID ILRG Project aimed to test the business case for engaging women farmers in PepsiCo's potato supply chain. In eleven communities, the project provided agronomy training and to women farmers and established women-led demonstration farms; provided land literacy training to and held dialogues on gender norms with women and men community members; supported women's groups to collectively rent and farmland; and provided introductory training to PepsiCo staff on gender equality and women's empowerment in general and in their supply chain in particular.
Links: https://www.land-links.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/ILRG-India-Final-Business-Case-Brief.pdf

Program Name: USAID ILRG Zambia
Countries: Zambia
Years: 2018–2023

Implementers: Tetra Tech ARD
Funders: USAID
Funding amount: US$3.8 million
Description: 'The ILRG project builds the capacity of local organizations, district and national government, traditional leaders, and communities to document land and resource rights and to use this data to better inform land use planning and development decisions. The project supports a decentralized natural resources management model and encourages active engagement between government authorities and customary leaders on wildlife, forestry, and land. ILRG integrates best practices into land and natural resource policy and legislation through consultative processes. ILRG also works with local partners to pilot implementation of progressive legislation and regulations that promote community-based management of natural resources.' The project supported improved management of over 783 000 hectares of biologically significant land and documentation of land rights for more than 30 000 parcels of land, including 155 000 rights holders, of which 50% are women.
Links: https://www.usaid.gov/zambia/fact-sheet/integrated-land-and-resource-governance

Program Name: Women's Rights and Leadership Forums (WRLFs)
Countries: Tanzania
Years: The first WRLFs were established in 2009 and the initiative has been growing and ongoing among pastoralist communities in Northern Tanzania since.
Implementers: Pastoral Women's Council (PWC), Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT), local communities themselves
Description: WRLFs are established with the aim of encouraging women to take a more public and leading role in securing resources, especially land, for their livelihoods. UCRT and PWC provide legal training and technical support to WRLFs. WRLFs work with both women and men to promote changes in existing norms around the treatment of women's rights. They also typically raise the funds needed to take action and participate in public decision-making. Over 350 women have received individual land titles through WRLFs mobilization and PWC support to date.
Links: https://pastoralwomenscouncil.org/rights-and-leadership/

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