

## **Working Group 2**

### **Secure and equitable access to resources for food security and nutrition – Land and water**

**Languages:** English, French, Spanish

**Venue:** 1/3 Weltsaal

#### (1) Topic outline

Land and water form the basis for agricultural activities, whether this is grassland farming, arable farming or other uses. Secure and equitable access to these productive resources is a necessary condition for – albeit no guarantee of – achieving success in the fight against hunger and realising the right to food in rural areas. The discrimination which exists against women and other marginalised rural groups in terms of accessing, using and managing these resources is a core obstacle and must be overcome in order to fight hunger effectively.

This discrimination also needs to be reflected within the context of the current large-scale investments in land and water and the resultant debate surrounding the issue of ‘correct’ investment for fighting hunger effectively. In addition to offering opportunities, the increased level of interest in land and water also threatens to infringe upon the right of marginalised groups to food and water.

Access to water for agricultural production is becoming more and more important. In view of progressive climate change, the growing need for agricultural commodities and the overuse of water resources which has been continuing for a number of years, it is to be assumed that in many regions securing equitable access to dwindling water resources will be pivotal to the question of fighting hunger.

#### (2) Aim of the working group

The aim of the working group is to draw up recommendations as to how (and with the aid of which tools) a contribution can be made to preventing discrimination against marginalised groups – especially women and pastoralists – as far as access to land and water is concerned. In the process, the impacts of investment (public, private as well as by the rural population itself) on the access of these population groups to land and water should also be considered.

#### (3) Concrete questions to the working group

##### Lead question

How should national and international strategies for fighting hunger and promoting agriculture, as well as the national legal framework, be arranged in order to prevent discrimination against women and pastoralists as far as access to land and water is concerned?

##### Working questions

- What are the specific problems faced by marginalised rural groups (in this case women and pastoralists)?
- How can discrimination be prevented? How instrumental can the future Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests be in this respect? (Reference will be made to the current status of negotiations on the Guidelines.)

- How can particular attention be paid to the customary laws and de minimis rights of the local population groups, as well as to collective rights to water?
- How can investment in land and water prevent the local population from losing access to these resources?
- What type of investments are required and what form do they need to take in order to explicitly prevent the discrimination of marginalised groups and to promote food security for such groups?

#### Process orientation

- Reflections on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests
- Recommendations for preparation of the future FAO Implementation Guides on Gender and Land Acquisitions and Investments for the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.
- Recommendations regarding the FAO's work on a Technical Guide on Water
- Recommendations for future CFS consultations on the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI),
- Recommendations to the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 2012
- Recommendations for the priority thematic area of the 6th World Water Forum, to be held in Marseille from 12-17 March 2012 – "Contribute to food security by optimal use of water"

#### (4) Reference documents:

CFS	<p>CFS Website on Land Tenure  <a href="http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-home/land-tenure/en/">http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-home/land-tenure/en/</a></p> <p>Consolidated text of the Voluntary Guidelines incorporating the changes from the negotiations held in July and October  <a href="http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/nr/land_tenure/pdf/First_Draft_VG_with_changes_October_2011_English.pdf">http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/nr/land_tenure/pdf/First_Draft_VG_with_changes_October_2011_English.pdf</a></p>
FAO	<p>Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security. Rome 2004.  <a href="http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/009/y9825e/y9825e00.htm">http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/009/y9825e/y9825e00.htm</a></p>
FAO	<p>Land Tenure Working Papers Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8: Voluntary guidelines for good governance in land and natural resource tenure: Civil society perspectives  <a href="ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/ak280e/ak280e00.pdf">ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/ak280e/ak280e00.pdf</a></li> <li>• 15 Responsible Governance of Land Tenure: An essential factor for the realization of the right to food  <a href="http://www.fao.org/righttofood/publi10/LTWP15_ResponsibleGovernanceOfLandTenure.pdf">http://www.fao.org/righttofood/publi10/LTWP15_ResponsibleGovernanceOfLandTenure.pdf</a></li> <li>• 19 Governing Land for Women and Men. Gender and voluntary guidelines on responsible governance of tenure of land and other natural resources. Rome 2011.  <a href="http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/ma811e/ma811e00.pdf">http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/ma811e/ma811e00.pdf</a></li> </ul>
FAO	<p>Final Declaration International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD), Porto Alegre, 7-10 March 2006  <a href="http://www.icarrd.org/news_down/C2006_Decl_en.doc">http://www.icarrd.org/news_down/C2006_Decl_en.doc</a></p>

- CFS Process of Consultation on Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments within the Committee on World Food Security.  
[http://cso4cfs.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/cfs\\_rai\\_proposal\\_final\\_26\\_05\\_2011.pdf](http://cso4cfs.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/cfs_rai_proposal_final_26_05_2011.pdf)
- FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD, World Bank Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) that Respects Rights, Livelihoods and Resources  
[http://www.donorplatform.org/index2.php?option=com\\_resource&task=show\\_file&id=1596](http://www.donorplatform.org/index2.php?option=com_resource&task=show_file&id=1596)
- CFS Land tenure and international investments in agriculture. Report from the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on food security and nutrition, July 2011.  
[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/hlpe/hlpe\\_documents/HLPE-Land-tenure-and-international-investments-in-agriculture-2011.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/HLPE-Land-tenure-and-international-investments-in-agriculture-2011.pdf)
- FAO Climate change, water and food security. FAO Water Reports 36, Rome 2011  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2096e/i2096e.pdf>