

Land Governance in an Interconnected World

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Assessment of Agricultural Land Reform in Thailand Using The Land Governance Assessment Framework

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INTRODUCTION

- Agricultural land reform program (ALRP) was established in 1975 for improving state land management
- ALRP is relatively successful, but some problems still remain
- Suitable assessment and effective implementation still do not exist
- Several assessment frameworks of land governance have been reviewed and compared
- The Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) was the best choice for assessing ALRP

MATERIALS | METHODS

This study aims to assess the current situation of ALRP in Thailand by using the LGAF. Three methods were implemented as follows :

1. Desk research:
 - Specific indicators
 - Assessment methods
 2. Semi-structured interviews:
 - 6 policy makers, 6 lawyers & 6 implementers
 - Primary data of current situation
 3. Focus group discussions:
 - 4 groups of farmers & stakeholders
 - Supportive data from semi-structured interview
- ❖ Data analysis: thematic analysis based on specific indicators of the LGAF



Figure 1: Focus group discussion

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RESULTS

- Experts: 6 panels with 17 indicators & 80 dimensions
- Farmers and stakeholders: 5 panels with 14 indicators & 61 dimensions

Table 1: An example of the assessment result of panel 1

Panel 1: Land rights recognition		Score				
Indicators	Dimensions which are related to agricultural land reform	P	L	I	F	Overall
1.1. Recognition of a continuum of rights	- Individuals' rural land tenure rights are legally recognized and protected in practice	A	C	B	C	C
	- Customary tenure rights are legally recognized and protected in practice.	A	C	B	-	C
	- Indigenous rights to land and forest are legally recognized and protected in practice.	D	D	D	-	D
1.2. Respect for and enforcement of rights	- Accessible opportunity for tenure individualisation exist.	A	A	A	C	A
	- Communal and individual land in rural areas is recorded and mapped.	A	A	A	C	A
	- The number of illegal land sales is low.	B	C	B	B	B
	- The number of illegal lease transactions is low.	B	B	A	B	B
	- Women's property rights in lands as accrued by relevant laws are recorded.	A	A	A	A	A
	- Women's property rights to land are equal to those by men.	A	A	A	A	A

Remark; P = Policy makers, L = Lawyers, I = Implementers, and F = Farmers and stakeholders

- Strengths: clear mechanisms of right recognition, transparency of fee determining, good arrangement of land dispute resolution, etc.
- Weaknesses: illegal land sale, ineffectiveness of land use regulation, unfairness of land acquisition process, incompleteness & unreliability of the land registry, etc.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on this study ALRP needs improvement on the following points:

- Improvement of land rights: farmers' participation/ right to sell
- Reduction of illegal land sale: law and regulation enforcement/ fair land acquisition process/ sustainable farmer development
- Strengthening of land use regulation: GIS & RS for land use monitoring/ land use regulation enforcement/ options for non-arable land use
- Improvement of land acquisition process: clear land acquisition process/ suitable land valuation
- Enhancement of farmer development process: long term policy/ farmer network/ sustainable agriculture
- Heightening the performance of land information system: professional staffs in LIS
- Development of clear institutional arrangement: work integration/ organisational & structural reform

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