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.

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
4. **Data analysis:** thematic analysis based on specific indicators of the LGAF

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Dimensions which are related to agricultural land reform</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1. Recognition of a continuum of rights</td>
<td>- Individuals’ rural land tenure rights are legally recognized and protected in practice</td>
<td>A B C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Customary tenure rights are legally recognized and protected in practice</td>
<td>B B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Indigenous rights to land and forest are legally recognized and protected in practice</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2. Respect for and enforcement of rights</td>
<td>- Accessible opportunity for tenure individualization exist.</td>
<td>A A A A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Communal and individual land in rural areas is recorded and mapped.</td>
<td>A A A A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The number of illegal land sales is low.</td>
<td>B B B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The number of illegal lease transactions is low.</td>
<td>B B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Women’s property rights in lands as accrued by relevant laws are recorded.</td>
<td>B A A A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Women’s property rights to land are equal to those by men.</td>
<td>A A A A A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusions**

- **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.

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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**LITERATURE CITED**