



How can women's land rights be secured? Learning from successful examples

UN Commission on the Status of Women, 56th session

IFAD-FAO-ILC Side Event

Thursday, 1 March 2012, 11:30 – 12:45 pm, Conference Room A (NLB), United Nations Headquarters, New York

The panel will share experiences on how to implement policies and legislation to promote women's land rights, as well as learn from women's collective action, especially at the grassroots level.

Chair:

Marcela Villarreal, is Director of the Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). Since she joined the Organization in 1996, she has been Director of the Gender and Population Division, Chief of the Population and Development Service and Chief of the Gender and Development Service. Before joining FAO, she worked for UNFPA, ILO, Regional Employment Programme in Santiago (Chile), and for the Colombian Government. She has a PhD in Rural Sociology from Cornell University and a BA/MA in Systems and Computing Engineering from the University of Los Andes in Bogotá.

Panellists:

Jyoti Baidya, is Monitoring and Documentation Officer at the Community Self Reliance Center (CSRC), an ILC member, where she facilitates land and agrarian reform in 50 districts of Nepal, focusing on women's land rights, a Campaign on Joint Ownership of Land and addressing land rights violation cases, in co-ordination with the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC). She taught natural resource management at Tribhuvan University (M.A Rural Development) and has degrees in Social Work (BSW) and Human and Natural Resource Studies (M.A) from Kathmandu University and is a North-South National Competence for Research (NCCR) fellow.

Krista Jacobs is a development economist at the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), leading ICRW's work on gender and assets, including creating new research methods to measure women's and men's asset rights, building gender capacity of community-based legal aid programs and the M&E capacity of organizations promoting women's asset rights in sub-Saharan Africa. She has more than six years of experience researching the interaction of gender, poverty, health and agricultural development and

holds a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California, Davis.

Otilia Lux de Coti is a Maya Quiche indigenous leader from Guatemala. She graduated in Educational Administration, has been a Member of the Guatemala Congress and has held positions as a decision-maker such as Minister of Culture and Sports of Guatemala. She has participated in committees for Women and was Vice President of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 2001 to 2007 and Representative of Guatemala to the UNESCO Executive Board in 2004-2007. Also, she has received awards as Bartolome de las Casas (Spain), the Legion of Honor (France), and the Francisco Marroquin prize (Guatemala).

Violet Shivutse (GROOTS Kenya/Huairou Commission) is a volunteer community health worker from Kenya, founder of the Shibuye Community Health Workers and a regional Watch Dog Group enforcing women's and orphans land and inheritance rights. Violet coordinates the initiative Grassroots Women Lead Food Security Households in the Face of Rising Food Prices and Changing Climate and supports a Huairou Commission-UNDP action research project Engendering bottom-up Justice Reform. As a grassroots leader, Violet mentors other grassroots communities and participates in high level policy-making forums.

Respondents:

Marites Dejelo-Bernardo is Vice-Chairperson of the Gender and Development (GAD) Focal System of Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA), which she has served for over 30 years. She represents the DA in the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) Board and its Inter-Agency Committee on Rural Women (IARCW) and acts Chairperson of the National Technical Committee on the DA's Search for Outstanding Rural Women. Ms. Bernardo holds a Masters of Community Development (MCD) and Bachelor of Agriculture (BSA) from the University of the Philippines. She is happily married with three children.

Filomena Delgado is the Secretary of State for Rural Development in the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries in Angola, a position she held since 2007. Prior to that, she served as Deputy Minister for Family and Promotion of Women for ten years. Before joining the Government, Ms Delgado worked for the Pan-African Women's Organization for 15 years. She holds a BsC in Sociology and undertook post-graduate studies on family law, advancement of women, gender and development, violence, human rights, rural development and food security, and diplomacy.

Maimouna Lo Gueye is an agronomist/engineer with more than 30 years of experience in planning and implementing national development programmes, including with IFAD financing. She is General Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture in Senegal, having previously occupied the positions of Director of the analysis and statistics division and lead technical advisory of the Ministry, as well as coordinator of the African Network on Seeds. She has been a strong supporter of women's empowerment and women's organisations and has been closely engaged in developing national rural development programmes.

The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organisations working together to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for women and men. IFAD and FAO are among ILC's founding members

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