

Country presentation

Bangladesh

Flag of Bangladesh



Map of Bangladesh



Key information

Background

Area: 144,000 sq km.

Population: 140,00,000 milion

land: 133,910 sq km ; *water:* 10,090 sq km

Percapita land: 20 decimal

Country context

42.1% remain below poverty line

Predominantly agricultural country

Vast majority dependent on natural resource

Land use - 55.39% is arable land

Labor force - 63% in agriculture

Critical issues

Policy gaps reveal:

- Weak land tenure system, inadequate land use policy, in access of poor, indigenous, women to productive resources.

Weak local government:

- Influenced by bureaucracy and non-committal politics
- Poor & disadvantaged voices are not heard

Challenges

Lack of political will and commitment

- Vested interest, bad governance

Discriminatory laws and lack of implementation

- international conventions (ILO) & national laws affecting - Women, indigenous & other excluded communities access to land

Bureaucracy

- Class interest, Mind set, corruption, ignorance, tag of war between land & law ministry

Lack of capacity

- Skill, awareness of grassroots

Interventions by the Government

1. Pro-poor/marginalised policy & laws:

- *Government agriculture land distribution policy, Land Ceiling, Registration law amendments, Repeal of vested property , inclusion of land reform agenda In the PRSP document.*

2. Go-NGO initiatives:

ADAB, FNB- chasing up land issue (retaining on Government distributed land)

ALRD- DLR, Land Ministry-ALRD

Interventions by the NGOs

1. Policy advocacy :

- Land use policy
- Retention on *Government land by the land less*
- *Vested property*
- Transparent Land survey and record
- Indigenous access to land- recognition of their customary laws
- Inclusion of land reform agenda in PRSP

2. Research, Study, Publication,

- Indigenous, Vested property, Water bodies etc.

3. Capacity building:

- Training, Info. sharing, exchange visit etc.

Interventions by the NGOs

3. Networking:

- ALRD's 250 partners- SAMATA, ARBAN

4. Linkage/ alliance building at

a) country level:

HR & research org., social movements, CSOs like- BEA, TIB, SEHD etc.

More org. are interested- CARE, MJ, DFID

b) Regional & global level:

SA-WRF, ANGOC, ILC

Recent shift by the Government

Crackdown on corruption and illegal occupation of land

Recovery of occupied land :

Evection of illegal occupation/grabbing

- **Victimization by evection of :**

Slum dwellers, landless, indigenous and forest dwellers.

Coping strategy : overcoming challenges

- Consultation on 13th March
- Ideas & recommendations
- Met Land and Law adviser
- Working with Government resettlement committee
- Strengthen in-country support network Addressing particular issues of forest, char dwellers, CHT.
- Need to strengthen out side support as well.

END