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Land Access for Women



A woman dries incense which helps support her family.

Photo: ISDS

GVN Counterparts:

Hung Yen Province
Long An Province

Duration:

July 2014 – August 2016

Planned Budget:

\$800,000

Implementers:

International Center for
Research on Women (ICRW)

Institute for Social Development
Studies (ISDS)

The Land Access for Women program will combine commune-level legal rights counseling and education with advocacy efforts. Based in two rural provinces in Vietnam, the program aims to empower farmers, especially women, to exercise their rights to land by increasing awareness of existing land rights under current legislation; facilitating their ability to access their land rights; generating evidence about gender specific barriers to realizing land rights in rural areas; and increasing the capacity of social and mass organizations to advocate for the gender equitable implementation of land regulations, as well as for legal revisions when necessary to achieve this. The project is being implemented by the Institute for Social Development Studies, as the local partner of the International Center for Research on Women, which is sharing its tools and lessons learned from a similar, previously implemented community-based approach in Uganda.

UNDERSTANDING BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS

The project will conduct a household-level survey to assess knowledge of land rights and perceptions about gender equality in the four communes as well as determine what kind of barriers women may face in terms of accessing land. Then in early 2015, community volunteers selected from civil society and mass organizations will be trained on land rights, women's rights and monitoring and evaluation techniques.

LEGAL RIGHTS COUNSELLING AND EDUCATION

While a legal framework exists it is often thwarted by both men's and women's general lack of awareness of Vietnam's property rights laws and lack of resources to enforce women's property rights at the provincial level. As a result, women's access to land use rights is low. The centerpiece of the program is the mobilization and training of 60 community volunteers for gender equality from four communes across the two provinces. The volunteers will conduct land rights awareness-raising activities as well as provide legal counseling to individuals, mitigate land disputes and offer referrals to navigate the existing legal structures. Meanwhile, a network of mass organizations will lead activities to advocate for more effective integration of gender into the content and execution of current land laws and future reforms.

For more information:

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