

WORKSHOP CONCEPT NOTE

WLRA LEARNING EVENT

Agents of Grassroots Transformation

Spurring conversations between women's land rights champions and (traditional) leaders from Senegal, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique

April 23, 2018

The Concord Hotel and Suites, Nairobi, Kenya

Workshop 1 Data collection: tools used to collect information at the grassroots level

Background: Our program pulls together formal (research) and informal (grassroots) expertise and experts. Through an analysis of all activities, we identified three ways information or 'data' is an important asset in advancing the women's land rights agenda:

1. Data/ information collected at the local level is a basis for evidence-making and advocacy from the local to the international levels. There is a general lack of gender disintegrated data on women and land ownership at both the national as well as regional level.
2. There is a lack of community-led and especially women-led research design and data collection, and a lack of data ownership in communities. Much research never gets back to communities. Through an action research approach, we advocate a change in how data is collected, analyzed and owned. We also acknowledge the importance of local knowledge. Through the involvement of local communities in data collection, both capacity and awareness are built and information is generated to support collective action for change. Data can be a powerful resource for more informed decision making, for generating change, and for empowering women as decision-makers and leaders.
3. Towards more informed decision making and action, data collection should center on women's perspectives and narratives; this should be accompanied by facilitating platform(s) to address the issues they face.

During this workshop we would like to address these three ways—how data and data collection can advance the women's land rights agenda. LANDac and GROOTS Kenya will co-design and lead this workshop by bringing concrete examples, findings and outcomes generated during the WLRA program.

Suggested questions:

1. What evidence has informed your work / advocacy action?
2. What are some of the strategies/ tools that you used at local level to generate evidence, and what is your experience with this tool (both good and bad)?
3. How can these strategies/ tools be improved and/ or scaled up? How can they contribute to conversations occurring at the national level?
4. How relevant are these strategies/ tools in keeping the aspirations of the Rural Women's Land Rights Charter in check?
5. Much attention is placed on the lack of data/ the need to collect data. Less addressed: how can data be used, and how can this strengthen the enabling factors for women's driven advocacy process?
6. What is missing/ needed?

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Workshop 2: Collective action & transformative women's leadership

This workshop looks at the role of local champions and CSOs. The importance of collective action can in our opinion be best explained by **the local champions and CSOs**, since they are at the heart of these actions. As such, local champions prepare this workshop in collaboration with their partners. The partners in this part can support their local champions with tools and suggestions on how this can be done. ADECRU/Forum Mulher; Enda Pronat will co-design and lead this workshop by bringing concrete examples, findings and outcomes generated during the WLRA program.

Suggested questions:

1. What is the role of women leaders?
2. What strategies and tools have informed your work / advocacy action, and what is your experience with these strategies and tools (both good and bad)?
 - a. What are the challenges (or even risks) women leaders have to face in their own communities and from outside?
 - b. How can these strategies/ tools be improved and/ or scaled up? How can they to contribute to conversations occurring at the national level?
3. How relevant are these strategies and tools in keeping the aspirations of the Rural Women's Land Rights Charter in check?
4. What is missing/ needed?

Workshop 3: How can tradition & law co-exist?

To take advantage of a unique aspect of our Learning Event—we join traditional leaders from all four countries—the third workshop deals with legal pluralism. The workshop is a platform to engage the clashes and complementarities between tradition and law, with an objective to explore the space for tradition and law to coexist and advance the women's land rights agenda.

Background: The three-theme reports generated under our program revealed that social norms and customary practices can be a bottleneck for the implementation of more progressive laws and principles found at the national and global levels. Despite harmonization attempts, the pluralistic base of the legal system remains, with customary law still playing a critical role in communities—often to the detriment of women and girls. As such, traditional leaders, as gatekeepers of customary laws and practices, are strategic partners for scaling up the women's land rights agenda and forging the necessary vertical linkages between local and national/ global laws and principles.