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Unravelling Land Tenure and Climate Change for Insights into Food Security

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

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What is Food Security?

- *Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.* - 1996 World Food Summit (FAO, 2008)

- *People are "food secure" when they have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy life.* –WFP 2021

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Target 2-1

- By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

Food Security is an urgent issue in Asia-Pacific

Of the 3.83 billion people in the world who depend on the agri-food system for their livelihoods, 2.36 billion are in Asia, which is half of Asia's population (FAO, 2023a).

370 million or half of the world's undernourished people live in Asia and the Pacific region, 85 percent of which are in South Asia (FAO, 2023b).

- **Solving the situation in the Asia-Pacific will contribute significantly to food security for the world.**

Climate change is affecting the Food Security

- Climate change is already affecting food security through increasing temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and greater frequency of some extreme events (IPCC, 2019).
- It is estimated that 500 million smallholder farms in the developing world are supporting almost 2 billion people, who are vulnerable to climate change (FAO, 2015).
- Climate change will also have broader impacts through effects on trade flows, food markets and price stability and could introduce new risks for human health (FAO, 2015).

Think Globally and Act Locally

At the Asia and the Pacific Food Security Forum organized by ADB in April 2024, President Asakawa stated:

> *"Some people do not fully understand the link between climate change and food crises, such as the effects of floods and droughts, but from the farmers' perspective, climate change is a serious risk that threatens their livelihoods."*

- **While the entire food system needs transformation, addressing the specific risks and solutions from the perspective of individual farmers can drive significant change globally.**

This research delves into the risks and challenges that farmers encounter.

Land Tenure and Food Security

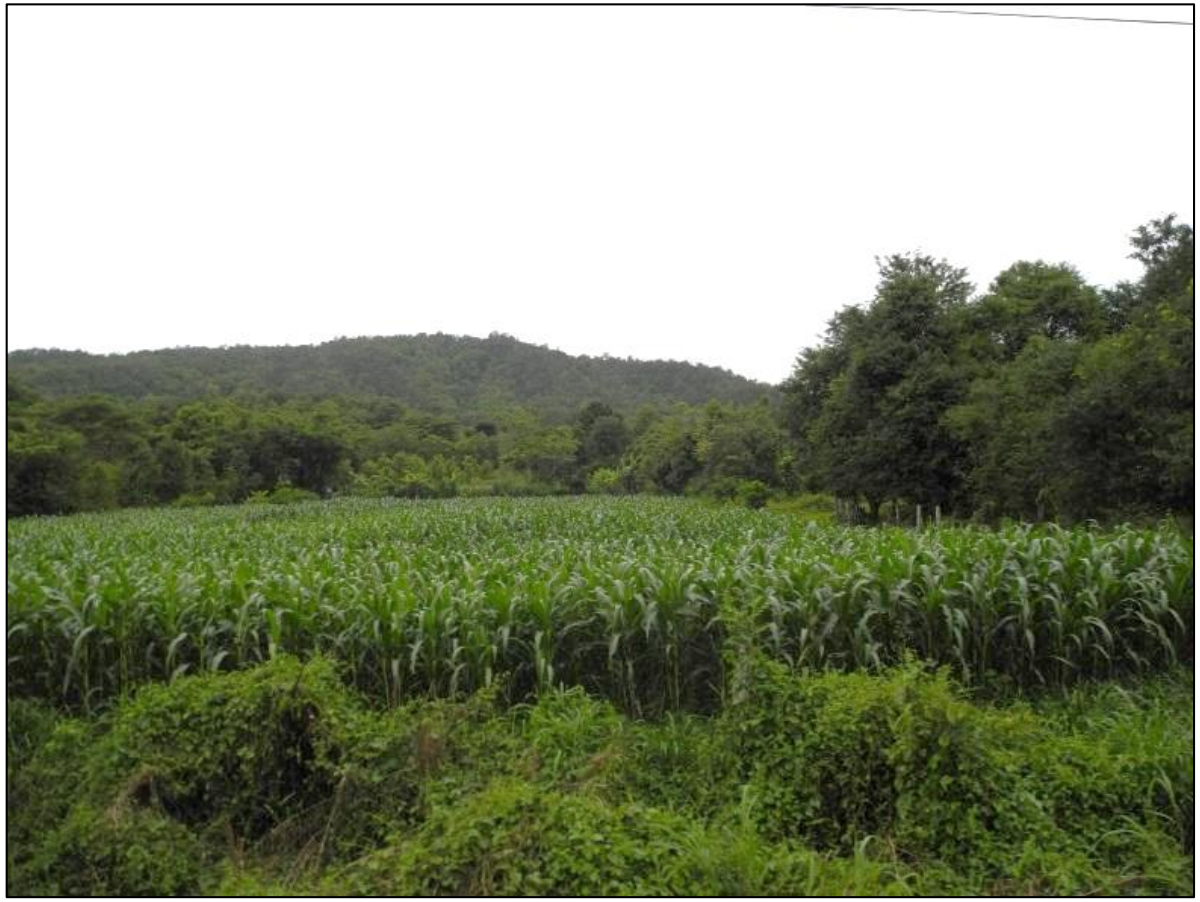
- Considering risks and solutions from individual farmers' perspectives can drive significant change.
- Viewing land tenure security as the foundation of sustainable agriculture is essential.
- Farmers are vulnerable, not just to the direct impacts of climate change but also to shifts in land use resulting from climate change and climate policies.

"**Land tenure dualism**" (Coulibaly et al., 2021:2) is a major issue in developing countries. Most forests are public lands, but many communities live in those forests, and some of the lands are used for agriculture (Gilmour, 2016).

- Less than 30 percent of people have tenure rights to the land they use (World Bank, 2017).
- State-owned lands include communities' forests and agricultural lands, creating a divergence between the system and the actual land use.

Paddy field in private land

Maize field in state-owned “forest”



Land Tenure is also important for Climate Change

- *"Land tenure is a key dimension in any discussion of land-climate interactions, and will influence the prospects for both rural adaptation and land-based mitigation. Both climate change and climate action will have possible impacts on land tenure and thus land security, especially of poor people."*
- *"Evidence suggests that policies which pay attention to interactions of land and climate and system linkages are more likely to create co-benefits between mitigation, adaptation, and development"*

(IPCC, 2019)

- **However, guaranteeing land tenure is often challenging, as it requires significant changes in social systems and laws.**

A solution to this problem is community-based land management, which recognizes land rights according to the actual situation.

Examples of Community-Based Land Management

Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (**CBFMA**) in Philippines

- Agreement between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and People's Organization (PO) to manage and utilise forestland, which has a term of 25 years with an additional 25 years upon renewable.
- Major paradigm shift in forest management from a centrally controlled approach benefiting the privileged few towards a more participatory “people-oriented” strategy (Dugan and Pulhin, 2007).

Policy for Ensuring Community-Based Agricultural Land Management in Thailand

- In Thailand, community forests have been used to manage forests and agricultural lands, but the lack of sufficient rights to agricultural lands has led to the development of a community-based management policy specifically for agricultural lands.
- While cultivation occurs on individually owned farmland, the community collectively manages the land with a common rule, promoting greater sustainability and economic opportunities.

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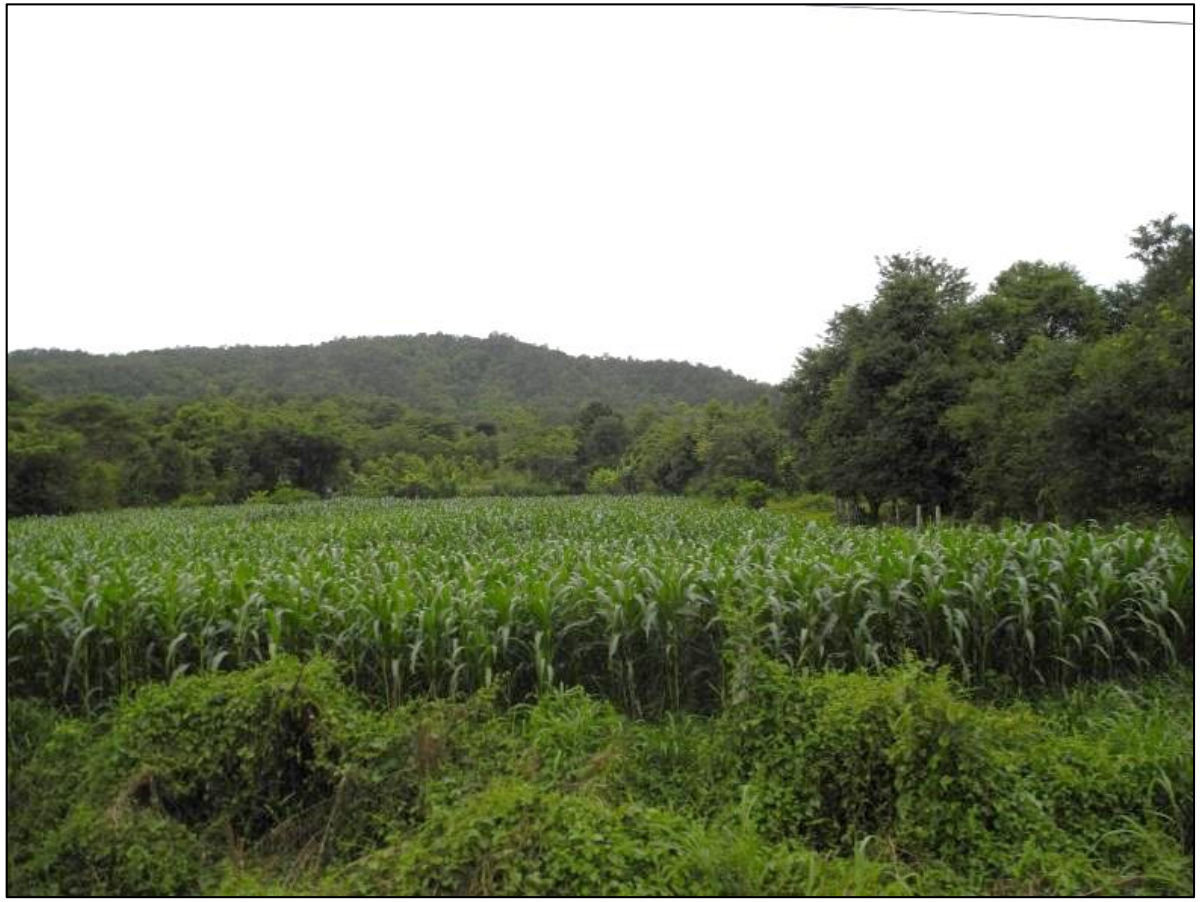
Maize field in state-owned “forest”



What effects do Community-based Land Management have?

The Community-based land management has led to the following benefits:

1. Strengthen community ties and the formation of new activities, such as organic farming groups.
2. Increase public recognition of land rights, which facilitate long-term investment planning and expanded farming activities.
3. The mandate to plant trees on a portion of the farmland produces additional positive outcomes.

- As rural areas experience development and societal transition, securing land tenure is essential for sustainable agriculture and livelihood.
- Farmers are aware of the impact of climate change on agriculture, and climate-resilient practices will be promoted through securing land tenure.

Conclusion and Way Forward

- The Asia-Pacific faces higher food insecurity than any other region, necessitating global and regional initiatives to transform the entire food system.
- Small-scale farmers are at risk due to land insecurity, worsened by climate change impacts, which creates social inequality and affects sustainable food production.

- ➢ Taking inclusive and local action is essential for food security and climate-resilient agriculture, and community-based land management will enhance the synergy of rural development.
- ➢ To promote decentralised agriculture through community-based land management, institutional support of the national government and cross-learning among rural communities is essential.

References

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ご清聴ありがとうございました。

Thank you very much for your attention.

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