

Regional Workshop on Land Tenure and Land Consolidation
– Instruments for Agrarian Land Structure Reform in Galicia:
Interest for Eastern European Countries
Santiago de Compostella, Galicia
9-11 February 2009

Wrap-up and Conclusions

The workshop consisted of presentation of Galician experts on land banking, technical sessions with other country experiences and a one day field trip.

The Galician experts and some specialists from other countries gave presentations about their experiences on land banking and related topics. The different countries are in different stage of land development, but most of them were interested in adopting land banking in one or the other form. Some countries expressed their interest to start pilot projects in land consolidation including land banking. The workshop participants discussed the experiences on land banking and the lessons learnt during the workshop. The participants emphasized among other issues the importance of state land reserves (e.g. not yet privatized lands, etc.) for “opening” a land bank, the increasing trend of abandonment of land due to rural-urban migration and aging of rural population, and the importance of a land bank instrument for implementing land consolidation. It was highlighted that land banking should be part of any land consolidation strategy, but that it should include appropriate monitoring instruments in order to control and constantly verify (and rectify) the choices made. The inclusion of the local stakeholders was given special importance.

Participants expressed the importance of specific technical workshops such as the “*Galicia 2009 Regional Workshop on Land Tenure and Land Consolidation - Land Development Instruments and Information Tools to Assist Land Structure Reforms*” besides the classical “*Regional Workshop Prague*”. The overall agreement among participants was that there is a need for the yearly *Regional Land Tenure Workshop Prague*, where each country presented its progress in land tenure matters, combined with a specific technical topic. But there is also a need to organize specific technical workshops every year, in order to go into more details in a certain actual issue.

Finally, the participants suggested that *FAO should follow-up in future workshops on the following issues:*

- i) building up a platform for better management of experiences on land banking;
- ii) public awareness on land banking;
- iii) education and training on land development; and
- iv) explore technical assistance options for supporting land banking activities and the implementation of the land consolidation strategy.