

Reflections from a Review of Agrarian Reform in Latin America

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LATIFUNDIA

- **Latifundia – minifundia**
- **Latifundia seen as obstacle to justice and efficiency**
- **The Indigenous question**
- **Agrarian Reform is still on the agenda.**

La Revolución Mexicana

- **1910 the Mexican Revolution, the first attempt to destroy the Latifundia system**
- **Venezuela**
 - The last cry of the traditional agrarian reform
 - Aims
 - Problems

The 70s

- **World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development**
- **Period of Agrarian Reform in Latin America**
 - Role of military (Peru/Honduras)
 - Leninism/Fordism (ideology of modernism – high input agriculture, large collective units)
- **Results, minimal Impact**
 - 20 years later land distribution same or worse
 - No change in poverty levels, it remains rural, landless, minifundio, women, Indigenous and children
 - The Washington consensus is seen to have failed
 - The people are no longer willing to wait, hence the new populist governments.
 - Poverty, especially rural poverty is on the regional agenda (ALCSH)

MARKET LEAD LAND REFORM AND THE WORLD BANK (90s)

Critique of World Bank Land Policies 2002

- Creation of “land markets” has led to increasing concentration of ownership
- Privatization mainly of communal or state lands left comunards worse off, to the benefit of the few.
- Market based land reform has benefitted few poor.
- The processes have excluded the poorest.
- Only Chile made inroads into rural poverty during this period

International Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Conference Porto Alegre Brazil 2006

- Brazilian initiative reflecting this new context
- Identified the need to strengthen the role of the state
- The poor need to access not just the land but also water and other natural resources
- The issue is closely linked to human rights especially social justice and the right to food security, the basis of poverty eradication
- This led to an emphasis on the importance of grass roots participation

Agreements Reached at the Conference

- 1. Construction of national and regional platforms to pursue the subject.**
- 2. Closer collaboration between the World Food Security Committee and Agricultural Comisión.**
- 3. Promotion of Civil Society.**
- 4. Promotion of dialogue and interchange between the involved diverse actors.**
- 5. Further discussions on follow up in FAO, (IFAD taking the initiative??)**

The NEW CONTEXT

The conference also identified the new global context and especially the growing impact on the rural reality of:

- Market Globalization**
- Energy Crisis**
- Environmental Degradation**
- Climate Change**

Reflections

1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

- Political support from society at large translated into a committed government.
- Transfer of land ownership is not enough it must be accompanied by a territorial land use vision based on a concept of multifunctionality including the social and institutional forms consciously adopted by the participating population.
- This must be driven by a building of development capacities amongst all actors based on focusses that reinforce required cultural values, local identity, singularity, associativeness and solidarity.

CULTURAL CONTEXT

- Food security as an issue of national sovereignty (security – right – sovereignty)
- Family Agriculture
- Land/territory and the identity of Indigenous peoples
- Inheritance rights (especially women)
- Differentiation (subsistence/family agriculture/ market driven agriculture)

THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION

- The need to formalise territories , one size does not fit all
- Growing recognition of importance of biodiversity, role of ecosystems and local knowledge systems
- Agroecological zoning based on water management systems (watersheds)
- Rural not separate from urban, to be seen as complimentary within a territory as defined by the people themselves
- This means decentralization and the construction of local governance from the community up.

ECONOMIC ASPECTS

- **Construction of local Financial Systems out of Savings**
- **First basic self sufficiency, then construction from the local to the international**
- **Incentives, nature and role of (Subsidies/ payment for services)**
- **Fair trade and ecologically sound production systems are the growth sector and important to the viability of small producers**
- **The construction of production chains from primary producer to final consumer based on equity**
- **Accessing the global information network**
- **Complimentary legislation, especially for cooperatives.**

INSTRUMENTS

- The importance of clear and non conflicting legislation and the harmonization of existing legislation
- Clarification of property system(s) and rights supported by a national cadaster
- Focus on incorporation of the young starting with the reorganization of the formal educational system
- Incorporation of women in their own right and in the training of leaders
- Provision of technical assistance
- Formation of rural leadership
- Social welfare or the development of rural entrepreneurship (role of livelihoods)
- Strengthening of membership organizations and respecting their representativity

Issue of confiscation, legislation, willing buyer/willing seller remains.

The Construction of a market approach: PACTA (Hond./WB/FAO)

Construction of a market of willing seller willing buyer

- Loans for land purchase from private sector
- Public sector provides insurance for this market
- Ensures technical assistance (primarily private)
- Assistance focuses on training in farm planning, management, administration, production and market integration
- Provision of working capital for the first three years.

First three years

700 families, 40% private sector, US\$1,000 per has., 3 has. per family, working capital US\$4500 per family.
To consolidate needs national strategy for dynamising the rural economy and a reliable land registry system.