



PAKISTAN

EU LAND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

More than 75 percent of Pakistan's poor live in rural areas. The distribution of assets in rural areas is highly skewed, particularly with regard to access to land and water. This has resulted in high chronic rural poverty which has grown in recent years due to slow agricultural growth as well as the damage and losses to crops and livestock caused by natural disasters over the past decade. In 2012, it was estimated that 7.74 million people were employed in rural areas, the majority of them working as landless sharecroppers (i.e. peasants and tenants – known as "Haris") and wage workers on farms. About 20-40 percent of rural households are reported to be landless or near landless. Poverty is highly correlated with landlessness and is seen as contributing to political and social instability. Repeated government attempts to address inequality of access to land and tenure insecurity have largely failed to transform the system. Insecure land tenure, coupled with poor forest, fisheries and water policy management, have led to increasing degradation of land. Injudicious water use has led to waterlogging in some areas, while poor water distribution has created disputes. The lack of on-farm water management has caused water scarcity in other areas, lowering the profitability of land, the incentive to invest in complementary inputs and acute issues of drought and salinity.

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation (EULGP CI) is to contribute to improved livelihoods and poverty alleviation in Pakistan, as well as sound management of natural resources, with a particular focus on female and male smallholder farmers and other disadvantaged groups. The specific objective of the EULGP CI is to foster enhanced land and water governance in eight districts of Sindh in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT).

Name of the EULGP CI*	Improved Land Tenancy in Sindh (ILTS)
Implementer	FAO Pakistan
Implementer partners	District Revenue Departments under the Government of Sindh's Revenue Board, District Agriculture and Livestock Offices under the Government of Sindh's Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock and Divisional Irrigation and Forest Offices under the Government of Sindh's Ministries of Irrigation and Power and of Forest
Target areas	Eight Districts of Sindh Province: Dadu, Jamshoro, Larkana, Matiari, Mirpur Khas, Sujawal, Tando Allahyar and Tando Muhammad Khan
Political entities involved	Provincial Government of Sindh's Planning and Development Department, Revenue Board and Ministries of Agriculture, of Livestock, of Irrigation and Power and of Forestry
Budget	EUR 4 000 000
Length of the EULGP CI	January 2017 – March 2021

*EULGP CI (European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation)

STRATEGY OF INTERVENTION

The objectives of the EULGP CI will be achieved through the establishment of Farmer Field Schools (FFS), conducting various studies for creating evidence for improving land and natural resources governance, awareness raising workshops, trainings on VGGT and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and study tours and exposure visits for government officials and parliamentarians. Furthermore, the EULGP CI supports the signing of informal tenancy agreements between landowners and sharecroppers facilitating more balanced relationships among them. Also, together with extension services, this will lead to enhanced agricultural productivity and food security and prevent bonded work. The Project Steering Committee (PSC), comprised of government officials, will provide overall guidance, coordination and facilitation to the EULGP CI implementation.

The main outputs of the EULGP CI are:

- **Output-1**
Legal, institutional and administrative framework for responsible land and water governance, including environmental aspects, is implemented by factoring in local requirements.

TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

By means of a Transversal Project, co-funded by the EU and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) coordinates, supports and consolidates the implementation of the EU Land Governance Programme. The European Union Land Governance Programme funds 18 individual country-level projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, all of which address tenure issues, and are implemented alongside various partners, among which are government agencies, civil society organizations, bilateral and multilateral organizations and private contractors. All project activities are carried out within the framework of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and, in the African context, the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa (AU Declaration) and its Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G).

• Output-2

Enhanced capacity of stakeholders in land management from the Sindh province and targeted districts in order to promote the VGGT and improve landholding security of men and women peasant farmers.

• Output-3

Enhanced capacity of district authorities, local institutions, Farmer Organizations (FO), and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) to promote and contribute to transparent and rights-based land governance (VGGT and community-based disaster risk reduction - DRR).

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

The EULGP CI has made significant progress towards the achievement of its outputs:

- A draft of the VGGT strategy for the Sindh province has been developed by an international VGGT advisor.
- A roundtable talk with CSOs has been conducted on a draft of the VGGT strategy.
- Four studies were conducted:
 - Review of regulatory framework of Sindh Tenancy Act (STA)
 - Review of current landlords and sharecroppers relationships
 - Biophysical and socioeconomic profile of project districts
 - Underground water quality test of project areas
- Two studies of assessment of Peasant Organization/Water User Associations (PO/WUAs), Farmer Organizations (FO) and DRR safety nets are being conducted by the Sindh Agriculture University in Tando Jam.
- Total of 104 farmer schools established (54 Women Open Schools (WOS) and 46 FFS).
- Total of 2 600 farmers trained through farmer schools (1 200 men and 1 400 women).

- 40 Village Grievance Redress Committees (VGRC) formed in 40 villages for a total of 200 members (81 women and 119 men).
- Total of 2 399 people participated in meetings for formation of VGRC (1 194 men and 1 205 women).
- Total of 13 training courses/workshops on the VGGT conducted.
- Total of 446 professionals were trained on the VGGT (66 UN staff members, 13 consultants, 81 government officials, 61 NGOs, 1 member of the Sindh Bar Council and 224 community members (74 women and 150 men). The participants were 75% male and 25% female.
- 16 Climate Change Agriculture (CSA) demo sites established in four districts benefiting 400 farmers (300 men and 100 women).
- Four Training of Trainers (TOT) conducted for government officials, FFS facilitators and partners. Total of 78 participants trained.
- Eight study endorsement workshops conducted in eight targeted districts. Total of 400 stakeholders participated.
- Eight FFS curriculum-designing workshops. Total of 215 stakeholders participated.
- 960 informal tenancy agreements have been signed between landlords and Haris in target areas to date.

Since the agreements tend to be verbal, there is considerable room for misunderstanding and abuses. In this regard, a standard informal tenancy agreement template has been developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders to clarify roles, responsibilities, rights and duties. It is expected that more balanced and clear relationships will positively impact tenure security and agriculture productivity.



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AFRICAN LAND POLICY CENTRE

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