

Concept note for research-policy events on gendered agrarian change and the rights to food and land during DEMETER-SEI Bangkok workshop

The purpose of the policy events planned for Thursday, 25 July 2019 at the FAO regional office in Bangkok is two-fold.

First, the participants would like to explore the nexus between academic research and policy making and to share experiences of successes and challenges.

Second, a broader discussion concerning the research themes addressed in our DEMETER project - gender equality, the right to food, land and agricultural commercialisation - will be held. It is hoped that a wide cross section of stakeholders might contribute to this dialogue with a view to discussing the way in which these phenomena are being observed in South East Asia and potentially drawing comparisons between different countries and contexts.

Thematic focus and structure

Thematically, the discussions will focus on gendered changes in livelihoods arising from the commercialization of agriculture and land and the ways in which these transformations affect and are affected by women's rights, the right to food and associated rights to land, decent employment and social security. Related topics such as the impact of climate change, migration patterns, indigeneity, generation, resource governance and the role of agribusiness actors will also be explored.

The smaller, more informal, morning session will use case studies from the work of the MRLG, SEI, FAO and DEMETER in order to consider the ways in which research can more effectively inform policy-making at different scales. The format will consist of presentations of experiences from the MRLG research in four countries and the aim is to highlight the factors that might facilitate or impede the use of academic studies for the purposes of policy development, implementation and monitoring.

In the afternoon, the idea is to open the substantive discussion on gender equality, agricultural and land commercialization and the right to food to a larger group of stakeholders. Members of the DEMETER team will present the results of the research on gendered livelihood changes linked to agricultural and land commercialization and on the integration of gender equality and human rights-based approaches within legislation and policies on food, land and agriculture. In addition, inputs and comments will be sought from other projects being led by FAO-ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, RCSD and Oxfam.

Agenda

10.30am-11.15am Presentations by MRLG of projects and results in terms of policy impact and discussion.



11.15am-12.30pm	Open discussion on the nexus between policies and research and exploration of challenges and successes - drawing on case studies from the SEI rice project, FAO and DEMETER. Reflections for future policy work.
2.00pm-2.15pm	Introduction to the dialogue and objectives.
2.15pm-2.30pm	Presentation of DEMETER research findings on gendered changes in agrarian livelihoods resulting from agricultural and land commercialization in Cambodia and Ghana
2.30pm-2.45pm	Comments and experiences from the work of the Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development, Chiang Mai University
2.45pm-3.30pm	Discussion of the policy implications of these findings as well as points of comparison/divergence in agrarian livelihoods
3.30pm-4.00pm	Break
4.00pm-4.15pm	Presentation of DEMETER research on human rights-based approaches to gender equality, food, land and agricultural policy-making
4.15pm-4.30pm	Comments and experiences from the work of OHCHR Regional Office
4.30pm-5.30pm	Discussion of issues connected to legislation and policy on equality in land tenure, governance of natural resources, food security, agricultural development and human rights.

Potential participants in the morning session

MRLG
SEI
FAO
DEMETER

Potential participants in the afternoon discussion

OHCHR
ILO
UNDP
UN Women
UNESCAP
UN Environment Programme
RCSD
Oxfam
APWLD
WOCAN
Landesa



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Representative of the Thai government (Christophe Golay contact re: SDGs and rights of peasants)
Swiss mission/SDC representative