

Wrap-up and Conclusions

The workshop participants *discussed in three working groups*, (a) land banking, (b) impact assessment, and (c) land consolidation and project coordination, the lessons learnt during the workshop, the possible topics for the next Prague workshop, and the technical/normative work.

The *working group on land banking* 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.

The *working group on impact assessment* highlighted that impact assessment should be part and parcel of any land consolidation strategy, by including appropriate monitoring instruments and that it should be a control instruments to constantly verify (and rectify) the choices made. The inclusion of the local stakeholders was given special importance.

The *working group on project coordination* proposed to set up a platform for better management of the experiences on land consolidation, which should include an inventory of land consolidation projects, experts, common problems and suggested or proven solutions. The platform could be web-based and include a discussion forum and message board, links to other relevant websites, etc. It was agreed that FAO would prepare a concept and share it with the workshop participants. In addition it was suggested to improve public awareness about the importance of land resources (land consolidation) through for example short movies, etc. The third issue brought up was the need to improve training and education on land development, management and use by offering specific courses and masters programme in relevant universities in Europe (e.g. the University of Belgrade, Serbia, under the EU-TEMPUS programme is currently developing such a master course).

The participants suggest that *FAO should follow-up on the following issues*: i) elaborate a concept for improving the coordination of a land consolidation project and work on land tenure, ii) elaborate a policy paper on land banking, and iii) elaborate a manual on impact assessment for land consolidation.

The participants suggested and prioritized the following *topics for the next round of land tenure workshops*:

1. Legal and institutional aspects of land consolidation;
2. Land market and land banking;
3. Land registration and land information systems; and
4. Participatory approaches to land use planning and land consolidation.

The participants expressed the opinion that next workshops there should be less country presentations and be more focused on progress made since last workshop.

The two representatives from the Galician Government suggested to host and organize a land tenure workshop next year in Galicia, provided the availability of funds by their Government.