



Area based and Territorial Approaches to Land Reform

Research findings and policy implications for South Africa

organised by
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Ideas of territory

- Geographical areas occupied and used by specific social groups
- Areas under the control of particular political authorities or forces
- Geographical space + social and market relations
- Areas with common cultural and social identity, environmental features, economic and trade networks, and development poles
- Areas with a common development project and vision



Rural Territorial Development: a new approach to rural development focussing on specific geographical areas and regions and the different actors within them

- Linking productive and institutional transformation of rural areas
- Promotion of economic development and competitiveness of rural areas based on distinctive features and resources
- Facilitate emergence of shared territorial identity and development vision amongst different stakeholders
- Develop new institutional arrangements for different levels and sectors of government to work together more effectively: shift away from top down sectoral planning
- More inclusive participation in development planning and delivery; important roles for social movements and for public / civil society / private partnerships
- understanding of urban - rural linkages; wider regional contexts; realities of complex livelihoods and migration



Workshop objectives

- examine the progress and impacts land reform has had in specific municipalities
- assess the opportunities for land reform offered by territorial approaches in Latin America, the ISRDP process in South Africa, and Nkuzi's Area based Land Reform Initiative (ALRI) in Makhado, and what these have been able to achieve
- discuss how land reform can contribute to more sustainable and socially inclusive local economic development
- debate how local development planning processes might assist the delivery of land reforms in South Africa



Land and Territorial Approaches in Brazil and Latin America

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Land reform and rural territorial development in Brazil

- Territorial Development Secretariat in Agrarian Development Ministry since 2003 - role to deepen participation in planning and strengthen coordination between different sectoral programmes and across municipalities,
- New National Land Reform programme from 2004: coordinating programmes; improving linkages with credit, technical support, infrastructure and service delivery; better adaptation to situations of different territories
- Joint aims of these initiatives:
 - Address diversity of social needs: rural workers, women, youth, indigenous different and afro-descendent groups, other traditional natural resource users, increase land access, secure tenure rights, and improve opportunities and access to markets
 - Make policies planning and resource allocation more transparent and responsive to needs (and overcome conservative and parochial local politics)
 - Harmonise government initiatives at federal, state and municipal levels and with civil society



Land access and territorial development in Brazil - process

- Group municipalities into priority territories (68 to grow to 225 - 50%) in consultation with social, and based on concentration of land reform projects and demands, potential of family farming, and strength of civil society networks
- create strategic alliances and partnerships of state and civil society through stakeholder fora with a core management group
- 15 year 3 phase programme: diagnosis / initiation; capacity building and establishing Territorial Agreements; implementation
- ➔ Aim to create new institutional arrangements with dynamic impacts on rural development in terms of livelihoods, markets and employment
- ➔ scale up and combine land reform programmes according to need, link to post settlement support & address diversity in terms of gender, age, ethnicity



Emerging issues with territorial approaches to land and rural development

- Successful territorial development approaches need to take account of rural power relations and conflicts of interest
- Large scale investment projects, agribusiness and natural resource extraction have major impacts on territorial dynamics
- Strong national policies and programmes required to promote land reforms and protect indigenous / community rights linked to territorial level:
- Participation by municipal government tends to be weak and there are institutional and legal problems in implementing priority territorial projects: - closer alignment of territorial planning and local government
- Frequent absence of organised private sector from the process – but limited income generating and small enterprise opportunities within the family sector
- Challenge of effective integration of action and projects at various scales: territory wide, municipal, local, specific social groups and organisations
- Issues of effective representation of community interests within social movements and civil society, and voice of poor and marginalised groups within decentralised territorial and municipal structures



Reflections from Latin American Experience for South Africa

- Following local government reorganisation, local municipalities are generally at a more appropriate scale for coherent territorial and economic planning than municipalities in Brazil
- South Africa already has the basis of participatory territorial planning process in place through the IDPs
- The private sector features in local development planning and partnerships for land reform in some cases, unlike in Brazil
- Although land reform is a key process shaping the nature and inclusiveness of local economic development, land and agriculture programmes do not generally engage with IDP processes
- Social movements are more weakly developed in South Africa and exert less pressure for change: the poor have weaker voice
- In addition to land access, specific and coordinated programmes for credit delivery, technical support, market access and enterprise development are needed to create economic opportunities for the rural poor
- Formalised negotiations and agreements between different actors and spheres of government and strong national commitments to resource and support decentralised cross-sectoral development are needed to bring about institutional and productive transformation



Conclusions

- Territorial perspectives (decentralised, non sectoral and participatory) needed to achieve progressive linkage between improvements in land access, sustainable livelihoods and local economic development
- Historical perspective on land occupation and land markets in specific areas enables clear view on what potential markets may have to improve land access and the role of the state
- Territorial approach allows better understanding of diversity of needs and forms of land access and policy / programme interventions needed
- Better (and more context specific) alignment of land and agricultural policies, with emphasis on livelihoods support for the poor, prospects for enterprise development and possibilities of private sector partnerships
- Challenges in crafting institutional arrangements which integrate different levels of government and in putting in place more participatory planning by genuinely representative territorial structures