India Land & Development Conference 2020
Session Concept Notes

4th ILDC 2020

Centre for Social Justice

Panel: **Can land governance be an instrument for social justice in neoliberal era?**

Organized by: **Centre For Social Justice[1]**

What we aim to do?

Land governance is broad and multi-dimensional; it encompasses statutory, customary, religious and informal institutions. As a state structure, land agencies, courts and ministries and municipalities responsible for land management as well as informal land developers and traditional bodies. Land as a resource and a productive asset, ideological debate continues with respect to the Constitutional amendments, legislations, and institutional mechanism related to land – its acquisition, right to forest land, etc. and other land laws directly or indirectly impact land governance. As an integrated system for managing land, it governs land transactions, inheritance, and dispute resolution; thus, engages itself with legal and policy framework for managing land and traditional and recognizing modern practices for land-use. Analysis of issues land governance is important, as it concerns the rules, processes and structures through which decisions are made about access to land and its use, the manner in which decisions are implemented and enforced, and the way in which competing interests in land are managed. It is fundamentally about power and the political economy of land. Moreover, the issue of land governance requires multiple bodies to engage with each other and these is no common meeting point.

From various committees constituted under the local self-governance to multiple departments having over lapping jurisdiction, the land governance system faces challenges of complexity, lack of clarity and synergy between various State instrumentalities. Over emphasis on addressing industrial interest, absence of unorganized farmer interest groups and inadequate bargaining power of the land owners leads to a policy which does not balance the concerns of development, equity and environment. Land grabbing is facilitated by actual connivance of State authority or inaction.

We aim to analyse land governance as a cross-cutting subject touching upon inclusion for tenure security and social justice; interactions between different institutions like government-market-society; innovation on systems and technology; and sustainable development. We explore analysis leading to examine whether land governance is an instrument for social justice on three most controversial issues of land governance – forest rights, land acquisition, and land titling. The analysis will be undertaken from the perspectives off our estates

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[1] Centre For Social Justice, a project of IDEAL, is working on access to justice for vulnerable since 1994. It has offices in MP. Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Jharkhand. It has worked extensively on land rights of women with Working Group On Land Ownership For Women, It has been involved in several cases of land acquisition and policy engagements on land and allied arenas

Theme : Institution, Innovations & Information for Improved Land Governance & Inclusive Land Tenure Security

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–legislative process, role of the judiciary, land administration, and media. This discussion would throw light on ways to ensure social justice through instrumentalities of land governance.

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04-Mar-20	Panel 24: Can land governance be an instrument for social justice in neoliberal era?	09.00 - 10.30 Hrs

Centre for
Social Justice

Chair	*Dr Varsha Bhagat Ganguly,* Independent Researcher, Ahmedabad

Panellists

Revisiting Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) from social justice perspective
Ms. Rita Sinha, *Retired IAS officer (Secretary, Department of Land Resources, 2008-10), member of LGAF, India*

Forest Rights – Act (2006), judiciary, administration and action
Ms. Shomona Khanna, *Lawyer, Supreme Court*

Land Acquisition – Act and administration
Dr. Usha Ramanathan, *Senior Law Researcher*

Land Governance in the Scheduled Areas of India
Dr. Sujit Kumar, *Assistant Professor teaching Political Science; co-editor of the recent publication –*
India's Scheduled Areas, Routledge, 2019

Mr Kumar Sambhav, *Independent journalist & co-founder 'Land Conflict Watch'*

Date and Time: **9:00 – 10:30 hrs | 4 March 2020**
Venue: **India International Centre, New Delhi**