

India Land & Development Conference 2020 Session Concept Notes



Panel: **Women and Land: Getting Ground Realities**

Organized by: **Landesa & WGWLO**

Land is typically the most important asset upon which our life depends for sustenance. For women ownership and access to land can mean the difference between having an identity of themselves or being dependent; being able to live with dignity or forced to submit to humiliating situations; possessing a safe and stable home or being homeless; between the ability to make decisions about the family or being ignored; and, between having a voice or being heard.

Nevertheless, there are strong evidences to show that deep gender inequalities persist in ownership and control over land across all regions. The FAO Gender and Land Rights Database shows that the number of women landholders is significantly less than the number of male landholders in all countries for which information is available. Moreover, when it comes to agricultural land, current statistics show that women who hold land generally have smaller plots, of lower quality and with less secure rights.

We know that persistent discriminatory social norms and practices are among the strongest barriers standing between women and their land and property rights. The existing policies, by themselves, rarely stand the test of equality; but even when there are equal provisions in law, they are weakly implemented. Women themselves are unable to assert the rights granted to them, and when they try to assert, complicated legal processes make the things even more difficult for them. Nonetheless, there are efforts being made from global to local level to fill this gap.

In this session we will talk to some people working on ground and gain insights of how people working on ground experience this complication. What does a piece of land mean for women? How do women feel when their rights are denied? What challenges do they face in accessing what should rightfully be theirs? Where are the knots? How women navigate through them? What encourages and discourages them? What different organizations are doing? How easy or difficult is to fix the gap? How far is the goal?

02-Mar-20

Panel 3: Women and Land: Getting Ground Realities

11.00 - 12.30 Hrs



Moderator

Ms Shipra Deo, Director – Women's Land Rights, Landesa

Panellists

Mr. Ishteyaq Ahmad, Bavla Mahila Vikas Sangathan

Ms. Sumitra Devi, Landesa

Ms. Nibha Sinha, Ekal Nari Swashakti Sangathan (ENSS)

Date and Time: **11:00 – 12:30 p.m. | 2 March 2020**

Venue: **India International Centre, New Delhi**