

SECURING WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS THROUGH DECENTRALISED LAND ADMINISTRATION REFORM WITHIN THE NATIONAL LAND PROGRAM IN MADAGASCAR

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Introduction:

The 2005 Malagasy Land Policy Letter illustrates concretely the issues raised above. This reform changed the perception of land ownership in Madagascar from "state owned land" to "untitled private property", which also introduced a new way of approaching the land management system. Decentralization was the core issue tackled by this reform of the land management system in Madagascar alongside with the modernization of the land titling processes. However, women's land rights was not considered to be a critical issue and therefore not looked correctly into during the first implementation phase. Political will is crucial to redress gender imbalance in land holding and use within customary and statutory land management system.

This poster is questioning the issue about women's access to land within a decentralized process by looking at the land certification campaign held from July to December 2017.

Materials/Methods:

Land certification campaign held in 6 regions, 17 districts and 54 municipalities:

- Sensitization phase: no emphasis on women's access to land certificate
- Interviews and focus group discussions on effects of cultural practices on women's access tenure security
- Data collection process
- Land certification process
- Land certificate delivery
- Data analysis

Results:

The following table gives a summary of the results obtained by the land certification campaign:

	Number of land certificate registered	In women's name	
ANALANJIROFO	605	94	16%
ATSINANANA	380	81	21%
<i>Total</i>	985	175	18%
ITASY	695	331	21%
ANALAMANGA	891		
<i>Total</i>	1 586		
VAKINANKARATRA	9 671	1 905	20%
<i>Total</i>	12 242	2 411	20%

The different regions are populated by different tribes with various cultural practices. The Merina tribe is the main inhabitants of Vakinankaratra, Analamanga and Itasy regions whose understanding of women's land rights could be considered as gender neutral. The lowest percentage of women's accessing land certification, in Analanjirifo region, could be explained partially by cultural practices of the Betsimisaraka who consider land as an asset managed and owned by men. However, local practices are not the only cause of low access to land certification for women.

Conclusion:

Although the percentage of women's protecting their land rights through certification process is not enough, the observation is that decentralized land administration increased women's access to secure tenure especially in rural settings by (i) bringing the offices closer, therefore reducing distance to be travelled and (ii) by reducing costs.

Acknowledgements: