



Among CFS's most prominent and impactful products to date are its 2012 Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forestry (the CFS "VGGT"), and its 2014 Principles of Responsible Agricultural Investments (the "CFS-RAI"). The multi-stakeholder, consultative approach that characterizes all of CFS's negotiated policy convergence instruments is also what bestows upon the VGGTs and CFS-RAI its international legitimacy, ownership, and added value, especially since CFS is made up of governments, UN agencies, research networks, financial institutions, civil society, private sector representatives, and other key stakeholders. In this light, this document aims to present the latest status of implementation of these important policy instruments.

FAO supports VGGT implementation and multi-stakeholder expert meetings to mainstream tenure governance to achieve land degradation neutrality in the frame of the UN Decade of Ecosystems Restoration.

I. Since their endorsement by the CFS, the VGGTs have reframed the land policy debate globally and have become an international reference point:

- The VGGTs are helping countries and others develop enabling environments to attract sustainable investments in agriculture via improved land policies and institutions. These guidelines help improve governance of tenure at both national and local levels.
- The VGGTs help strengthen focus on the rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups: the VGGT are used to claim and defend their rights to land and related natural resources.

II. Concerning the FAO VGGT implementation program, some of its accomplishments include:

- Worldwide support to VGGT implementation by FAO to 88 countries, of which 17 are in Latin America/Caribbean region, 35 in Africa, 14 in Asia Pacific, 16 in Europe/Central Asia, and 6 in Near East/North Africa.
- 19 countries now have multistakeholder platforms to ensure inclusive and participatory governance of tenure reform processes. FAO supports civil society participation through capacity development programmes specifically designed for civil society (and Indigenous People) in 21 countries.
- 29 countries are reviewing/reformulating policy and legal frameworks using the VGGTs, while 18 countries received FAO support to improve land administration systems in projects implemented by FAO or partners (e.g., World Bank).

III. FAO VGGT programmes ensure availability of global tools on land governance (on website):

- 11 technical guides (ranging from pastoral lands to safeguarding land tenure rights in the context of agricultural investment); a People's Manual on the VGGT was completed in 2016, and a technical guide to enhance use of VGGTs by civil society has been jointly elaborated with FIAN. See FAO's land tenure website.
- A set of 10 e-learning modules were developed; 3 more are in development. All e-learning modules are available on line on FAO e learning platform, accessed by over 15 000 users.



FAO has built enabling land administration technology with SOLA and Open Tenure: softwares to support tenure rights registration, which can be used by government and by communities.

CFS-RAI have been developed to ensure that agricultural investments generate net positive impacts on food security and nutrition at global, regional, national, and local levels.

I. The CFS-RAI have expanded awareness and guidance from land-based investment to broader issues of sustainable investment and aligning investments with the SDGs:

- Increasing investment in agriculture is crucial to the eradication of hunger and poverty. FAO estimates that additional annual agricultural investments of US\$140 billion are needed globally to achieve these two SDGs.
- FAO has taken leadership with its Umbrella Programme “Supporting Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems” in supporting the enhancement of responsible agricultural investment (RAI).
- We know that the enabling environment – the institutional, policy and legal framework, as well as existing incentives – is the single most important determinant of the quality and quantity of investments, and requires strengthening and better implementation.

II. Concerning CFS-RAI application, FAO accomplishments include:

- 25 countries (from RAF, RAP, RLC, RNE regions) have applied FAO’s capacity development planning tools to enhance responsible investment, in particular for the enabling environment and youth.
- 5 countries are committed to projects that aim to establish or build on existing multi-stakeholder platforms (existing platforms being those created by the VGGT programme) to ensure inclusive, participatory processes, and to enhance the enabling environment for RAI.
- 6 countries are engaged in a programme to bring together the CFS-RAI and other global instruments (RtF, SSF, VGGT) to enhance food security and nutrition.
- The ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry were developed with FAO’s technical advice, adopted by AMAF in October 2018, and launched by FAO, IISD and Grow Asia in June 2019. FAO is now supporting the roll out of this regional instrument.
- Over 150 parliamentarians and their advisors have been engaged in capacity development through activities with the Parliamentary Front against Hunger of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Pan African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, and the new the Parliamentary Network of Food Security in Africa and the Arab World.
 - The Global Parliamentary Summit Against Hunger and Malnutrition Summit (Madrid, 2018) declaration highlights the “need of creating an enabling environment for responsible investments in the food systems”.
- G20 Agriculture Ministers include expressions of support for the CFS-RAI in Ministerial Declarations including those in 2014 through 2019. Since 2017, support has been extended to include the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains. FAO is

supporting the current G20 President, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to develop a G20 “Framework to Enhance Implementation and Reporting on Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food System” (tentative title).

- Over 20 countries have benefited from capacity development on inclusive business models, in particular responsible contract farming and the use of the FAO-IISD Model Contract¹.
- 5 national civil society networks have taken FAO’s tool for RAI and Youth on board to empower their RAI-related advocacy and policy interventions.
- FAO is working with the International Bar Association and others to develop the capacity of private sector lawyers in avoiding and addressing, preventing and mitigating adverse human rights impacts when advising on agricultural investments.

III. Tools and instruments made available by FAO include:

- At global level, FAO has developed a series of tools, instruments and learning programmes available through the Organization’s RAI website²
- The RAI Learning Programme currently consists of several courses (available free of charge online³) in multiple languages, including:
 - An introduction to CFS-RAI principles
 - A 4 module programme for policy makers creating an enabling environment for RAI
 - An innovative short course for the private sector (to be published in mid-2020) focused on compliance and risk mitigation
- FAO itself uses the course content to deliver blended learning programmes (working online, then face-to-face, and then with follow up mentoring online), creating a learning process much richer and more practical than a self-guided tool alone. This method has been successful in four African countries, where country teams have come up with work plans for enhancing responsible investment at the national level. FAO is preparing to launch the programme in Asia.
- A consortium of universities in Africa, ITOCA and FAO are adapting parts of the policy makers course to a curriculum on creating an enabling environment for RAI by and for youth.
- For the private sector FAO developed the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains⁴ in partnership with OECD. FAO and OECD have completed a pilot study that identifies lessons learned, good practices and challenges in implementing supply chain due diligence identified by pilot participants, and sets out recommendations and next steps for companies and policymakers.
- Capacity assessment and planning tools have been developed and validated for creating multi-stakeholder RAI platforms, for responsible investment by and for youth, and for RAI and gender.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/in-action/contract-farming/resources/library-document-detail/en/c/1204265/>

² <http://www.fao.org/in-action/responsible-agricultural-investments>

³ <https://elearning.fao.org/course/index.php?categoryid=103>

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/economic/est/issues/investment/guidance/oecd-fao/en/>



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- FAO's Guide on due diligence, tenure and agricultural investment⁵ and Guide to assess national regulatory frameworks affecting larger-scale private investments⁶ provide support for legal professionals and policy makers.

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CA2922EN>

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6355e.pdf>