

The Role of the “Fit-for-Purpose” Approach in the REILA Land Administration Project in Ethiopia

Bernd Eversmann (Finland)

SUMMARY

In 2010, the Government of Finland decided to commit to long-term cooperation in the land sector in Ethiopia, with a focus on land administration. The Finnish cooperation started in 2011 in form of the REILA project, which stands for “Responsible and Innovative Land Administration”. The project is now in its second phase; Technical Assistance is provided by the consulting company NIRAS Finland Oy (until February 2016 in consortium with Orgut Sweden).

The presentation describes the development or contextualization of a “fit-for-purpose” approach for rural land certification. It also discusses rationales for the chosen technologies and imagery sources in a vast country like Ethiopia, in which rural infrastructure is relatively undeveloped and power availability and reachability of areas can be crucial factors. In addition, the presentation will touch on the related development of a land administration and information system to ensure the management and maintenance of the land records.

Early in the REILA project, the Ethiopian Government (GoE) issued a request to the project to contextualise and test a low-tech, efficient, method fit for the purpose of rural land certification, similar to the approach which was successfully implemented in Rwanda at the same time. The method was tried and tested in 8 Districts within 5 Regional National States of Ethiopia. The trial sites were chosen to cover a variety of terrain, land cover and land-use patterns as well as administrative structures. The trials were successful, showing that the approach was implementable at relatively low-cost and scaled well. It was adopted by GoE as the official method for land certification in the rural areas. Other actors in the sector, for instance the World Bank funded part of the Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP) and the DFID funded LIFT Project, took over and further adapted the method to their needs, and there has been close cooperation between the Government and the Development Partners in the

The Role of the “Fit-for-Purpose” Approach in the REILA Land Administration Project in Ethiopia (10180)
Bernd Eversmann (Finland)

FIG Working Week 2019
Geospatial information for a smarter life and environmental resilience
Hanoi, Vietnam, April 22–26, 2019

process.

The method was not only piloted, but also successfully scaled-up by REILA in 2 Regions and 14 Districts, resulting in around 435,000 demarcated parcels and 195,000 land holding certificates issued to rural farmers by June 2017.

Together with the above mentioned projects (LIFT, SLMP and REILA) and its own interventions, Ethiopia has managed to register and certify more than 10 million rural land parcels in the last 7 years. At the current rate of more than 400,000 parcels per month, a successful completion of the systematic registration seems achievable within the next decade.

The Role of the “Fit-for-Purpose” Approach in the REILA Land Administration Project in Ethiopia (10180)
Bernd Eversmann (Finland)

FIG Working Week 2019
Geospatial information for a smarter life and environmental resilience
Hanoi, Vietnam, April 22–26, 2019