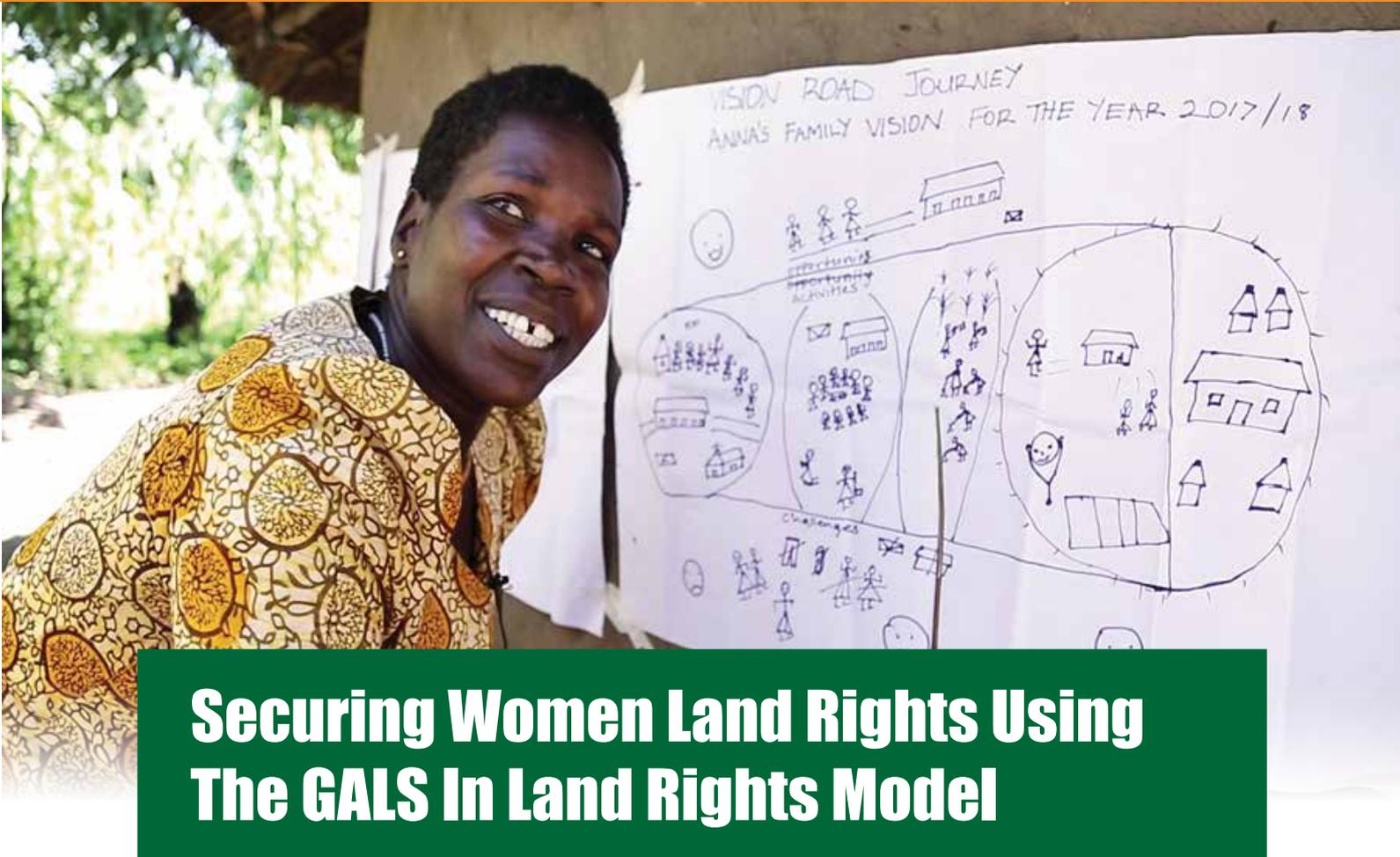




Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale
Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda



Securing Women Land Rights Using The GALS In Land Rights Model



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Background

Land is one of the significant productive resources and remains one of the most contentious and essential aspects all over districts in Uganda today. To many people, it's regarded as a source of political power, cultural identity and further to that it's used for agriculture by small scale farmers to be able to improve their livelihoods and feed the nation. In most cases, the majority of Uganda's poor people are rural majorly women whose rights have continued to be trampled upon by the various cultural norms and religious beliefs which are prohibitive to women's access, control and use of land. Many small scale farmers lack knowledge on the existing laws and policies on land rights and land use management making them very vulnerable to abuse of their rights like land grabbing. Since 2013 ESAFF Uganda has been using practical, efficient, and comprehensive approach to address land rights challenges of small-scale farmers primarily through conducting

capacity building training to equip farmers with knowledge and skills in addressing some the land rights issues in their communities; organising advocacy meetings with different stakeholders in communities and at national levels to influence for favourable policies and laws; and carrying out media campaigns on land rights especially for women and documenting cases.

ESAFF Uganda has developed a Land Rights Model using the lessons and experiences generated from the Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) project that was implemented in Zombo, Nebbi and Adjumani district with financial support from Oxfam in Uganda. The principal objective of the model is to improve agricultural production of small scale farmers through secure access, control and ownership of land as a productive resource in farming communities by both women and men.

Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS)

Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) is a community-led empowerment methodology spearheaded by OXFAM WEMAN programme which aims at improving livelihood and gender justice in pro-poor communities in the value chain. The methodology uses visual diagramming tools enabling people at different levels in the chain to develop visions where they dream of their future, reflect on their present situations, identify challenges, available opportunities and distinguishing possible relations and actions to their problems. The methodology also addresses power issues between communities and service

providers, religious and traditional authorities, and private sector and government actors. The methodology is a mentoring approach for small-scale farmers to alleviate poverty among their households. GALS tools and participatory processes can be adapted to promote gender transformation and gender mainstreaming in any situation. The methodology can be used on its own or integrated into existing activities and programmes. The methodology forms a solid basis for enabling more inclusive, effective and cost-efficient democratic policy development and gender advocacy.

GALS in Land Rights Model

The GALS in Land Rights Model involves the use of GALS tools to address land rights issues among small scale farmers in communities. The model is a community-led approach that enhances inclusion and small scale farmers taking the lead in the managing role of their land rights issues in the community. The model is supportive in developing action learning skills of vulnerable women and men in land rights and land-related issues to implement strategies for improving livelihoods, gender equality and decision making power.

It also promotes collaboration and respect between various actors and farmers for gender equitable access, control and ownership of land resources. With GALS tools, we engage skills, energies and resources of 'powerful' land actors to support pro-poor wealth creation in vulnerable groups as well as develop sustainable skills and structures for livelihood and change planning, communication and collaboration between stakeholders.

The model seeks to improve agricultural production of small scale farmers both women and men through increased access, control and ownership of land as a productive resource in farming communities by promoting a more systematic and practical approach small scale farmers and other relevant stakeholders can use in addressing land rights challenges among communities and by developing win-win strategies which reinforce the positive changes like security of land rights and economic development among vulnerable groups.

Process for the development of the GALS in Land Rights Model involved different steps like documentation of experiences, lessons learnt and challenges on land rights issues among small scale farmers in communities, drafting and pretesting the GALS in Land Rights Model, piloting the Model then implementing of the GALS in Land Rights Model.

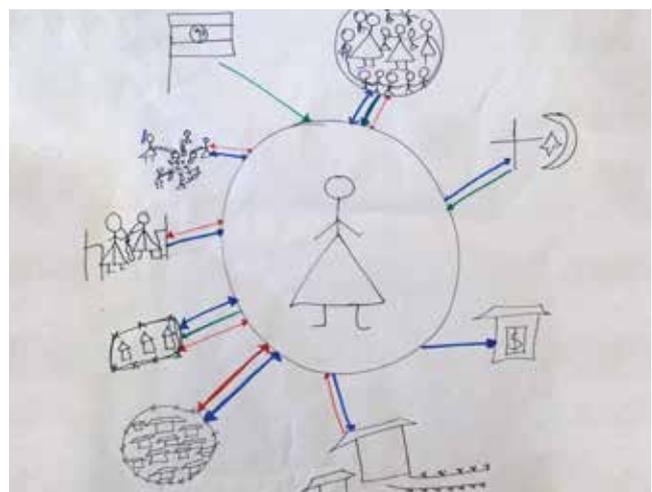
Challenge Action Tree



This tool is used to examine strategies for addressing land rights challenges. The tool provides individuals with an opportunity to map the different land rights-related challenges they face in their communities, analyse the various causes, find solutions and actions to take for a particular land right challenge in communities.

Social Empowerment Map

This tool helps in mapping land management institutions in the district and identifying gaps in land management in the district. This tool analyses the nature and type of relationships with different land institutions and sturdy stakeholders (local leaders, religious and traditional leaders). The tool can also help in building the strength to move towards our vision and work with influential people in communities.



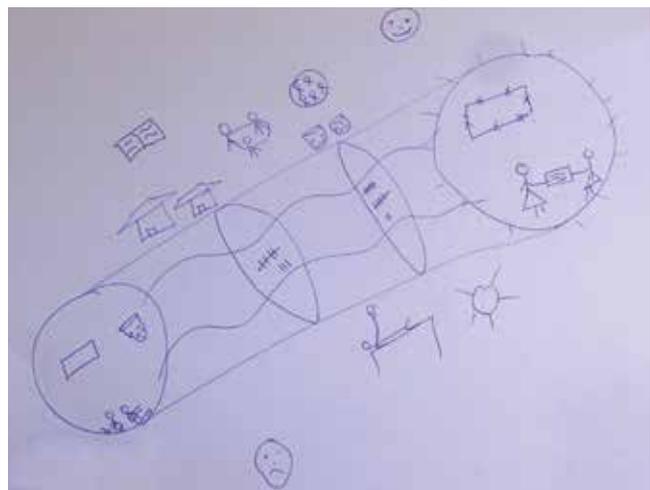
Peer sharing and advocacy



Peer sharing empowers communities to communicate land rights issues. This is done using drawings, songs, storytelling and drama. Different stakeholders are involved in planning for land rights issues during various engagements and stakeholders' action learning meetings. Communities also use songs, storytelling and drama to influence policies and awareness creations for land right issues among small scale farmers in communities; this is done through organising lobby meetings, dialogues, developing IECs and media engagements.

Achievement Road Journey

This tool is used for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning. It's a valuable tool to make follow-ups on their commitments on land rights issues in their communities as well as monitoring progress on other commitments by other stakeholders. Communities use this tool to monitor their progress towards achieving their land rights vision. The tool involves analysing the progress, setbacks and opportunities towards achieving the land right goals in communities



Outcomes From Using The GALS In Land Rights Model

Women small-scale farmers have become self-aware of their rights and duties about achieving their land rights while working with all members of their households. This has contributed to many women who have interfaced with this tool to start enjoying land ownership rights contrary to what was being practised in their communities.

Small-scale farmers, especially women, have developed negotiating capacity which they have applied in different areas of their life. Small-scale farmers have realised that they have the most solutions to their current problems; this has enabled them to implement sustainable strategies to increase their security on land and other resources for economic development.

Unlike other approaches, the GALS in Land Rights Model has created collaboration, respect and communication for win-win between members in both at households and community hence addressing gender inequality as an integral part of breaking cultural disparities and norms. This process has also created some multi-stakeholder consensus on the moral and business imperatives of promoting gender justice on land prioritising the needs and interests of the weakest and most vulnerable people in the community on land rights.

Throughout the implementation of the GALS in Land Rights Model in communities, there has been an increase in meaningful women participation in engagement in public spaces with different duty bearers hence leading women to raise their unique voices on their need in their communities.

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Views expressed in this publication don't represent those of the Oxfam.

For more information, email: coordinator@esaffuganda.org

ABOUT US:

Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda

is a small scale farmer initiated and farmer-led movement formed to facilitate processes through which small-scale farmers' development concerns can be solicited, articulated and ultimately addressed through local, national, regional and international policies and programmes.

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