

A MAJORITY OF THE 700 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING
IN CHINA'S COUNTRYSIDE LIVE ON ABOUT **\$2 A DAY**



LANDESA IN CHINA

04

GOAL

To ensure that all of China's 200 million farming families have secure land tenure and can invest in their land with confidence.

OVERVIEW

Over the last 30 years China has witnessed the greatest poverty reduction achievement in human history. Hundreds of millions of people have moved out of extreme poverty throughout the country.

But China's modern cities and buzzing factory floors belie an uncomfortable truth: the country's rapid modernization has largely bypassed the countryside, where more than 700 million people still live – the majority of them on about \$2 a day.

China's urban-rural disparity is among the highest in the world. Rural Chinese have less schooling, healthcare, and income. Rural Chinese die, on average, more than 12 years earlier than their big city counterparts. Rural children are 140 times less likely to go to college than urban children.

Divides like these have sparked social unrest across the country and are unsustainable.

Landesa, working in concert with the national government of China, has identified and begun work on the solution – secure land tenure, which is increasingly recognized as a powerful tool to address rural poverty.

Through a series of recent historic legal changes, guided in part by Landesa's research and recommendations, China's central government has begun guaranteeing all farmers 30-year land rights, strictly limiting expropriations, documenting and publicizing farmers' rights, and requiring sufficient compensation when farmers' lands are expropriated. These historic changes provide the foundation for broad-based development in China

PROGRESS

86 million farming families now have secure land tenure to 128 million acres, an area about the size of the states of California and Maine combined.

Landesa's recommendations have been incorporated into the significant policy and legislative changes over the last two decades that provide China's 200 million farming families with greater confidence in their security.

and for a more equitable and stable society. This is good for China and good for the world. Now these laws need to be further improved and implemented, and institutions must be established to ensure that farmers have the confidence to invest in their land to improve their lives and the lives of future generations.

OUR PROJECTS

Landesa continues to act as a chief foreign advisor to China's central government on land tenure issues. Through this dialogue, Landesa hopes to improve farmers' compensation and due process rights, which will make their 30-year tenure agreements more meaningful. And Landesa continues to promote greater transferability of land rights to facilitate rational urban development and sustainable rural prosperity.

- Landesa continues its work through its two Legal Aid and Education Centers staffed with "barefoot lawyers" who advise farmers of their land rights and represent farmers in cases where their rights are violated.
- Landesa is developing regulations that balance the competing goals of forest development and environmental protection.
- Landesa is involved in public awareness campaigns to educate farmers on their rights.

- Landesa has developed and is disseminating best practices guidelines and recommendations for multinationals operating in China.
- Landesa continues to work with authorities in the central government to establish a national land registration system and dispute resolution mechanisms. Landesa was the main partner in the government's pilot registration program.

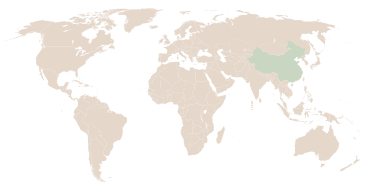
OUR RESEARCH

Landesa and its partners, Renmin University and Michigan State University, conduct continuing nationwide surveys that provide insight into the challenges facing China's farmers. The survey of 17 provinces found uneven implementation of farmers' protections. Landesa's surveys have found that farmers who are given documentation of their secure land rights are twice as likely to make long-term investments in their plots.

Landesa and the Center for Rural Development Policy at China Agricultural University, as part of a three-year partnership, conduct continuing research, fieldwork, and surveys.

PARTNERS

Since 1987, Landesa, formerly known as the Rural Development Institute, has worked closely with the Central Leading Group on Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Land Resources, the Development Research Center of State Council, and the National People's Congress to help inform legislation aimed at including China's rural poor in the country's historic transformation.



LANDESA'S HISTORY

Grounded in the knowledge that having legal rights to land is the foundation for prosperity and opportunity, Landesa partners with governments and local organizations to ensure that the world's poorest families have secure rights over the land they till. Founded as the Rural Development Institute in 1967, Landesa has helped more than 100 million families gain legal control over their land, unlocking sustainable economic growth and advancing education, nutrition, and conservation efforts.