



# ICARRD+20

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of the United Nations

# Update on the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD+20) and the Global Land Observatory

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Scotland's Land Reform Futures International Symposium  
James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## FROM WCARRD to ICARRD+20

- FAO “World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development” - **WCARRD** (Rome, July 1979). Adoption of *The Peasants’ Charter*. The *Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action of the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development*.
- FAO International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development - **ICARRD** (Porto Alegre, Brazil, March 2006). Parallel to ICARRD, a “Land, territory and Dignity” forum was organized by the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC).
- Government of Colombia (GoC) International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development + 20 - **ICARRD+20** (Cartagena, Colombia, 24-27 February 2026) with technical support from FAO.

### **THEMATIC PILLARS**

- Agrarian Reform: equitable, resilient food systems
- Food Sovereignty and Right to Food
- Rural Communities as Rights Holders
- Women's Land Rights and Empowerment
- Global Land Governance

## GOALS

- Discuss global land governance and its impacts on the SDGs
- Assess the implementation of the VGGT and other international guidance (UNDRIP, UNDRIP, CEDAW)
- Raise the profile of agrarian reform in the XXI century
- Foster international cooperation on food sovereignty rural resilience and climate justice
- Strengthen the role of rural communities as stewards of ecosystems and agents of development
- Boost inclusive governance systems that include rural communities, small scale farmers, IPs, afro-descendants and other traditional communities, and women, in decision making

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Revitalize the CFS as a UN body in debates on agrarian reform and rural development, including VGGT follow-up
- Facilitate renewed commitments to agrarian reform and rural development
- Strengthen international cooperation on land issues (emphasis on the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty launched by Brazil G20 Presidency)
- Generate cooperation mechanisms for channeling technical and financial resources into regional and global agrarian reform initiatives
- Support monitoring of progress in agrarian reform and rural development through the FAO Global Land Observatory

## GOVERNANCE

- **International Technical Secretariat** (GoC, Brazil, FAO, IFAD, IICA)
- **International Advocacy Committee** (International Indian Treaty Council, LVC, World Forum of Fisher Peoples, The World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers, World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples & Pastoralists, Marcha Mundial de las Mujeres, Global Land Forum Global, Network of Peasant Organizations and Producers of West Africa).
- **PARTICIPANTS** Over 200 invitations/save the dates sent to governments. Invitations to CSO participants are managed by the International Advocacy Committee.
- **PARALLEL SPACE/EVENT “LAND FOR ALL”**: exhibitions of products and culture of small-scale producers, IPs etc. 4 thematic axes: Land Reforms/ history of peasant mobilizations; food sovereignty; responsible tenure of land; environmental sustainability

# FAO's technical support

- **Draft Declaration:**

- A) FAO will provide feedback to a draft being developed by GoC

- B) GoC developing a roadmap and timetable for building up consensus among states and receiving feedback from Non-State Actors. FAO to call for position papers

- **Draft Agenda:** FAO will provide feedback to a draft being developed by GoC

- **Call for policy papers:** FAO to use the platform of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty

- **Institutional follow-up Mechanism:** FAO will provide inputs on the role that can be played by the CFS, as a monitoring tool for the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference; on the role of the Global Land Observatory, as a tool for producing knowledge and data to feed into the agenda, and on the role of the Global Alliance as a tool for fostering international cooperation on agrarian reform and rural development.

# GLOBAL LAND OBSERVATORY/STATUS OF LAND TENURE AND GOVERNANCE

- **The GLO is a FAO-led data and knowledge sharing facility, in collaboration with ILC and CIRAD.**
- **The objectives of the GLO are to generate and make available data, evidence and analyses on the status of land tenure and governance issues, as a reference point for policy makers, IGOs, civil society, private sector, academia, linking global with country commitments in the frameworks of the SDGs, the VGGT, and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).**
- **The SLTG is the main product of the GLO. First edition to be launched at ICARRD+ 20.**

# SOME PRELIMINARY FINDINGS (1)

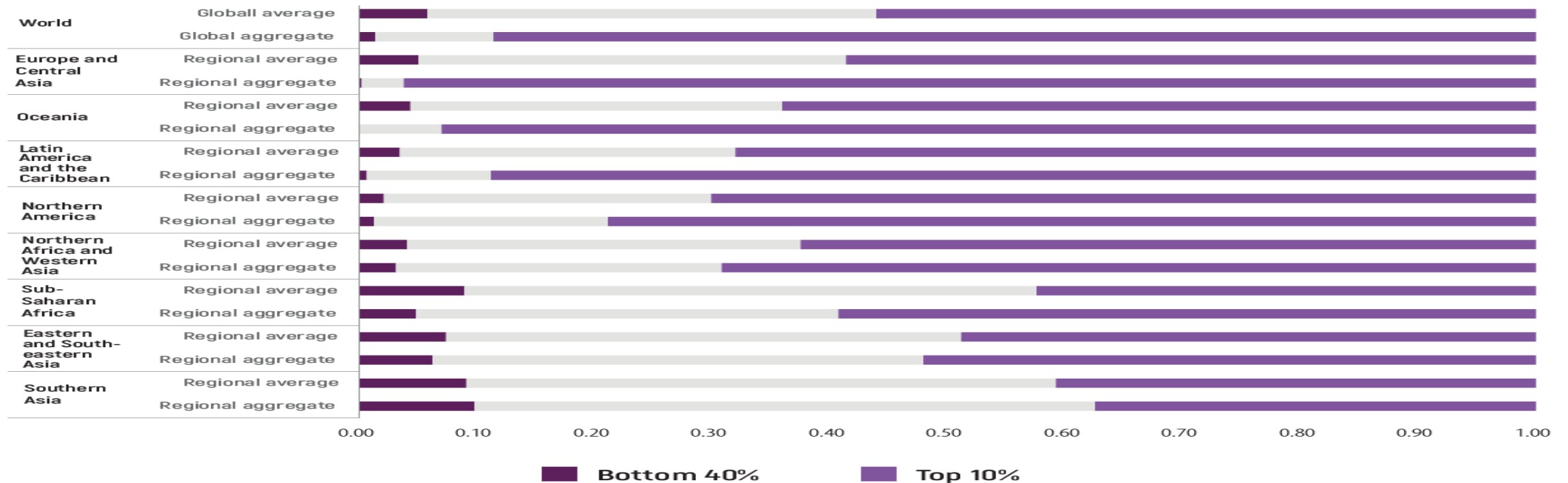
- **LAND DISTRIBUTION BY TENURE REGIME**
- **Legally, states are the main land holders**
- 64% State
- 26% non-state (18% private + 8% customary)
- 10% unknown
- **... Yet, in practice, the picture changes significantly**
- 28% Public
- 20% private
- 42% customary
- 10% unknown



# SOME PRELIMINARY FINDINGS (2)

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL LAND HOLDINGS IS DEEPLY UNEQUAL

The top 10% of largest land holders operate on average 56% of the agricultural land; in aggregate terms, this represents 89% of all agricultural land. When only documented or alienable land rights are considered, land inequality increases across all assessed countries; in three out of 13 African countries assessed, the top 10 percent of holdings control ALL documented land, while the bottom 40 percent have none – a pattern evident in 50 percent of the African countries.



### **(INVISIBLE) TRENDS IN LARGE-SCALE INVESTMENTS AND SHAREHOLDING**

- Corporate and financial companies account for 70% of large-scale land transactions, with pension funds making up 51%.
- 73% of these entities operate on a shareholder basis.



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Thank you!

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