PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON INEQUALITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION

28TH - 30TH APRIL 2014, ACCRA GHANA

in partnership with:
Observations From The Field: Individual Property & Communal Assets Realities of Rural Women.

Nidhi Tandon
I don’t want money, I want my land back, if they give me one million Naira today I will still go broke, but if I have my land I can always farm to take care of my family and possibly pass the land on to my children...

Woman from Iguoriakhi, Nigeria 2007

On May 29, 2007, over 3,500 hectares of Iguobazuwa Forest Reserve -including individual and communal farmlands- were allotted to Michelin to be converted into rubber plantations without the consent of community people or proper Environmental Impact Assessment.
A Church and a land deal for biofuel

Zambia 2011
What type of life is this? We are like animals. We have returned to the age of slavery!

Saiti Handavu, Village Headman, Zambia, November 2010
ZAMBEEF

As agriculture distress intensifies, more and more peasants are forced out of their generational livelihood practices and towards uncertain futures at the cost of national food security.
The Legal System protects certain interests over others

There are enormous safeguards for the powerful and the privileged, not for the poor
“The judicial system is the mouthpiece of the government. Laws are made without the consultation of the poor people. Even where the government wants to protect the interests of the poor, it is so cumbersome and the process is so male dominated, they are not sympathetic to the interests of women”

Mary Tandon, Magistrate Uganda, Women’s Action Group, Zimbabwe 2009
The Value System is at odds with traditional systems

It emphasizes individual accumulation over communal common goods
In many parts of sub-Saharan Africa, land is considered ‘priceless’ – beyond a monetary value and therefore not up for leverage.

How do we quantify land when it is a farmer’s only asset?
Not everything belongs in the marketplace
People become ‘squatters’ on their ancestral lands and ‘beggars’ from the common heritage of mankind.
ELINOR OSTROM
2009 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences
Communal Land Titling for sustainable bamboo forestry management in Lao PDR

Three constituencies

1. Those who have been stripped off everything
2. Those who are doing more and more with less and less
3. Those who putting their lives on the line to protect what is left
147 known killings of activists in 2012, making it the deadliest year on record to be defending rights to land and the environment.

“At first I thought I was fighting to save rubber trees. Then I thought I was fighting to save the Amazon rainforest. Now I realise I am fighting for humanity.” — Chico Mendes
Laisa do Espírito Santo visits the graves of her sister Maria do Espírito Santo da Silva and brother-in-law José Cláudio Ribeiro da Silva, rainforest activists who were murdered in Nova Ipixuna, Para, northern Brazil, on June 2011.

Photograph: Evaristo Sa/AFP/Getty Images
Women as Game Changers

Because they are the glue of their communities
CARE ECONOMY

Human to Human

Human to Earth

Earth to Human

We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.
We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors

THANK YOU.

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