



Groupe de recherche  
et d'échanges  
technologiques



GRAF/LandNet  
Burkina Faso

February 11th 2002

Dear colleagues,

**Invitation to the workshop 'Making land rights more secure'. March 19-21, 2002. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.**

Recent research and development programmes are bringing new insights on the dynamics of land tenure and resource access in West Africa, and on how to help secure rural people's rights over land and natural resources. We have great pleasure in inviting you to participate in a workshop to discuss such insights, which will be held in Ouagadougou, as noted above.

The purposes of the workshop are threefold:

- To present and debate recent experience with institutions and mechanisms aimed at making land rights more secure in West Africa; given a context of increasing competition for land and rising land values, combined with decentralisation and legislative change;
- To discuss the findings of recently completed research on land tenure and resource access in West Africa, jointly funded by the British and French governments;
- To share lessons on policy implications from such research and field-level experience, and on ways to support broader public debate on land tenure policy options, drawing on experience from within the region.

The workshop will bring together both English- and French-speaking researchers, policy-makers and representatives of civil society groups. We hope to receive a total of 80 people from 10 West African countries, with participants also from a number of European nations.

You will find attached a provisional programme for the workshop, which outlines the principal themes to be covered. We plan to combine both plenary sessions and smaller working group discussion in order to maximise participation and exchange of views. The workshop is structured around two kinds of working group. The first aims to feedback findings and experience

from the issue at question; the second set of working groups is more exploratory in nature, aiming to raise a number of questions and broaden understanding in a particular field.

We very much hope you will be able to attend this workshop, which should be an extremely interesting event, involving much valuable recent experience and thinking on ways to approach managing and securing rights to land and natural resources in West Africa. Please reply to confirm your participation, by sending a message to Mrs Sermé, DID International, [did@liptinfor.bf](mailto:did@liptinfor.bf), who will be in charge of practical organization. Equally you can send them a fax on: (226) 34 03 55 or 38 31 33.

Please make sure to copy your email to: [camilla.toulmin@iied.org](mailto:camilla.toulmin@iied.org) and [nicole.kenton@iied.org](mailto:nicole.kenton@iied.org)

We do hope to see you in Ouagadougou in March.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe Lavigne-Delville, Hubert Ouédraogo & Camilla Toulmin

***For any questions regarding the organisation of the workshop, please contact:***

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