



GROW THE ECONOMY

STRENGTHEN LAND RIGHTS IN INDIA

Clarifying and strengthening land rights for women, men, and communities can:

- Increase India's GDP by as much as Rs. 476 billion (US \$7 billion)
o **Citation:** Fort, R. (2007). "Land inequality and economic growth: a dynamic panel data approach." *Agricultural Economics*, 37(2-3): 159-165.
- Increase annual per capita income by as much as Rs. 21,352 (US \$314)
o **Citation:** Keefer, Philip, and Stephen Knack. (2002). "Polarization, politics and property rights: Links between inequality and growth." *Public Choice* 111.1-2: 127-154.

Research shows, state-level land reforms from 1982 to 1999 benefited Indian society as a whole, sparking one-third of the economic growth during this period, and were associated with:

- 1.1 percent increase in per capita income
- 0.7 percent increase in per capita consumption
- 1.4 percent increase in the growth rate of assets
o **Citation:** Deininger, K., Jin, S., and Nagarajan, H. K. (2009). "Land reforms, poverty reduction, and economic growth: evidence from India." *Journal of Development Studies*, 45(4), 496-521.

And these reforms benefited the poorest of the poor, setting them up for greater agricultural productivity. In the Indian state of West Bengal, rural households with land titles were:

- 11 percent more likely to have used fertilizer or pesticides in the past year
- 7 percent more likely to have rented tools, machines, or other agricultural equipment
- 12 percent more likely to report taking out a loan from a formal bank
- 88 percent more likely to use a loan for agricultural purposes
o **Citation:** Santos, F., Flentschner, D., Savath, F., Peterman, A. (2014). "Can government-allocated land contribute to food security? Intrahousehold analysis of West Bengal's Microplot Allocation Program." *World Development* 64: 860-872. IFPRI Discussion Paper, December 2013.

Note: This information is based on an exchange rate of Rs. 68 to the US\$ and World Bank data including an estimate of India's GDP of US\$ 2 trillion, per capita income of US \$1,570, and current economic growth rate of 7 percent.



Rural India's estimated 17 million landless families and 45 million land-insecure families can help spark broad-based economic growth. Learn how some Indian states are using land rights to jumpstart rural development at:
www.landesia.org/what-we-do/india/