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)

- Increase annual per capita income by as much as Rs. 21,352 (US $314)

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

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

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.