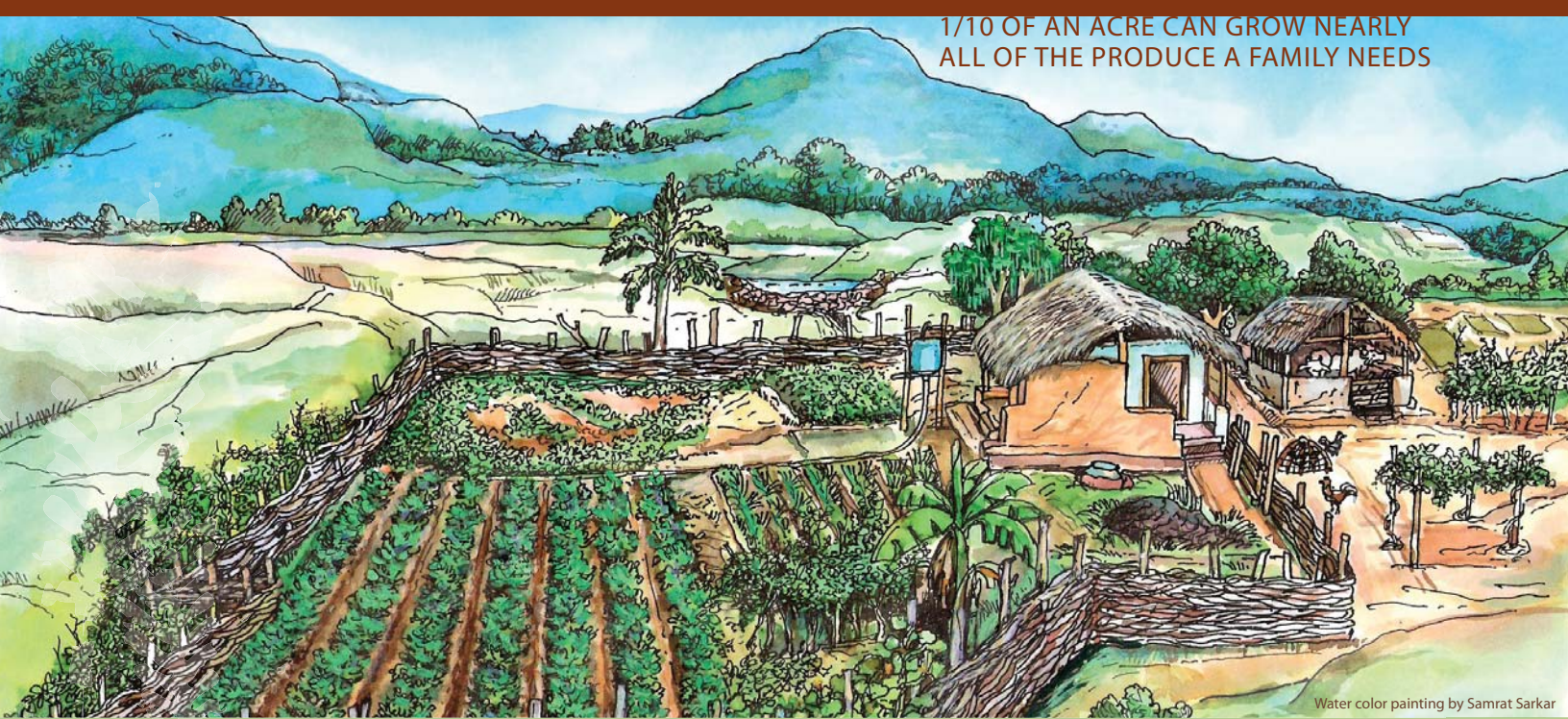


1/10 OF AN ACRE CAN GROW NEARLY
ALL OF THE PRODUCE A FAMILY NEEDS



Water color painting by Samrat Sarkar

MICRO-PLOTS

A LITTLE LAND CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Micro-plots are one of Landesa's innovative approaches to putting land into the hands of millions of the world's poorest families.

Micro-plots are tennis-court-sized home and garden plots of land.

On these one-tenth of an acre plots, families can produce most of the vegetables and fruits they need and sell excess produce to supplement the family's other earnings.

Their big impact belies their small size.

They were developed based on research that shows that secure rights to even a small area of land boosts family income, enhances family nutrition, provides physical security, provides bargaining leverage to farm hands who otherwise have to live on the property of their employer's property, serves as a vehicle for generating wealth, offers space for a home business or post-harvest storage, and secures the family's status in the community.

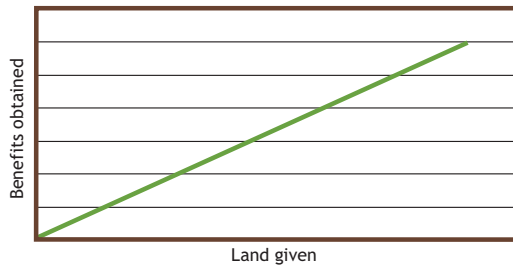
Micro-plots are developed with what is typically the family's most abundant resource—their own labor.

And micro-plots are small enough that even governments with constrained coffers can afford to pay market prices to purchase sufficient quantities of land from willing private sellers and distribute it to their rural poor.

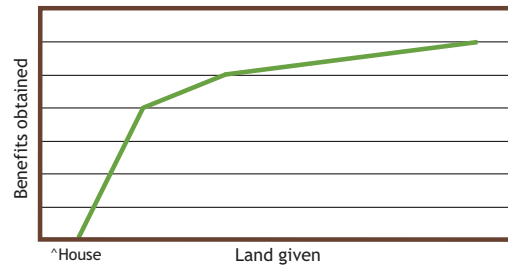
Using the micro-plot approach, governments can provide huge benefits to their poorest citizens sparking sustainable growth with a financially and politically feasible program.

The emergence of micro-plots as a tool in the fight against global poverty is related to new thinking about the relationship between the size of a farm and the benefits it produces, based, in part, on our field research which found that micro-plots between 100 to 270 square meters provided the most benefits.

Benefits plateaued or even decreased for plots above 270 square meters.



Old consensus on size and benefits



New consensus on size and benefits

MICRO-PLOTS AROUND THE WORLD

India

The government of India, in partnership with Landesa, has launched an ambitious plan to provide micro-plots for 2 million of the country's landless families.

Landesa has been working with the states of Karnataka, West Bengal, and Odisha to develop, implement, monitor, and improve micro-plot programs. Some states have paired their micro-plot programs with the national government's housing program for added impact.

Pakistan

Punjab province, Pakistan's most populous, is distributing one-quarter acre house and garden plots to an initial 1,500 landless families. Landesa served as an advisor to this program during its initial stages.

The Former Soviet Union (Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova)

The household garden plots on the former Soviet collectives and the "dacha plots" held by urban residents in the former Soviet Union played a major role in ensuring household food security in both the Soviet and post-Soviet era. Dacha plots, small house and garden plots common in Russia, have long been disproportionately productive.

In 1990, for example, these micro-plots comprised about 2 percent of the land under cultivation, but accounted for 27 percent of the agricultural output. Currently about 14 percent of the agricultural land in former Soviet Union, privately held dacha plots now produce more than half of all the agricultural output for the region.

A SUMMARY OF RESEARCH IN SUPPORT OF MICRO-PLOTS

The value of home garden production increased average monthly income by 1/3.

[Building on Traditional Gardening to Improve Household Food Security](#)

Returns on the land and labor are often higher for small homestead plots.

[Development of Evidence-based policy around small-scale Farming](#)

Micro-plots can provide women with significant control over household assets and provide a critical nutritional safety net for the rural poor.

[Building on Traditional Gardening to Improve Household Food Security](#)

For an overview of micro-plot research:

[One Billion Rising: Law, Land and the Alleviation of Global Poverty](#)

THE HISTORY OF LANDESA

Grounded in the knowledge that having legal rights to land is a foundation for prosperity and opportunity, Landesa partners with governments and local organizations to ensure that the world's poorest families have secure rights over the land they till. Founded as the Rural Development Institute in 1967, Landesa has helped more than 100 million poor families gain legal control over their land. When families have secure rights to land, they can invest in their land to sustainably increase their harvests and reap the benefits—improved nutrition, health, education, and dignity—for generations.

