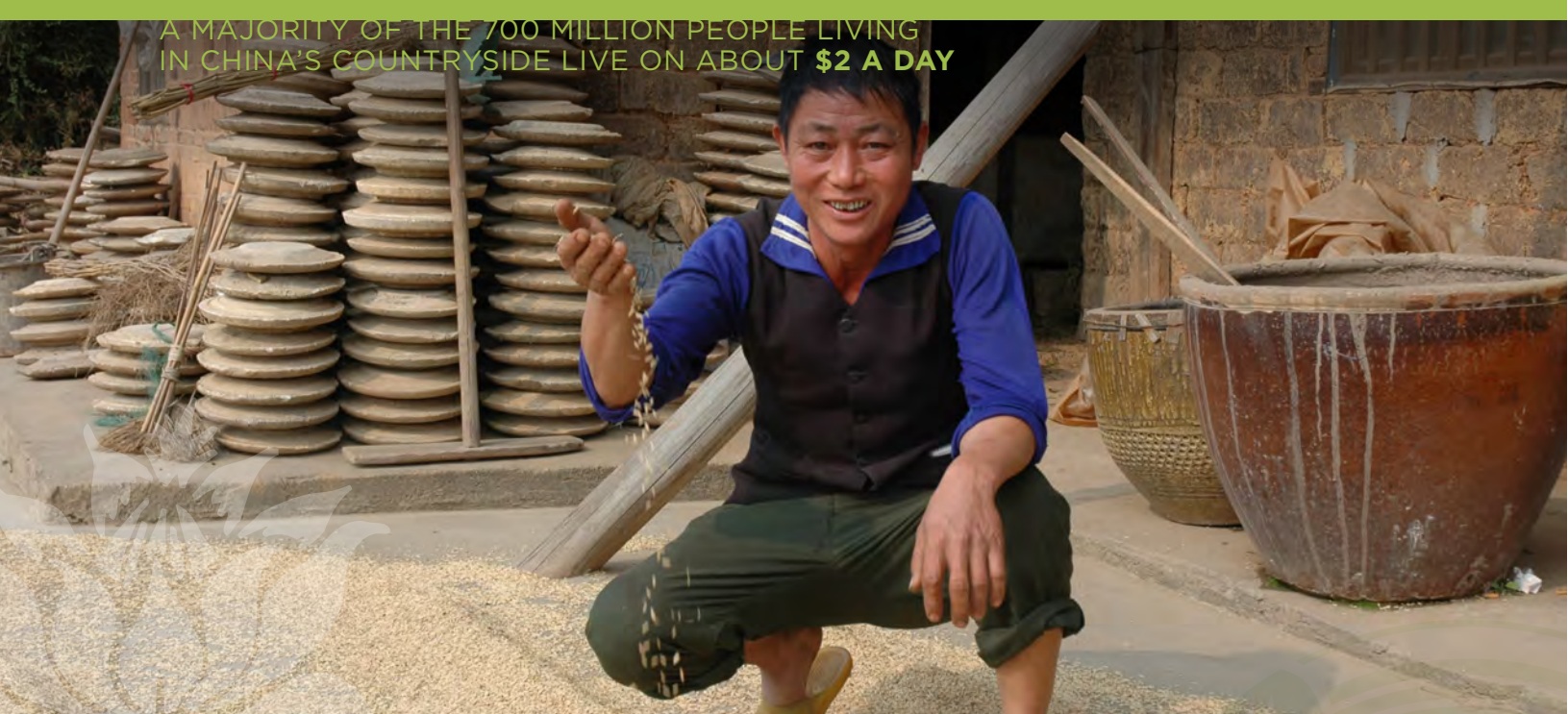


A MAJORITY OF THE 700 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING
IN CHINA'S COUNTRYSIDE LIVE ON ABOUT \$2 A DAY



LANDESA IN CHINA

GOAL

Ensure that China's 200 million farming families have secure land tenure and can invest in their land with confidence. Design and promote more equitable laws on land takings and establish institutions and systems that allow farmers, including female farmers, to protect their land rights. Turn existing 30-year land rights into perpetually renewable rights.

OVERVIEW

Over the last 30 years China has witnessed the greatest poverty reduction achievement in human history. Hundreds of millions of people have moved out of extreme poverty throughout the country.

But China's modern cities and buzzing factory floors belie an uncomfortable truth: the country's rapid modernization has largely bypassed the countryside, where about 700 million people still live – the majority of them on about \$2 a day.

China's urban-rural disparity is among the highest in the world. Rural Chinese have less schooling, healthcare, and income.

Rural Chinese die, on average, more than 12 years earlier than their big city counterparts. Divides like these have sparked social unrest across the country.

Moreover, the growing pattern of illegal, involuntary, and poorly compensated acquisitions of farmers' land, further threatens to gravely undermine farmers' security and all of the benefits such security brings.

Landesa, working in partnership with the central government of China, has identified and begun work on the path forward to spark sustainable rural development through secure land tenure.

PROGRESS

Landesa's recommendations have been incorporated into a series of historic policy and legislative changes over the last two decades that guarantee all farmers 30-year land rights, strictly limit expropriations, document and publicize farmers' rights, and require sufficient compensation when farmers' lands are expropriated. These significant changes provide the foundation for broad-based development in China and for a more equitable and stable society. Already, 88 million farming families have more secure land tenure and can invest in their land with greater confidence and security.

OUR PROJECTS

- Landesa continues to act as an advisor to key government agencies to strengthen farmers' land rights through documentation and registration, improve farmers' compensation and due process rights in takings, and increase farmers' awareness of their land rights to make their 30-year tenure agreements more meaningful. Landesa also continues to promote greater transferability of land rights to facilitate sustainable urban development and rural prosperity during this period of unprecedented and rapid urbanization.
- Landesa continues its work through its Legal Education Center initiative staffed with "barefoot lawyers" who advise farmers of their land rights and represent farmers in cases where their rights are violated.
- Landesa, at the central government's request, is coordinating discussions on improving China's Land Management Law, to include reforms that would reduce the number of land takings, guarantee farmers sufficient compensation, and provide due process when farmers' land is taken. These are critical steps, as 65% of the country's 187,000 protests in 2010 were related to land disputes. Landesa is developing regulations that balance the competing goals of forest development and environmental protection.
- Landesa continues to promote responsible and sustainable investments and is disseminating best practices guidelines and recommendations for multinationals operating in China.

- Landesa is involved in public awareness campaigns to educate farmers of their rights.
- Landesa continues to work with authorities in the central government to establish a national land registration system and dispute resolution mechanisms. Landesa is the main partner in the government's pilot program to formally register farmers' land rights. The pilot involves mapping farmers' land parcels and issuing land registration documents to assure the rights of both men and women farmers.
- Landesa is working with the central government to implement equal land rights for women by ensuring that policies and legislation require that their names are properly recorded on land registration documents.

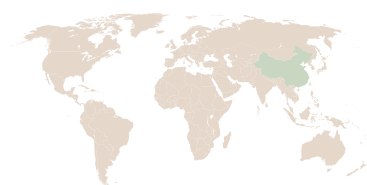
OUR RESEARCH

Landesa and its partners, Renmin University and Michigan State University, conduct nationwide surveys that provide insight into the challenges facing China's farmers and help inform the Chinese government's land policies. Our six surveys since 1999 have found that farmers who are given documentation of their secure land rights are at least twice as likely to make long-term investments in their plots.

Landesa, in partnership with the Center for Rural Development Policy at China Agricultural University, conducts continuing research, fieldwork, and surveys.

PARTNERS

Since 1987, Landesa, formerly known as the Rural Development Institute, has worked closely with the Central Leading Group on Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Land Resources, the Development Research Center of State Council, and the National People's Congress to help inform legislation aimed at including China's rural poor in the country's historic transformation.



LANDESA'S HISTORY

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, Landesa has helped more than 100 million poor families gain legal control over their land since 1967. 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.