Over eighty participants from different countries in Africa and the global community took part in the PLAAS and NELGA monthly online seminar on August 27, 2020. This edition featured content from PROPAC and OXFAM work on land rights. #WomensLandRights Below is a stream of twitter thread from the online discussion.
Questions for discussion

- How do we operationalise the African Union guidelines, frameworks and protocols providing for and protecting women’s land rights at the national and grassroots level?
- How do we better understand land matters which are not only embedded in our customs and traditions but also in our religions?
- How do we keep on movement building during and post the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure the women’s land rights agenda remains on track amidst systemic weaknesses in policy implementation within African states?
Is it possible to create tools that women themselves can use to monitor governments' performance in protecting women's land rights? Emmanuel Sulle reports on an innovative project.

Sulle: PLAAS and its partners developed an easy to use score card that could be used by people on the ground to rate how their governments are doing.
Sulle: PLAAS and its partners developed an easy to use score card that could be used by people on the ground to rate how their governments are doing.

PLAAS @PLAASuwc

How do African governments do when rated in this way? Thus far, most of the countries in the study are still doing far too little.
Are provisions made in the law to guarantee women's access to land? Are women able to assert control over the land they use? Are women's land rights protected against large scale investments in Africa? @esulle46 @PLAASuwc @OxfaminSAF

#WomensLandRights

@esulle46 explaining research done by PLAAS together with @OxfaminSAF in 7 African states on women's land rights.
Ownership is important, but as @RuthHallPLAAS points out, 'custom really matters', and we should not assume that individual land title is a panacea.
@RuthHallPLAAS: While governments are quick to sign up to grand sounding frameworks and charters, implementation falls far short. Change requires going beyond simply changing laws!

Oxfam's Bernard Moseti: 'Women are the ones who work the land. They don't only want access rights, they also want ownership'
How do African governments do when rated in this way? Thus far, most of the countries in the study are still doing far too little.

@RuthHallPLAAS: While governments are quick to sign up to grand sounding frameworks and charters, implementation falls far short. Change requires going beyond simply changing laws!
There are big gaps between statutory and customary provisions which contravene provisions in formal laws on land rights - Benard Moseti  

#womenlandrights

11:18 AM · Aug 27, 2020

See NELGA's other Tweets

Oxfam's Bernard Moseti: 'Women are the ones who work the land. They don't only want access rights, they also want ownership'

Moseti reminds us of the inspiring Kilimanjaro Initiative, in which women walked to the top of Kilimanjaro in support of human rights and women's land rights

panafrica.oxfam.org/latest/stories...

11:24 AM · Aug 27, 2020

See PLAAS's other Tweets
"Currently, we see increased commitment, partnerships and alliances from land rights actors and policy makers in Africa but we still need empirical evidence that can stand the test of time. There is still much to be done" - Benard Moseti @OxfamPanAfrica #WomenLandRights

There needs to be a community of practice that makes continuous efforts to towards #WomenLandRights - Benard Moseti @Oxfam
Joséphine Atananga of Propac: the biggest challenge is to give women the self confidence to stand up in their own communities and claim their rights as a human being.

A good question from SARChI student Shane Phiri: how do you protect the situation of women given the reality of gendered power relations in patriarchal society?
Empowering women economically ensures they take their place in decision making spaces - Josephine Atangana #WomensLandRights

In Africa there is lack of awareness on land rights and that is because women have less access to education and information as primary land users - Emmanuel Sulle, #WomenLandRights

'Are provisions made in the law to guarantee women's access to land? Are women able to assert control over the land they use? Are women's land rights protected against large scale investments in Africa? @esulle46 @PLAASuwc @OxfaminSAF

#WomensLandRights
In Africa, there is a lot of access of knowledge around land rights. This coupled with customary laws that contradict land rights leads to continued struggles around land rights by women.

#womenslandrights

Emmanuel Sulle from @PLAASuwc
11:16 AM · Aug 27, 2020

Katlego Ramantsima @RamaKatlego · Aug 27, 2020
Replying to @RamaKatlego
#WomensLandRights
@esulle46 explaining research done by PLAAS together with @OxfaminSAF in 7 African states on women's land rights.

#WomensLandRights
'There is a gap between laws and regulations and implementation in ensuring the protection of women's rights in different African states' Benard Moseti @PLAASuwc @OxfaminSAF
11:18 AM · Aug 27, 2020
Katlego Ramantsima @RamaKatlego

Rephrasing to @RamaKatlego

#WomensLandRights
'There is a gap between laws and regulations and implementation in ensuring the protection of women's rights in different African states' Benard Moseti
@PLAASuwc
@OxfaminSAF

Katlego Ramantsima @RamaKatlego

#WomensLandRights
'Gender is my agenda campaign is aimed to ensure best practice on issues of land that is inclusive of women and providing access to women. Much needs to be done-
Benard Moseti
@PLAASuwc
@OxfaminSAF

11:21 AM · Aug 27, 2020

Oxfam Pan Africa @OxfamPanAfrica

"What we have been working on is letting women from rural areas to participate in land rights forums so that they voice why it is important that countries implement land rights law in different countries in Africa" @benmoseti from Oxfam PAP

#womenslandrights

11:22 AM · Aug 27, 2020

Nkanyiso Gumede @NkanyisoGums

@PLAASuwc #WomensLandRights @esulle46 Are women able to assert control over land? Do women make meaningful contribution on land governance? Are women’s land rights protected from largescale land based investment?

11:24 AM · Aug 27, 2020
Most countries have provisions to protect women’s land rights, but enforcement is a challenge.

There is lack of awareness on land rights due to low education levels.

Legal pluralism leads to contradicting positions thus rendering women’s land rights weak.

Women are the ones who work the land. They don't only want access rights, they also want ownership.
"Are women able to assert control over the land they use? Are women's land rights protected against large scale investments in Africa?"

#womenslandrights

These are some of the things we are looking at. Watch the webinar here:

Legal pluralism & poor implementation hold back ... From the Beijing Conference held 25 years ago to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in 2016 women have ...

youtube.com

11:29 AM · Aug 27, 2020

Katlego Ramantsima @RamaKatlego · Aug 27, 2020

Relying to @RamaKatlego

#WomensLandRights

'Gender is my agenda campaign is aimed to ensure best practice on issues of land that is inclusive of women and providing access to women. Much needs to be done- Benard Moseti @PLAASuwc @OxfaminSAF

Katlego Ramantsima @RamaKatlego

#WomensLandRights

Josephine Atangana of PROPAC reveals that 'We have civil society working on the issues of land but there aren't enough organizations who focus and champion women's land rights'

@PLAASuwc @NELGA_AU @OxfaminSAF

11:30 AM · Aug 27, 2020
Nkanyiso Gumede: Propac supported civil society organizations using the findings of the study. Trained local women on land rights. Trained them on transformative leadership.

11:30 AM · Aug 27, 2020

Katlego Ramantsima: Josephine Atangana of PROPAC reveals that 'We have civil society working on the issues of land but there aren't enough organizations who focus and champion women's land rights'

@PLAASuwc  
@NELGA_AU  
@OxfaminSAF

11:32 AM · Aug 27, 2020

Katlego Ramantsima: 'Women need to be given tools to protect their rights as human beings first.' Josephine Atangana

@PLAASuwc  
@NELGA_AU  
@OxfaminSAF

11:32 AM · Aug 27, 2020

NELGA: Empowering women economically ensures they take their place in decision making spaces -Josephine Atangana

#WomensLandRights

11:36 AM · Aug 27, 2020
We must recognize the importance of empowerment of women economically...women need to take their place in decision making processes” - Josephine Atangana

@NELGA_AU @PLAASuwc #WomensLandRights

@Josephine: We trained women in areas affected by largescale landbased investment such as mining, agriculture, etc, on how to engage with government and private sector to assert their rights.
It is so sad that there are countries in Africa including South Africa that are still denying women of their rights to land & their interests are not taken into account. Their rights are not protected under patriarchal customary land tenure. Great conversation 💃 #WomensLandRights

Join us today at 13:00 (CAT) for a special women’s month and @NELGA AU webinar. The webinar will focus on the (lack of) implementation of #WomensLandRights in Africa.

Learn more about this webinar here: bit.ly/2EkYwie

Watch it here: youtube.com/watch?v=f5aLbE...
"Inclusive ownership of land needs to stem not only from statutory laws but also from marital laws that have a big influence on women land ownership" @esulle46 from @PLAASuwc

#WomensLandRights

Watch thus webinar here:

Legal pluralism & poor implementation hold back ...
From the Beijing Conference held 25 years ago to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in 2016 women have ...

youtube.com

11:42 AM · Aug 27, 2020

Katlego Ramantsima @RamaKatlego · Aug 27, 2020
Repeating to @RamaKatlego
#WomensLandRights
'The importance of empowerment of women economically and in all forms is imperative- Josephine Atangana
@PLAASuwc
@NELGA_AU
@OxfaminSAF

Katlego Ramantsima
@RamaKatlego

#WomensLandRights
'It is possible for women to have individual land ownership and collective ownership but this depends on the situation they face including the context in which they belong' Josephine Atangana
@PLAASuwc
@NELGA
@OxfaminSAF

11:45 AM · Aug 27, 2020
"A war to realizing women's land rights in Africa" - Bernard Moseti

@PLAASuwc

Nkanyiso Gumede

@NkanyisoGums

@PLAASuwc #WomensLandRights @Bernard: Patriarchy has worked as bottleneck towards women enjoying their rights. We created a tool to train men and women on women land rights. Emphasized that women's land rights are also human rights.

NELGA

@NELGA_AU

#WomensLandRights

Communal titles over individual titles are increasingly suitable for women land tenure system especially as patriarchy creates bottleneck for women land rights - Emmanuel Sulle
@PLAASuwc webinar on #womenslandrights a topic of individual title versus common title is a hot one, it confirms that African Governments still battle with Tenure policies that are inclusive and gender friendly #covidfrombelow #BantustanEndemic

Starting soon! Webinar on #womenslandrights with a focus on 7 African countries 👇 twitter.com/PLAASuwc/status...

"What do you gain, when half of the team was not on the field" @benmoseti - @Oxfam @PLAASuwc cc @OxfamPanAfrica @RuthHallPLAAS #WomensLandRights

Join us today at 13:00 (CAT) for a special women's month and @NELGA_AU webinar. The webinar will focus on the (lack of) implementation of #WomensLandRights in Africa.

Learn more about this webinar here: bit.ly/2EkYwie

Watch it here: youtube.com/watch?v=f5aLbE...
@PLAASuwc #WomensLandRights @Bernard: One of the successes of our advocacy, government and policy makers have documented issues that we raise. This is a sign of commitment. But we also train civil society organizations to put pressure on governments to claim women’s land rights.

12:02 PM · Aug 27, 2020

Katlego Ramantsima @RamaKatlego · Aug 27, 2020
Replying to @RamaKatlego

#WomensLandRights
Collective or individual land titling? Which is best?
There is research evidence that the two options don’t always work. We need approaches that are driven by people not bureaucracy @esulle46
@PLAASuwc
@NELGA_AU
@OxfaminSAF

Katlego Ramantsima
@RamaKatlego

#WomensLandRights
Research and advocacy on Women’s land rights is still ongoing be on the look out for more @esulle46
@PLAASuwc
@NELGA_AU
@OxfaminSAF
12:04 PM · Aug 27, 2020
If you just missed our webinar on #WomensLandRights in Africa don't worry, it's available on our YouTube channel here 👇

Legal pluralism & poor implementation hold back women's land rights in Africa. From the Beijing Conference held 25 years ago to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in 2016 women have...

youtube.com

12:27 PM · Aug 27, 2020

We have come to the end to today's online seminar on 'Legal pluralism & poor implementation hold back women's land rights in Africa: What can we do?'. Thank you for joining us.

12:16 PM · Aug 27, 2020

Background photo credit: GIZ/Michael Duff