



SPOTLIGHT ON ORGANISATIONS: SMALLHOLDER FARMERS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



This document highlights some of the key organisations that focus on small-scale farming in the Latin American context. Together, these organisations cover a wide range of themes, including institutional rural development, land access and use, market access, value chains, food security, and smallholder market integration, and a variety of issues related to rural life, such as access to finance, poverty fighting and infrastructure. The organisations, both international and Latin American, implement a range of research, technical assistance and knowledge sharing initiatives.

► [Agricultural Research for Development \(CIRAD\)](#)

Link: <http://www.cirad.fr/en/home-page>

Areas of Expertise: Agriculture for development, food, animal health and emerging diseases, poverty and inequality, bioenergy

Key Activities: Applied research, knowledge sharing

A French research centre, CIRAD conducts applied research projects on a number of different sub-fields related to the link between agriculture and development. For example, when focusing on [accessible, quality food](#), CIRAD researches the best ways to help small-scale producers adapt to changes in markets, distribution and quality standards. CIRAD offers access to its publications but also implements knowledge dissemination programmes and helps to strengthen the capacities of local actors. In Latin America, CIRAD is reformulating its activities around shared regional priorities, aiming at developing ecologically intensive agriculture, managing pest and disease problems, improving product quality and safety, and producing global public information useful for small- and medium-sized farms.

► [European Network for Rural Development \(ENRD\)](#)

Link: http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en/home-page_en.cfm

Areas of Expertise: Rural development policies

Key Activities: Promote and support national and local networks, research and analysis, public policy design

The European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) is an institution set up by the European Commission to help contribute to the efficient implementation of rural development programmes in member states. The network covers themes such as [smallholder farms](#) and [semi-subsistence farms](#). ENRD's cumulative knowledge and experience will be useful when considering replicating similar initiatives in other regions, and they have done much work to build networks with Latin American organisations, such as *La Vía Campesina*.



► [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#)

Link: <http://www.fao.org/about/en/>

Areas of Expertise: Agriculture, food production, food security, poverty alleviation, access to markets, climate change

Key Activities: Research, knowledge dissemination

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a United Nations agency specialising in creating and disseminating knowledge about agriculture and food security. FAO emphasises the importance of two-way knowledge exchange and therefore tries to play a connector role between partners with different areas and levels of expertise. Within its department of [Economic and Social Development](#), FAO publishes information on topics such as [smallholder market integration](#), [smallholders and rural poverty](#) and inclusive value chains. The main topics they deal with in Latin America are related to four issues: food security; family farming; climate change; and food and agriculture safety. The resources they offer will likely be useful for both policymakers and practitioners working on small-scale farming issues.

► [Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture \(IICA\)](#)

Link: <http://www.iica.int/Eng/Pages/default.aspx>

Areas of Expertise: Sustainable agricultural development, food security, poverty alleviation, rural territories, climate change, technology and innovation for agriculture, biotechnology and biosafety, agroenergy, agrotourism, organic agriculture, agricultural insurance, rural agroindustry

Key Activities: Technical cooperation, research, knowledge dissemination

IICA is an agency of the Inter-American System specialised in research, knowledge production and technical cooperation to make agriculture more inclusive, competitive and sustainable in the Americas. IICA covers an array of issues related to agriculture, including [management of rural territories](#) and [family agriculture](#), that are relevant to practitioners and policymakers addressing small-scale farming. IICA works with thirty four member states from Latin America and the Caribbean and North America, specifically with their ministries of agriculture, thereby having a direct influence on the design and implementation of public policies.

► [International Food Policy Research Institute \(IFPRI\)](#)

Link: <http://www.ifpri.org/>

Areas of Expertise: Food security, agriculture and poverty

Key Activities: Research, policy assessment

Through research and activities conducted around the world, IFPRI aims to transform its critical results into inputs which have an impact on public policies. IFPRI offers a well-documented website on food policy research and projects related to finding sustainable ways to reduce poverty and malnutrition. IFPRI's areas of research that integrate a Latin America focus includes [rural infrastructure and trade](#), covering issues such as market access, market integration, and value chains, and [nutrition](#) covering issues such as food security, poverty and rural development. Readers can [search by country](#) to access the wealth of research available on the Latin America region.



► International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Link: <http://www.ifad.org/rural/index.htm>

Areas of Expertise: Agricultural development, poverty alleviation, food security, indigenous peoples, markets, rural finance

Key Activities: Research, finance

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialised agency of the United Nations specifically dedicated to the eradication of rural poverty in developing countries, with a strong emphasis on Latin America. The [Latin American section of their website](#) houses a wealth of research and information about projects implemented in the region. In general, IFAD focuses on country-specific solutions to contribute to the empowerment of rural people, including [community-driven development](#) and specific programmes on [indigenous peoples](#), [market access](#) and [rural finance](#), helping people achieve better access to land and other natural resources, agricultural technologies, financial services and employment.

► International Land Coalition (ILC)

Link: <http://www.landcoalition.org/>

Areas of Expertise: Land access, land rights of women, indigenous and poor people

Key Activities: Knowledge exchange, policy research, international dialogue

The International Land Coalition (ILC) emerged as an alliance of intergovernmental agencies and civil society organisations during the mid-1990s. It now represents a coalition of 116 organisations that aim to promote secure and equitable access to land for rural people, focusing on access to land and tenure security for poor and vulnerable groups. Overall, ILC aims to build capacities, share knowledge and engage in successful advocacy. ILC has a number of initiatives, including [Land Reporting Initiative](#), [Indigenous Peoples and Pastoralists Initiative](#), and [Women's Land Rights](#), each with a wealth of information on Latin America and beyond. They also have a separate [website for Latin America](#) (Spanish only).

► Land Matrix Partnership

Link: <http://landportal.info/landmatrix/index.php>

Areas of Expertise: Land deals

Key Activities: Collection and distribution of data on land deals

The Land Matrix Partnership is a consortium of research institutes and non-governmental organisations that has created and maintains a public database with up-to-date information about land deals. The database has a global focus, and includes information specific to Central and South America. It is designed in such a way that all users can both contribute to and access data, and the interactive visualisation facilitates research and analysis. In addition to downloading raw data, users can also access Land Matrix reports and analysis.



► Land Tenure Center

Link: <http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/ltc/about.php>

Areas of Expertise: Land (use, tenure, management, resources), environmental governance, livelihoods

Key Activities: Policy analysis, research, training, programme implementation

The Land Tenure Center is part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As an academic institute, its main activities are focused on analysis and research with the aim of identifying policy solutions and recommendations. Their website includes a wide range of their [research on Latin America](#), both at the regional level and on individual countries. The Center also creates learning networks to enhance public dialogue, offering a useful tool for researchers and policymakers from different regions.

► RIMISP - Centro Latinoamericano para el Desarrollo Rural (Latin American Centre for Rural Development)

Link: <http://www.rimisp.org>

Areas of Expertise: Rural territorial development

Key Activities: Applied research, systematisation of experiences, capacity building, advocacy

Based in Chile, RIMISP is a regional organisation conducting research, capacity building and advocacy, with a large focus on contributing to the formulation of a rural territorial development approach in Latin America that aims to reduce poverty through an institutional transformation of rural areas. In particular, RIMISP focuses on four key issues: access to dynamic markets for small farmers and rural entrepreneurs; new rural social movements and local governance; non-farm rural employment and incomes; and social learning for rural change. The organisation produces research and publications (though mostly in Spanish) that provide an important insight into the Latin American small-scale farming sector and the rural territorial development approach.

CONTACT [GRADE](#)

To learn more about these organisations or about small-scale farming in Latin America, contact the author, Manuel Glave, PhD, Senior Researcher – GRADE, at mglave@grade.org.pe.

FIND OUT MORE FROM [ELLA](#)

To learn more about smallholder farming and rural development in Latin America, read the [ELLA Guide](#), which has a full list of knowledge materials available on this theme. To learn more about other development issues, browse other [ELLA Themes](#).



ELLA is supported by:

