



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

LAND TENURE JOURNAL



EDITORIAL POLICIES
AND SUBMISSION
INSTRUCTIONS

LAND TENURE JOURNAL

EDITORIAL POLICIES AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

© FAO, 2025



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution- 4.0 International licence (CC BY 4.0: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode.en>).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If a translation or adaptation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: “This translation [or adaptation] was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation [or adaptation]. The original [Language] edition shall be the authoritative edition.”

Any dispute arising under this licence that cannot be settled amicably shall be referred to arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The parties shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of such a dispute.

Third-party materials. This Creative Commons licence CC BY 4.0 does not apply to non-FAO copyright materials included in this publication. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

FAO photographs. FAO photographs that may appear in this work are not subject to the above-mentioned Creative Commons licence. Queries for the use of any FAO photographs should be submitted to: photo-library@fao.org.

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and print copies can be purchased through the distributors listed there. For general enquiries about FAO publications please contact: publications@fao.org. Queries regarding rights and licensing of publications should be submitted to: copyright@fao.org.



LAND TENURE JOURNAL

Editorial team

Antoine Hochet

Editor-in-chief

Francesco Pierri

Deputy editor

Yasmine Iqbal

Editor assistant

Table of contents

- 5 **About the journal**
- 5 **Focus and scope**
- 6 **Editorial policies**
 - Target audiences
 - Peer reviewed
 - Originality
 - Impartiality
 - Publication frequency
 - Language
 - Open access policy
 - Contact
- 7 **How to contribute**
- 7 **Article submission**
 - Format of publication of articles
 - Authors' names and affiliations
 - Abstract and keywords
 - Length of the articles
 - Format and layout
 - Infographics
 - References
 - Submission Preparation Checklist
- 8 **Submission of a proposal for a special issue, on a specific topic, by guest editors**
 - Preconditions
 - Proposal content
 - Putting together the special issue
 - Format of the Special Issue and of the submitted articles



About the journal

The Land Tenure Journal is the peer-reviewed, open-access flagship Journal of the Land Tenure Team in the Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division (ESP) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Land Tenure Journal, launched in early 2010, succeeded the Land Reform, Land Settlement and Cooperatives magazine, which was published between 1964 and 2009.

The Land Tenure Journal is published by FAO as a medium for the dissemination of information and knowledge, views, opinions, as well as practices on tenure of land and other natural resources in the framework of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT). The content is internationally relevant in the context of VGGT and the messages are important beyond their specificities, geographies and contexts.

The content of the Journal reflects the versatile priorities of FAO's tenure governance normative and field programs as well as priorities of the Journal's audience. The Journal aims to present a holistic and politically, culturally and regionally diversified view on tenure of land and other natural resources.

The target audience consists of people having interest on issues concerning the tenure of land and other natural resources, in its broadest technical, economic, political and social aspects.

Focus and scope

The Land Tenure Journal focuses primarily on tenure governance, rights, administration, policy and reform providing an interdisciplinary, multi-perspective and practice-oriented forum to explore questions of land and other natural resources tenure in the contexts of food security, poverty reduction, social and environmental stability and sustainable economic growth. VGGT relevant articles related to the tenure of land, fisheries and forests are especially a priority.

Concretely, the Land Tenure Journal is structured around thematic issues and/or articles illustrating globally or regionally important experiences and best practices related to tenure, lessons learned with regards the implementation of VGGT, ways forward to meet challenges that land and natural resources tenure sector is facing, and emerging issues and trends related to tenure.

Contributions should be relevant, fall within the scope of the Journal and meet the basic criteria of academic standards.

The Land Tenure Journal welcomes authors to submit Special Issues or articles from a policy (for example on policy options in diverse settings), social (for example on the realities of poor land and natural resources users in diverse conditions), economic (for example on matters related to property valuation and taxation) or technical (for example on advances in land and natural resources administration or in land and natural resources law) perspective.

Editorial policies

Target audiences

The target audience consists of people having interest on issues concerning the tenure of land and other natural resources, in its broadest technical, economic, political and social aspects. The prime beneficiaries include practitioners and professionals from international and national agencies, national and local governments, civil society organizations and academia.

Peer reviewed

The Land Tenure Journal is a peer-reviewed journal. All proposals submitted to the Land Tenure Journal are initially screened by the editorial board. The editorial board will be supported by guest editors if the article submitted is in response to a specific call for papers. Admitted articles are reviewed by at least two selected internal and external reviewers according to the principles of blind peer review. The final decision on publication of the articles will be taken by the Land Tenure Journal editorial board.

Originality

The Journal is looking for articles that make an original contribution in their field. Submission of an article implies that the paper has not been submitted to, or published in, any other Journal, in the same or similar form. Articles previously published in a workshop, symposium, or conference can be submitted for consideration provided that the authors inform the editor at the time of submission.

Impartiality

One of the key missions of FAO is to act as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. All ideas presented in the articles should be clearly justified respecting the cultural perspectives of each country.

Publication frequency

The Land Tenure Journal aims to publish at least two issues per year. The number of publications can vary based on special issue proposals and/or on the number of papers received.

Language

The Land Tenure Journal only publishes in English, and authors are invited to submit articles in English. Nonetheless, papers submitted in French and Spanish are welcomed, although translation processes and costs will need to be managed and covered by the Authors. Copyediting of the final English articles will be covered by FAO.

Open access policy

The Land Tenure Journal is an open access online e-Journal. The Land Tenure Journal provides immediate open access to its content and archives on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge.

How to contribute

There are two possible ways to contribute to the Land Tenure Journal:

1. Submission of single articles on a topic of choice.
2. Submission of a proposal for a Special Issue, on a specific topic, by guest editors.

Article submission

Authors can submit at any time articles on a topic of choice. Contributions should be relevant, fall within the scope of the Journal and meet the basic criteria of the Land Tenure Journal.

Format of publication of articles

Depending on the number of articles received, independent articles will be published either in a specific section of thematic issues or in a "miscellaneous" issue gathering a number of articles on various topics.

Authors' names and affiliations

Authors should provide their full names, affiliations, organizations as well as electronic mail addresses in a separate document. These elements should not be included in the article (in order to assure blind peer-reviewing).

Abstract and keywords

An article must include an abstract that summarizes the most important elements (maximum 1 200 characters with spaces). Abstracts should include the research question, the theoretical framework, the geographical area or scale (local, national, regional, global) and a summary of the main results.

Authors should provide three to four keywords that best define their articles.

Length of the articles

The maximum length of the submitted articles is 40 000 characters with spaces, including the abstract. All articles should contain an introduction and a conclusion.

The articles can be structured by subtitles in maximum two different levels.

Format and layout

The preferred formats are Microsoft Word (.doc) and Open Office (.odt). The text should be single-spaced and use a Times New Roman or Calibri 12-point font. The use of italics is encouraged, rather than underlining.

All figures and tables should be cited in the text and numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals. They should be placed within the text at the appropriate points, rather than at the end.

A title and legend explaining any abbreviation used should be provided for each figure and table.

The use of end and footnotes is discouraged. Instead, their content should be incorporated into the text.

The authors are encouraged to highlight key phrases in their manuscripts. These can be used by the editor as "call outs" in the final layout.

The authors are encouraged to send to the editor 3 to 5 digital high-resolution photos relevant to their article including photo credits and a small description / caption for each one of them.

Captions should be brief, explanatory and reference the country.

When selecting the photos, please consider the following:

- relevance to text and topic;
- potential political and human sensitivities (no child labour, animal cruelty, discrimination, etc);
- the balance of photographs within the publication in terms of ethnicity, gender, work roles, activities and geographical regions;
- respect for people in the image;
- expression and attitude of people;
- do not make substantive edits to the image, only light elaborations (e.g. contrast, illumination);
- avoid collages, cut-outs and compositing; a single effective picture is more powerful;
- copyrights of the pictures.

Infographics

Infographics can be useful to explain complex concepts or data. They are not an alternative way to redraw a simple chart but a specific means of communication that focuses on visuals to support complex information. Data should be visually represented in charts.

References

All references should be cited parenthetically in the text by author and year, e.g. (FAO, 2007).

An alphabetical bibliography at the end of the article is to be provided. Full bibliographical details should be given so that readers can easily find the sources they want to consult. The list of references should only include works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. The format of the reference should follow the guidelines and examples given hereunder.

Example of reference for books:

the author(s). year of publication. full title of book. editor/publisher, place of publication. number of pages of the book.
(FAO. 2007. Good governance in land tenure and administration. FAO Land Tenure Studies No.9, Rome. 57p.)

Example of reference for articles:

the author(s). year of publication. full title of article. full title of Journal, volume and issue number of Journal. page numbers of the article.
(FAO. 2007. Sample Article. Land Reform, Land Settlement and Co-operatives, no. 1, p. 21-30.)

Submission preparation checklist

As part of the submission process, authors are required to check off their submission's compliance with all of the following items, and submissions may be returned to authors that do not adhere to these guidelines.

- The manuscripts have not been previously submitted to or published in any other Journal, in the same or similar form. Manuscripts previously published in a workshop, symposium, or conference can be submitted for consideration provided that the author(s) inform(s) the editor at the time of submission.
- The submission file is in Microsoft Word or OpenOffice document file format. The content, including an abstract, is equal to or less than 40 000 characters with spaces, and the file size is less than 4 MB.
- Where available, URLs for the references should be provided. All URL addresses in the text should be activated and ready to click.
- The text is single-spaced; uses a 12-point font (Calibri or Times New Roman); employs italics, rather than underlining (except with URL addresses); and all illustrations, figures, and tables are placed within the text at the appropriate points, rather than at the end.

- The text adheres to the stylistic and bibliographic requirements outlined in the Author Guidelines.
- The manuscript is ready for the blind peer review process. Please make sure that the authors' names and affiliations are removed from the submission file.

Article submission address

Articles should be submitted by e-mail at Land-Tenure-Journal@fao.org.

Submission of a proposal for a special issue, on a specific topic, by guest editors

Preconditions

- The Special Issue is a gathering of original papers that have not been previously published and are not under simultaneous consideration for publication elsewhere.
- Gender parity, which is essential to the Journal, must be aimed at.
- Guest editors will not publish a paper in the issue they edit but can write an introduction which may be considered as a paper (subject to reviewing).

Proposal content

The proposal for a Special Issue consists of approximately 2 to 3 pages, single spaced (excluding the bibliographical references) and includes the following:

- a title;
- the names of the guest editors, their contact details, and their institutional affiliations;
- The contextualization of the topic in the form of a brief state of the art of the field and literature review, with a discussion of the various views involved;
- arguments presenting the guest editors' position in relation to the thematic discussed;
- the framework for the papers (disciplinary / geographic / methodological / etc.);
- the added value of the special issue in relation to the debate at hand: the expected influence, valorization, and effects (by identifying "goals");

- potential related topics to be covered by the special issue;
- relevant bibliographical references.

Approval and circulation of the call for papers

The call for papers proposal is reviewed by the editorial board of the Land Tenure Journal and submitted to two anonymous reviewers who are experts on the topic. The board and the reviewers make suggestions for reorientation, adjustments, and additions in order to improve the proposal, as well as for possible contributors.

Should the proposal be approved by the editorial board, a widely circulated public call for papers will be issued for at least one month. Guest editors may contact experts, approach conference organizers to offer to participate in the special issue, or engage in any promotional activities to publicize the call. All papers will be subject to an initial screening and then to a full peer-review process.

Putting together the special issue

At every production stage of the special issue, the guest editors are in close contact with the various staff members of the editorial board of the Land Tenure Team (contact person from the editorial board of the Land Tenure Journal, editor-in-chief, and editorial assistant). They report on progress and on meeting deadlines in putting together the issue, and take into account the comments made by the Journal in terms of focus, advice, framework, or even final arbitration, since the final decision to publish papers lies with the Journal's editorial board.

In particular, during the paper selection phase, the guest editors will suggest a minimum of two reviewers for each selected paper, ensuring that at least one reviewer is external to the Journal. Additionally, they must identify alternative reviewers in the event of rejections, non-responses, or the need for third-party arbitration if there is a discrepancy in the reviews (e.g., one favorable and one unfavorable).

In addition, the revision processes of each paper will be supported by the guest editors. Ultimately, the editorial board retains the final authority to decide whether an article may be accepted and published.

The guest editors are responsible for ensuring that the papers included in the issue achieve a balanced representation across thematic, geographic, and institutional dimensions.

They oversee the quality of the contributions and may engage in finalizing each text with the authors, recognizing that editorial refinement by the guest editors is often essential. If authors do not adhere to the Journal's bibliographic standards, the guest editors will standardize the references accordingly.

Additionally, the guest editors play an active role in promoting the issue through pre-publication workshops and post-publication promotional events.

Format of the special issue and of the submitted articles

A Special Issue will comprise around ten to twelve articles, accompanied by one introductory piece authored by the guest editors. This introduction may either be subject to peer review and published as a paper or serve as a framework text.

The guest editors are invited to provide the publisher with a blurb for the special issue.

All articles will comply with the guidelines for submission of articles as outlined here above.

LAND TENURE JOURNAL

Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division
Economic and Social Development Stream
Land-Tenure-Journal@fao.org
www.fao.org/tenure

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, Italy