

Experiences and good practices in the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

This document presents, in original language, the inputs provided following the call for submissions to inform the global thematic event at the CFS 43rd session in October 2016. The following document provides an overview of those inputs: [CFS 2016/43/8- Experiences and Good Practices in the Use and Application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security \(VGGT\) - Summary and Key Elements](#)

S23. BELGIUM: Les Directives comme outil de plaidoyer pour un accès à la terre plus juste et durable en Belgique

Country(ies)/ Region(s)/ Organization/ Entity	Belgium – FIAN Belgium
Contact person	Florence Kroff – florence@fian.be
Brief description of the successful experience (including location, geographical coverage, main actors, main activities, timeframe)	Suite à l’adoption des Directives, FIAN Belgium a utilisé ce nouvel outil international à différents niveaux. La somme de ces actions, ainsi que les actions menées dans le cadre d’une Plateforme régionale pour le foncier agricole en Wallonie et à Bruxelles (PFFA) ont substantiellement influencé le cadre légal de la gouvernance foncière en Wallonie.
Location	Wallonie – Bruxelles
Geographical coverage	
Main actors	FIAN Belgium PFFA (plateforme régionale pour le foncier agricole en Wallonie et à Bruxelles) qui regroupe des organisations paysannes, des syndicats agricoles bio et d’autres organisations de la société civile
Main activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positionnement et plaidoyer de la PFFA lors de l’adoption du nouveau Code agricole Wallon • Participation de la PFFA aux consultations d’élaboration du nouveau Code Agricole Wallon • Production par FIAN Belgium d’outils d’analyse et de sensibilisation • Inclusion des difficultés d’accès à la terre pour les agriculteurs en Belgique dans le rapport parallèle de FIAN Belgium au Comité des droits économiques, sociaux et culturels du Conseil des droits de l’homme de l’ONU

Timeframe	A partir de 2013
Results obtained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution et pérennité d'une plateforme régionale pour le foncier agricole en Wallonie et à Bruxelles • Inclusion dans le nouveau Code Agricole Wallon d'un nouveau chapitre dédié à la gouvernance foncière et de mécanismes de nature à améliorer l'accès à la terre en Wallonie. • Recommandation spécifique du Comité DESC des Nations Unies demandant à la Belgique d'appliquer les Directives en Belgique : « Le Comité recommande à l'Etat partie de protéger la petite agriculture en Belgique et de mettre en œuvre les plans visant à sa préservation. Le Comité recommande également à l'Etat partie de tenir compte des Directives volontaires sur le droit à l'alimentation et les Directives volontaires sur la gouvernance foncière qui préconisent l'adoption de mesures spécifiques de soutien aux petits agriculteurs »
Key catalysts and factors that influenced the results	La volonté des organisations de la société civile à travailler ensemble sur la thématique
Constraints and challenges that were faced	<p>Les Directives n'ont été qu'un outil parmi d'autres pour atteindre nos objectifs de plaidoyer.</p> <p>Ils ont permis d'appuyer notre argumentaire, l'expérience des organisations paysannes et les études existantes, mais sont difficilement un outil utilisable seul.</p>
Good practices that helped to make the experience successful	
Quantitative aspects where available - estimate of the number of people, households and communities that have been positively affected by the successful experience	Chiffres non disponibles
Link to additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description et positionnement de la PFFA : http://www.pfsa.be/spip.php?article1176 • 27 MARS 2014. — Décret relatif au Code wallon de l'Agriculture : http://agriculture.wallonie.be/BG/CodeWallonAgricultureVersionMoniteur.pdf • Publication de FIAN Belgium :

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Etude : Pour un meilleur accès à la terre en Belgique et en Europe - Étude - Septembre 2014 : http://www.fian.be/FIAN-publie-une-etude-sur-l-acces-a-la-terre-en-Belgique-et-en-Europe?lang=fr* Cahier thématique - L'accès à la terre au sud comme au nord : http://www.fian.be/L-acces-a-la-terre-au-sud-comme-au-nord?lang=fr* Etude - Améliorer l'accès au foncier en Belgique et à l'étranger - Mettre en oeuvre les directives volontaires du comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale pour une gouvernance foncière responsable – Janvier 2013 : http://www.fian.be/Ameliorer-l-acces-au-foncier-en-Belgique-et-a-l-etranger?lang=fr* Recommandations du Comité DESC et Rapport parallèle de FIAN Belgium: http://www.fian.be/Les-Nations-Unies-demandent-a-la-Belgique-plus-d-aide-au-developpement-moins-d?lang=fr
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S24. GERMANY: Advocacy for the VGGT in Germany

Country(ies)/ Region(s)/ Organization/ Entity	Germany / FIAN Germany
Contact person	Roman Herre (r.herre@fian.de)
Brief description of the successful experience (including location, geographical coverage, main actors, main activities, timeframe)	Over the last 4 years FIAN Germany advocated the use and application of the VGGT in and by Germany on multiple levels. This had mostly been done in cooperation with other German CSOs.
Location	German
Geographical coverage	-
Main actors	-
Main activities	-
Timeframe	Started in 2012 and on-going.
Results obtained	<p>While we see relevant gaps in the use and application of the VGGT by the German Government, the VGGT today is an accepted normative reference and basis for discussion in the broader development arena. FIAN Germany over the last four years tried to strengthen their use and application, especially by the German Government. While how much the activities of the FIAN Germany have contributed to the existing situation cannot be quantified, the following key results of the broader use of the VGGT can be highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIAN Germany publications related to land issue apply the VGGT as key normative and human rights guidance • Government supported policies, initiatives and projects related to land have been analysed based on the VGGT and were

	<p>presented to decision makers (e.g. G8 Land Transparency Initiative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We contributed to broader discussions on land policies and land concentration in Germany (especially via a chapter in a book on Land in Europe, see link below). This only led to initial discussions with German Agricultural Ministry (BMEL) on the application of the VGGT in Germany. • Use of the VGGT on specific, case-related interventions and advocacy work (e.g. Ethiopia, Zambia) • Use of the VGGT in multiple advocacy meetings, expert discussions and public events
<p>Key catalysts and factors that influenced the results</p>	<p>On-going commitment of international CSO networks and especially representatives of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups to use and apply the VGGT.</p>
<p>Constraints and challenges that were faced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past four years, FIAN Germany had frequent experiences with policy makers and especially practitioners in development cooperation who explained that on-going activities were already in line with VGGT. This argument was never backed by the presentation of a more detailed VGGT analysis (see also following point) and built a threshold for the active use and application of the VGGT. • We experienced in multiple cases, the situation whereby although a commitment for the use and application of the VGGT was articulated (e.g. in project documents), there was a lack of detailed or through analyses and strategies rooted in the VGGT. Requests for such analyses did not lead to any results. • We experienced that in some cases (e.g. land conflicts where German DC is somehow involved), the use and application of the VGGT was ‘trumped’ by other guidelines, principles or safeguards. • We experienced in multiple instances, situations where access to relevant information was denied or provided rather reactively and defensively by the government and other relevant actors (embassies, implementing organisations etc.). This made it difficult for us as CSO to use the VGGT for monitoring Government compliance. • While the German government provides some space for critical discussions on policies and strategies with CS (see good practices below), we experienced missing or inadequate participation of representatives from the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in such discussions. • Finally, we see a gap in overall exchange of information and experiences which is needed in order to have a more comprehensive picture of German activities related to the use and application of the VGGT. This also applies within German Civil Society, where exchange of information on the use of VGGT is often anecdotal. Here we see room for improvement for all actors working on the VGGT, including FIAN Germany.

<p>Good practices that helped to make the experience successful</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The German government (BMEL & BMZ) extends invitations to the ‘Working Group Land’ (AG Land) approximately three times a year. The meetings and exchange are open to all interested actors from CS, academia, development practitioners and private sector. This forum provided space for regular exchange of opinions and information on land issues. It is relevant that participating CSO are free to put issues of their interest on the agenda. Nevertheless, the scope of the Working Group Land was limited to development cooperation issues and land in Germany was excluded. Thus, the Working Group Land does not cover all aspects of the VGGT. • BMZ started a process to ensure that German Development Finance Institutions comply with the VGGT (first step: gal analysis that compares existing safeguards with the VGGT). On the whole, the outcomes are still unclear, and we believe that this is a relevant process to ensure human rights and VGGT compliance by this specific segment of German Development Cooperation • We welcome Germany’s commitment to start a national process on monitoring the use and application of the VGGT. Many German CSOs, including FIAN Germany, have already committed to contribute to this process. This would not only increase accountability but also lead to a more comprehensive picture of German activities related to the use and application of VGGT.
<p>Quantitative aspects where available - estimate of the number of people, households and communities that have been positively affected by the successful experience</p>	
<p>Link to additional information</p>	<p>http://www.tni.org/files/download/land_in_europe-jun2013.pdf</p>