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# Navigating Land Rights in India: State Intervention and the Need for a New Agenda

by Ramesh Sharma

Today, the issue of landlessness represents a significant challenge which causes socio-economic deprivation and frequently prevents the impoverished from accessing social security schemes in the absence of land rights. In the Indian context, the land reforms are perceived as an 'unfinished political agenda'. The limited success of the 'socialist model of land reforms' (the mid-60s), and the political promises of 'market-led-land reforms' (mid-90s) ultimately benefitted the powerful few. For many of the landless poor, however, the promises of land reforms remained a dream. Today, the political economy of land & agrarian reforms could set a new agenda. There is a need to resolve the legal deficiencies of land laws and political inertia in prevailing systems, otherwise, it will not be possible to achieve either global promises of Sustainable Development Goals or century-old political promises of 'land to the tiller'.



Ramesh Sharma serves as the National Coordinator of Ekta Parishad, a mass-based people's movement for land rights with an active membership of 250.000 landless poor individuals. He has participated in land reforms committees of the Government of India in 2008 and 2012. Currently, he is engaged with the "School of Land Rights" – a global platform for empowering young land rights activists.



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