

erty rights and collective action (or the lack thereof). The framework can also provide guidance in the development and dissemination of appropriate institutional approaches to natural resource management. For example, practices that operate at the landscape scale may be more appropriate where traditions of cooperation are strong, while those that take a long time to produce benefits may be more successful where tenures are reasonably secure. Farmers with insecure tenure may benefit more from technologies that produce short-term returns.

OUR WORK

CAPRI aims to strengthen the capacity of researchers and policymakers through international workshops, research grants, publications, training, and support on research methods.

Workshops. CAPRI workshops focus on property rights and collective action as they relate to the CAPRI priority themes. The program organizes two types of workshops. Research workshops bring together researchers to address methodological aspects and share the latest findings. Policy conferences aim to promote cross-fertilization of ideas among researchers and policymakers.

- **Collective Action and Property Rights for Poverty Reduction (2007, East Africa)**
- **Collective Action and Market Access for Smallholders (2006, Colombia)**
- **Gender and Collective Action (2005, Thailand)**
- **Land Tenure for Drylands Development (2005, Kenya)**
- **Property Rights, Collective Action, and Local Conservation of Genetic Resources (2003, Italy)**

- **Methods for Studying Collective Action (2002, Kenya)**
- **Policy and Institutional Options for the Management of Rangelands in Dry Areas (2001, Tunisia)**
- **Watershed Management Institutions (2000, Nicaragua)**
- **Collective Action, Property Rights and Devolution of Natural Resource Management (1999, Philippines)**
- **Property Rights, Collective Action, and Technology Adaptation (1997, Syria)**

Research Grants. CAPRI offers two types of grants: research grants for CGIAR researchers and PhD field research fellowships for PhD students working on their dissertation research.

Publications. All CAPRI publications and outputs—including the working paper series, policy brief series, a bibliography, a CGIAR project inventory on property rights and collective action, and conference proceedings—are available at <http://www.capri.cgiar.org> or on CD-Rom (requests can be sent to capri@cgiar.org).

Training. CAPRI has organized several training courses during which researchers and practitioners from South Asia and East Africa were trained in the practical application of the links between natural resource management and institutions of collective action and property rights. For all related training materials, see <http://www.capri.cgiar.org/training.asp>.

Support on Research Methods. CAPRI sponsors workshops on research methodologies with the aim of generating new ideas and stimulating discussion on approaches to studying collective action and property rights institutions.

Contact CAPRI: to request a publication, or to order a CD-Rom with publications, project inventory, and bibliography, please email capri@cgiar.org.

CAPRI Secretariat, c/o International Food Policy Research Institute, 2033 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20006-1002, www.capri.cgiar.org



CGIAR Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

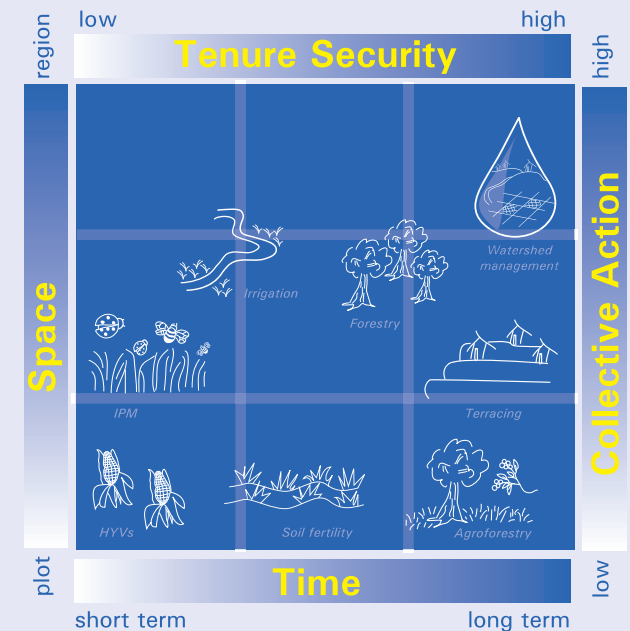


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CGIAR SYSTEMWIDE PROGRAM ON COLLECTIVE ACTION AND PROPERTY RIGHTS (CAPRI)

Institutions of collective action and property rights influence the way people use and manage natural resources and, consequently, affect the condition of natural resource systems. The CGIAR Systemwide Program on Collective Action and Property

Rights (CAPRI) addresses these issues through an initiative involving the 15 centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and more than 400 national agricultural research institutes and universities in developing and industrialized countries.



CAPRI examines the formation and effectiveness of voluntary community-level organizations and property institutions. Collective action and property rights are of special concern to the CGIAR because of their effect on farmers' adoption of innovations, on natural resource management, and on poverty reduction. Because natural resource management issues are at the forefront of the development agenda, a thorough understanding of the factors that contribute to sustainable management is critical to the formulation of viable strategies to enhance resource productivity, both now and in the future. Prior to the establishment of CAPRI, which is convened by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), many CGIAR centers and national institutes struggled with these issues independently. Since 1996, CAPRI has coordinated these efforts for a better understanding of the role of collective action and property rights institutions in natural resource management.

Collective action refers both to the process by which voluntary institutions are created and maintained, and to the groups that decide to act together. The term "property" covers the range of institutions that govern access to a particular stream of benefits. Property regimes are usually divided into three categories: state property, common property, and private property. CAPRI considers all three.

Property rights and collective action affect people's livelihoods. The most vulnerable and marginalized rural groups often lack access to resources because they lack secure property rights and find participation in collective action difficult due to time and resource constraints. Tenure security provides key assets for food security, allowing the poor to help themselves by growing food, investing in more productive activities, or using property as collateral for credit. Collective action can contribute to poverty

ABOUT CAPRI

The Systemwide Program on Property Rights and Collective Action (CAPRI) is one of several intercenter initiatives of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) created to foster research and collaboration among the CGIAR and national agricultural research institutes on the institutional aspects of natural resource management. CAPRI contributes to policies and practices that reduce rural poverty by analyzing and disseminating knowledge on the ways that collective action and property rights institutions influence the efficiency, equity, and sustainability of natural resource use. The CAPRI Secretariat is hosted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, DC. For additional information, visit www.capri.cgiar.org.

reduction through mutual insurance, increased opportunities for income generation, and improved provision and access to public services.

Addressing these complex interactions among institutions, natural resources, and human livelihoods requires an interdisciplinary approach that combines insights and methods from social and biophysical scientists, as well as practitioners. By fostering collaboration among CGIAR centers; national research institutions; and governmental, nongovernmental, and international organizations, CAPRI brings together the body of expertise required to examine the environmental and livelihoods impacts of policy and institutional change. In this way, the program stresses comparative research that yields international public goods.



GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The overarching goal of CAPRI is to contribute to policies and practices that reduce rural poverty by analyzing and disseminating knowledge on the ways that collective action and property rights institutions influence the efficiency, equity, and sustainability of natural resource use. CAPRI's specific objectives are:

- to increase knowledge on collective action and property rights institutions in natural resource management, and their effectiveness under different conditions;
- to identify concrete policy instruments that facilitate and encourage the formation, improved functioning, resilience, and evolution of organizations of users and property institutions that assure optimal resource use and promote partnerships between local organizations, states, civil society, and private entities; and
- to strengthen the capacity of national and CGIAR research centers, nongovernmental organizations, universities, and local organizations.

PRIORITY RESEARCH THEMES

The following research themes receive priority based on their importance for natural resource management and poverty reduction, policy focus, and relevance to the CGIAR's mandate, along with their widespread applicability across resources and regions:

- Accommodating multiple uses and users of a resource
- Changing market relationships
- Feminization of agriculture and demographic change
- Conservation of genetic resources
- Role of environmental risk
- Devolution of natural resource management
- Technology adoption

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

CAPRI has developed a simple but effective conceptual framework to identify when and how property rights and collective action are likely to affect the application of agricultural technologies and natural resource management practices based on their spatial and temporal dimensions. Technologies such as improved varieties that can be adopted by a single farmer within a season may not be strongly affected by these institutions (see figure on cover).

However, with longer time horizons between adopting a technology and receiving its benefits, farmers need secure tenure if they are to have the necessary incentives and authority to adopt. Tenants, for example, often do not have the right to plant trees or the incentive to implement terracing.

Moving from onfarm technologies to those that operate at larger spatial scales, the need for collective action only increases—integrated pest management (IPM), for example, must be coordinated across farms.

Most natural resource management practices operate over both long timeframes and large spatial scales. Consequently, both property rights and collective action are often crucial for the successful management of irrigation, forestry, fisheries, and water resources, particularly when any potential negative impacts on others need to be minimized.

This framework helps identify the technologies and practices that are appropriate in a given context and the potential constraining or enabling aspects of prop-



For more information on the CAPRI framework, see *Property Rights, Collective Action, and Technologies for Natural Resource Management: A Conceptual Framework* by Anna Knox McCulloch, Ruth Meinzen-Dick, and Peter Hazell, available at www.capri.cgiar.org/pdf/capriwp01.pdf.