

A large, diverse group of stylized human figures in various colors and outfits, representing a community, standing in a group.

# Local community

Land  
acquisition  
FSA110

Farming within the  
community  
FSA111, 112



# Land Acquisition

2

## Best practice :

Respect the rights of the individual, and communities, and avoid violation of land use rights.

When acquiring land ensure relevant groups were informed of their rights, scope and nature of the land development and potential consequences.

Ensure Free Prior Informed Consent was obtained.

### FSA110

Did you ensure that acquiring your land did not involve involuntary resettlement and coercion, that you have legitimate land use rights according to formal and customary laws and that you used Free, Prior and Informed Consent with any communities affected by your land acquisition?



Background



How to answer YES



Further information



# Land Acquisition

CLOSE

3

Land acquisition can lead to relocation, and/or loss of shelter or livelihoods, for communities or individual households. It is important to respect the rights and title to property and land of the individual, indigenous people and local communities, and to engage in fair (based on effective grievance mechanisms and processes) and legal negotiations implementing the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles for agricultural development.

FPIC is the principle that a person or community has the right to give, or withhold, their consent to proposed projects that may affect the lands they customarily own, occupy or use.

It is a social instrument that recognises the rights of any community whose livelihoods will be affected by external development proposals. The rights of communities and indigenous peoples are important in the local context in which you operate and must be considered. Activities which may introduce change to the area are relevant and must be carefully planned.



Free

Free from coercion  
Free from threats  
Free from retaliation



Prior

Prior to a project or plan proceeding, all necessary information is provided and shared, according to processes defined by the people affected.



Informed

All relevant information is made available to those affected, including the resources necessary to enable any further research required to adequately assess potential risks and benefits.



Consent

The right to say a definitive “no” or “yes”, with or without conditions. The agreement process must be agreeable to, and consistent with, the decision-making process of the people affected.



# Land Acquisition

CLOSE

4

## How to answer **YES**

- Deeds or other official documents are appropriate evidence of a right to operate in countries/regions of countries where land is not typically held through customary or informal tenure.
- If land is held through customary title, rather than through a formal deed, agreement with neighbours and local officials should be sought to recognise the right to farm the land.
- If land is rented rather than owned, records of rent payments will serve as sufficient evidence of the right to farm the land.
- If relevant keep all documented proof of transfer for land use rights, including any details of payments or other agreed compensation in accordance with formal and customary law.
- Produce a farm map to show areas where you have the legal and customary right to farm. This then forms the base of the plan for reporting activities on the land.

Show that you do not have a 'land grabbing' policy and that land rights are respected where land for your business needs to be acquired, leased or used (FSA110).

Show engagement with appropriate groups within the community to positively impact and respect all legitimate land tenure rights and the people who hold them (FSA110).

Ensure due diligence is in place to uncover and disclose risks and impacts to communities related to land issues (FSA110).

Ensure the farming system in place is appropriate. Deforestation must not be a consequence of changes in farm management or the development of a greater farmed area (FSA110).

Be able to show past and present farm maps, deeds or other relevant documentation as evidence of legal and non-forced allocation of farm land (FSA110).

Ensure the right of women to land ownership and access to land is recognised (FSA110).





# Land Acquisition

CLOSE

5

Forest Peoples Programme:  
Communities in the Driving Seat

A manual on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

## Communities in the Driving Seat



REDD  
PROGRAMME

## Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent



Forest Peoples  
Programme: Communities  
in the Driving Seat

## Further reading and examples:

- [FAO: Free, Prior and Informed Consent](#)
- [FPIC: Knowledge is power, toolbox](#)
- [OHCHR: Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples](#)

FAO: Free Prior and  
Informed Consent. Manual  
for project practitioners



# Farming within the community

6

## Best practice :

Engage with the community on matters that may impact the community.

Take actions to avoid disturbance and, if unavoidable, have a plan in place to inform relevant members of the community about potential disturbance.

### FSA111

Does your farm contribute actively to the neighbouring communities?

### FSA112

Do you take measures to reduce disturbance from noise and odour to the neighbouring community?



Background



How to answer YES



Further information



# Farming within the community

CLOSE

7

Your business and infrastructure may expose local communities to increased risk and adverse impact related to your on-farm activities, hazardous chemicals, pollution risks, or interactions with people working on your farm.

There is a correlation between good environmental and social performance and financial performance, inextricably linking company success and sustainability to that of the community in which they operate.<sup>1</sup>

Where possible, engage with the community on matters that may impact the community. This encourages the early detection of concerns that the local community may have regarding farm operations, as well as facilitate discussion and resolution of these issues.

Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a principle protected by international human rights standards that state, 'all peoples have the right to freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development'.<sup>2</sup>

FPIC is important for indigenous peoples. But it is also good practice to undertake with local communities, as involving them in the decision-making of any proposed development activity increases their sense of ownership and engagement. It also helps guarantee their right to development as a basic human rights principle.

1. The Impact of a Corporate Culture of Sustainability on Corporate Behaviour and Performance

2. Free Prior and Informed Consent

## FPIC





# Farming within the community

CLOSE

8

## How to answer YES

- Look beyond financial resources to consider how to make best use of assets, resources, expertise, advocacy, and relationships to benefit local communities
- Social events help build relationships and a sense of community. Consider making contributions to and participating in:
  - Farm open days
  - School visits
  - Farming clubs
  - Local fairs
  - Community events or forums
  - Local suppliers and producers
  - Promoting healthy lifestyles
- Monitor how interactions impact upon your company
- When planning an activity (such as applying CPPs, spreading organic fertilisers, harvesting etc.) consider each step and its impact on the local environment and community. Upon being informed, parties should be allowed the opportunity to communicate their comments or concerns within a reasonable period of time.
- Complaints by the local community should be documented and attempts made to avoid similar problems in the future. The outcome should be communicated back to the person or organisation that complained.

Carry out assessments to identify the environmental and social risks and impacts of activities carried out on the farm (FSA112).

Engage and consult with the community through disclosure of relevant information on matters that directly affect them (FSA112).

Have evidence to show how you contribute to the community (FSA111).

Have a policy to reduce noise and/ or odour disturbance and be able to show how the policy is applied (FSA112).

Have a policy to communicate with the neighbouring community about potential disturbance or inconvenience and be able to demonstrate how this is applied (FSA69, 112).

Have a process in place to deal with complaints, documenting how the complaint should be managed, how communications should be managed and how complaints are resolved (FSA 112).

Show that you avoid carrying out activities that could cause a nuisance to the community at weekends, public holidays, or in the evening (FSA 112).



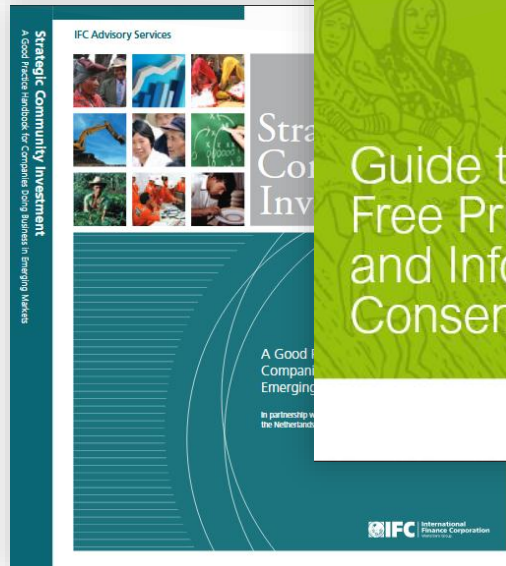


# Farming within the community

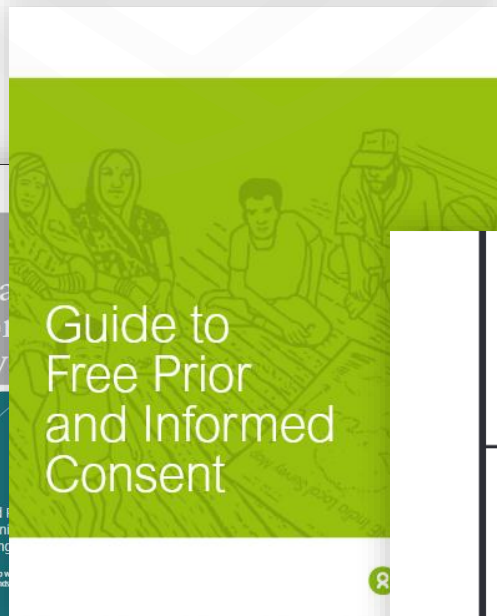
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9

Oxfam: Guide to free, prior and informed consent



IFC: Strategic Community Investment



World Bank: Strategic Communication for Rural Development

## Further reading and examples:

- [IFC: Performance standards](#)
- [UNPO: Self-determination](#)
- [National Taiwan University: Community-Based Communication: A New Approach to Development Communication](#)