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One Billion Rising

Law, Land and the Alleviation of Global Poverty

Roy Prosterman, Robert Mitchell, Tim Hanstad (Eds.)

With a Preface by Joseph Stiglitz

Most of the world's estimated 1.4 billion poorest people are still rural. Yet the majority lack ownership of the land that is their principal source of livelihood. Although land law and related reforms have transformed the lives of millions of families by providing secure land rights, not all such efforts have succeeded. Over the years, the conventional wisdom concerning law and land tenure reform—what is needed, what is possible, and how such reform contributes to pro-poor development—has changed, sometimes in striking ways. Lawyers at the Rural Development Institute and the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle have spent more than four decades advising on, helping formulate and assessing the results of land tenure reform efforts around the world. The present volume distills key lessons from that work and parallel work by others.



Roy L. Prosterman is Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Rural Development Institute (RDI) in Seattle and Professor Emeritus at the University of the Washington. Robert Mitchell is Program Chair at RDI, and Affiliate Assistant Professor of Law at the University of the Washington. Tim Hanstad is CEO and President of RDI, and Affiliate Associate Professor of Law at the University of the Washington.

'In a world in which we are constantly confronted with equity and efficiency trade-offs, land reform is one of those rare instances of a policy which simultaneously promotes both. . . . This book puts the issue back onto the agenda, (...) providing nuanced arguments and detailed evidence.' **From the Preface by Joseph E. Stiglitz**

'For decades, Roy Prosterman and his colleagues at the Rural Development Institute have worked to address a root cause of global poverty—the absence of enforceable and secure rights to land. This book, based on many years of field experience, demonstrates the leveraged power of the law as a tool for social and economic progress.' **Bill Gates, Sr., Co-Founder, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

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