Relationship between Women and Land

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(A Women's Rights Organisation)
As a densely populated country, Bangladesh has a population of over 160 million people living in an area of only 1,47,570 sq. km.

Calculating land ownership, it is seen that only 4% of land is owned by women. It again fluctuates between 2%-4% in rural and urban areas. The prevailing thoughts, culture, customs etc. of the country create barriers for women to own land.
'Badabon Sangho' conducted a Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) Programme on 121 women landowners in Rampal and Mongla upazila of Bagerhat. Recently all of them transferred their lands.
The study found that 67% of women landowners have become landowners on family/inheritance basis. The rest have become owners through purchase, settlement and donation of land. Of these, 38% of women landowners have been involved in various disputes, lawsuits and arbitrations over the last 15 years. Even 76% of women have been mentally and physically harassed in order to acquire inherited land. Unjust distribution, less price, boundary disputes continue to increase the suffering of women landowners.
93% of women landowners are unaware of land documentation rely mostly on male members of the household, relatives or land brokers.

It has been found that 37% of women landowner's have been evicted in various ways or are in the process of being evicted.
Who have transferred land, only 9% of women landowners are satisfied with the entire process. 60% of women think that land ownership is a symbol of dignity and empowerment in the society.
Recommendations (What should we do):

* I must collect necessary information and documents to protect the ownership of my land.
* I will make the decision to sell my land by completely free, prior and informed consent.
* Prior to land investment, there should have assessment on women's family, income option and land classification.
* Redefine and revision of inheritance property law, that should be started with balanced share of daughter and son in family property.
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