

1 General information

1.1 Title

[Short title, no more than 10 words]

Landless Poor People Movement on Khas Land Rights

1.2 Abstract

[Summarise the case study in 50-100 words]

Conflict and vested interest on khasland are common phenomenon in rural Bangladesh due to impact of colonial exit. Landless poor are living with other land which is very painful in their life under the part of modern state. Many landless poor are living with Government khasland but distribution system does not function in favour of the poor through the link of the elites with power structure and state functionaries. Consequently, the contest of grabbing by forcing or depriving the poor illegally by the vested interest groups for Khasland often results in violent clashes and threatens human security. Basinda para Landless Poor & their Peoples Organization are established land rights on khasland through collective strength and legal fighting.

1.3 Principal organizations involved

[List full name and acronym of the organisations that had a principal role in the case study – max 5]

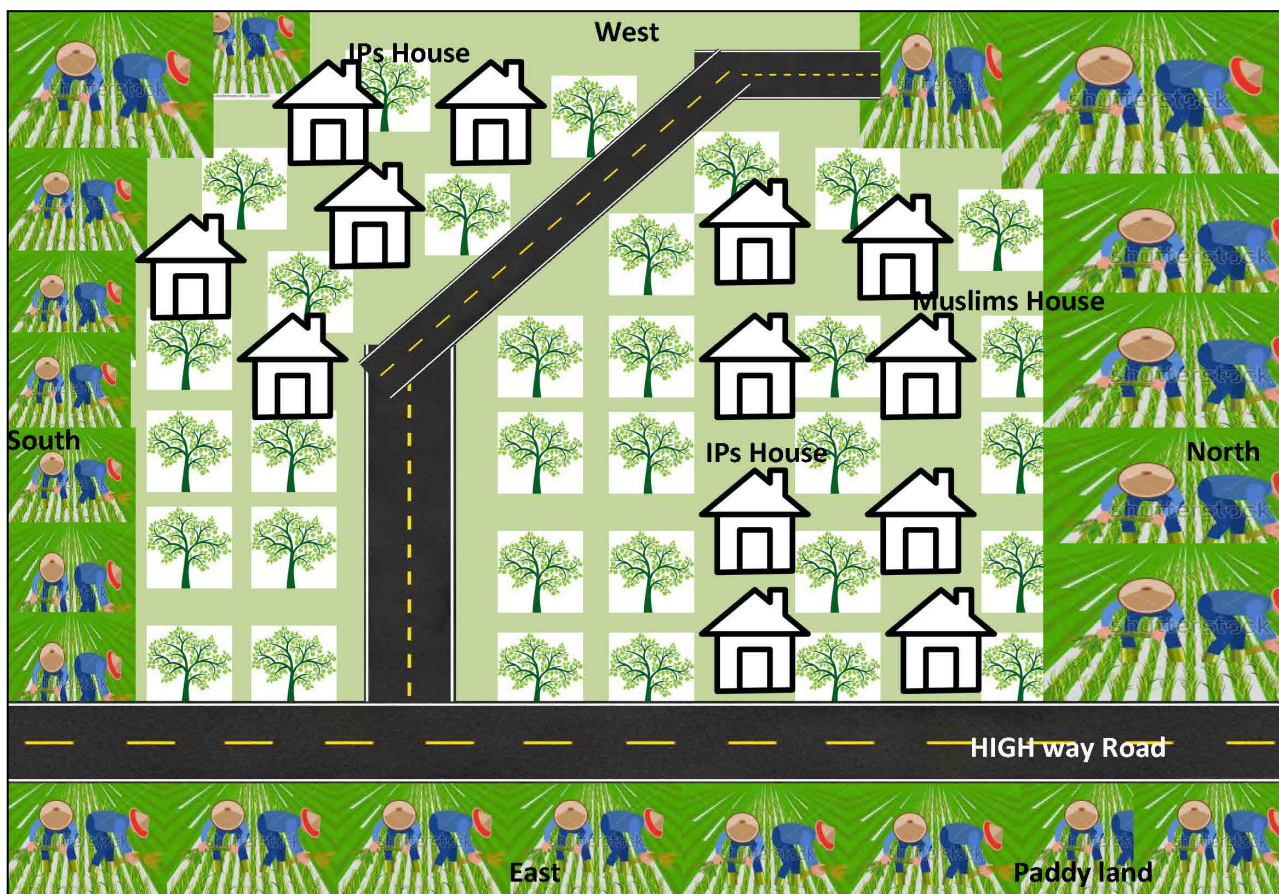
Community Development Association (CDA)

1.4 Location

[Specify name of municipality, district, country, region - as applies]

Village- Basindapara, Union –Borchuna, Upazila-Pirgonj, District: Thakurgaon, Bangladesh

Basinda Para Village MAP:



1.5 Target audience

[Indicate the target audience –the type of organisations– of this case study]

Civil society organizations, land rights activists, human rights defenders, think tanks, research organizations, Policy makers, Parliamentarian, Caucus, landless poor & indigenous people.

1.6 Timeline of the case

[Start and end of the activities described in section 2.3]

1995 to 2017

1.7 Keywords

[List up to five keywords not mentioned in the title]

Landless, Right, Public/khasland, Peoples Organization (PO), Inheritor, Grabber, Possession, Land Governance, Violence, Threat.

1.8 ILC Commitments

[Indicate to which of the ten ILC commitments this Case Study contributes – indicate at most 5]

1.√	respect, protect and strengthen the land rights of women and men living in poverty;
2	ensure equitable land distribution and public investment that supports small-scale farming systems;
3	recognize and protect the diverse tenure and production systems upon which people's livelihoods depend;
4. √	ensure gender justice in relation to land;
5	respect and protect the inherent land and territorial rights of indigenous peoples;
6	enable the role of local land users in territorial and ecosystem management;
7	ensure that processes of decision-making over land are inclusive;
8. √	ensure transparency and accountability;
9. √	prevent and remedy land grabbing;
10. √	Respect and protect the civil and political rights of human rights defenders working on land issues.

2 Case description

2.1 Background issues

[Describe in 200-400 words the context of this case study, starting with the general (global/national) context, followed by the local context, and ending with a precise formulation of the problems that needed to be addressed.]

Land Rights Defenders involvement is being increased due to conflict over the rights to land and natural resources multiply in country context overall Bangladesh. Day by day the growing number of threats resulted dispossession from land, forced displacement, land grabbing, killings and violence victimized the activists, land rights defenders, IPs, ethnic minorities, and landless poor in a planned way by both states and non-states actors.

During the year 1995, 15 nos. of Landless poor families started to live in the village basinda para which is adjacent to targeted Khasland. Earlier, the land is inheritors of IPs. Gang of land grabber evicted IPs families by forcing & threat in earlier but they are live in the adjacent village. Land grabber was retired employee of Police Administration. Grabbers always tried to influence to local administration to establish their false documents against illegally occupied **7.80 acres** land with relatives. **During the 2008**, Landless Poor & IPs are claimed to land grabbers for releasing this land. Gabbers lodged false case in the sub district office and complain to the nearest Army camp. 4 nos. of landless poor are tortured in the camp. Consequently, the conflict event spread in the local areas, Police in charge visited the place, and union level land officer visited the conflict area and declared that the land is Government khasland and land official advice to landless people to stay in this land. Some landless poor meet with CDA's nearest Peoples Organization namely Jagannathpur Jonosongotton and accordingly communicate with CDA official. Landless poor confirmed that land is completely khasland and clear evidence recording in the union land office and sub district level land office than Landless people file the case to Government Officials and Government is the opposition of this case during the 2009. The case disposal during the year 2015 and lower court judges declared their judgement against the Landless poor. Landless people win the case through legal evidence. Land grabbers did not obey the lower court judgement and appeal to higher court. Land grabbers lodged the file false cases against the landless poor who are leading on right assertion issues.

After confirmation of the land is completely Government Khasland, Federation of Landless Peoples Organization (FLPOs) decided their strategies How to ensure the possession of land towards ensure their land rights legally. **FLPOs possession & build houses in the Khasland through collective strength & unity and organized way on 1st January 2017. After that Land grabbers gang burned all houses on 9th January 2017.** The incident was broadcasted in many national TV channels and print Medias. The violation place visited by the Government district and sub district administrative officials. Following picture views are published in online media:

IPs (Santal) houses set on fire in Basinda Para, Pirganj, and Thakurgaon.



The burnt ruins of a Santal house in Thakurgaon **Dhaka Tribune**



abnews24.com সবার আগে সব খবর

(<http://www.abnews24.com>)

বুধবার, ১১ জানুয়ারি ২০১৭

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2.2 Solution

[Describe in 200-400 words the solution, i.e. the “good practice”, proposed in this case study.]

CDA started work in this village during the year 2014. Community Developed Association (CDA) started to form Community-based Association for setting up an institutional mechanism called Village Based Peoples Organization (PO) towards build unity, mobilized para (cluster) based landless poor & federated in PO, collective cooperation, collective strength & networking under Sustainable Organization for Land Rights and Agrarian Reform (SOLAR) program. The association called “**Basindapara Jonosongthon**” consisting of 110(Male-60, Female-50) members divided equally among the male and female members under 4(2 male & 2 female) para base samities/groups. **Finally Landless poor mobilized and formed their Village Based Peoples Organization (PO) dated 18th December 2016.** CDA’s facilitation support strengthened their capacity in terms of Unity, Institution building, awareness on land rights issues, legislative function, protection through legal support, negotiation skill, leadership development, linkage building and convergence with the Government, Caucus, NGOs, Civil Society.

Federation of Landless Peoples Organization (FLPOs) organized a mass media campaign and rally in district Thakurgaon on 13th January’2017. Peoples Organizations (PO) members of Basinda Para, Federation of Landless Peoples Organization (FLPOs), as well civil societies were involved in this movement. This movement related to the case occurring on January 9th 2017, where total of nine landless poor families, including four Indigenous People (IPs) families were being evicted from their shelter homes in Khas land by the land grabbers. The incident broadcasted in many national TV channels and print Medias. The violation place visited by the Government district and sub district administrative officials. PO members lived on this khasland by the police protection for few months. Resulted of the movement the land grabbers detained by the Police, and now legal entitlement of the land and policy implementation is now under process in the Land Agency. PO members rebuild houses and living on this khasland without police protection.

2.3 Activities

[Describe in 500-800 words the activities implemented to achieve the solution of 2.2. This description should be as concrete as possible, indicating the order of the activities, their timeline, and the partners involved.]

The following activities are taken by the POs members:

- Khas land identification
- Application to AC land Office (Chief of Sub district level office seat in this land office)
- Formation of Village Based Landless Peoples Organization (POs) & all landless poor (men & women) united in POs.
- Regularly issue base meeting
- By taking help of the Union parishad chairman (Chief of local government institution) and members
- Taking help from other village based Landless Peoples Organization & civil society
- Submit the memorandum to UNO (Sub district authority) /Deputy Commissioner (DC)- District authority.
- Federation of Landless Peoples Organization (FLPOs) organized a mass media campaign and rally in district Thakurgaon on 13th January’2017.

The following facilitation Activities taken by CDA:

- Initiated People Centred Development through human rights approach to achieve Fundamental Human Rights of the Poor to have access and control over the natural and public resources including public services by building of self organization of the village poor & marginalized (men, women, & ethnics) by the side of the political & administrative tiers of the Government local structures from the village level to Union Parishad (UP), sub district level to district & to the constituency level.
- Successfully facilitated to form Village Based Landless Peoples Organization (POs) where federated 110 members under 4 samities.
- Provide capacity building to support training, orientation and courtyard meeting through flipchart for increasing Unity, Solidarity, Organizational management capacity, awareness on land rights issues, legislative function, protection mechanism, negotiation skill, leadership, linkage building and convergence with the Government, Caucus, NGOs, Civil Society.
- Legal aid support.
- Technical support to submit Memorandum.
- Technical advice to engagement of state and non state actors, social activist and media.

2.4 Importance of the case for people-centred land governance

[Describe in 50-200 words the importance of this case study for people-centred land governance. People-centred land governance is the term adopted by ILC members to define forms of land governance (referring to formal or informal land tenure arrangements and/or land reform measures) that promote human dignity and wellbeing, poverty eradication, social justice and gender equality, inclusive and diverse societies, and protection of human rights. The values and principles that underpin people-centred land governance are in line with international benchmarks including the Voluntary Guidelines. In Antigua in 2013 the members of the International Land Coalition agreed on ten commitments that are essential to achieving people-centred land governance.]

In these incidents is very much associated with the people centered land governance. The case is sign of the history of regulatory struggle for ensuring the land rights of landless poor men and women who are living in poverty. It is a significant message to local land grabbers and other vested groups for their future caution, prevention and remedy against land grabbing. The case demonstrates the strong need to respect and protect the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Civil and Political Rights landless poor and human rights defenders who are working on land issues. Secure right to land are keys to accessing income, food, status, housing, credit, government, services, and greater household and community level decision-making. Land right is best fit to achieve four of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) like **Goal-1:** Ending Poverty, **Goal-2:** Ensuring food security, **Goal-5:** Achieving gender equality and empowering women and **Goal-11:** Making cities and human settlement inclusive. Land rights are best placed under **Target -1.4:** would capture gender equality and progress of all people's on –the-ground rights to land, property and natural resources. The case is very important to address preliminary objectives (Part-1, SL#1) and Principles of implementation (Part-2, SL # 3B) of Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

3 Changes

3.1 Baseline

[Describe in 50-200 words, and with concrete qualitative or quantitative data, the baseline situation in the area implicated by the activities]

- Previously they are land less.
- Worked to other house as servant
- Have no opportunity to planting any kind of vegetables, fruit tree sapling besides the homestead e.g.- mango, jackfruits, litchi etc.
- Have no scope to rear the domestics animals e.g.-cow, goat , poultry
- Have no the electricity facility at the locality.
- Only 30 % people are engaged with the earning source.
- 100% landless families are living with food insecurity.
- The community's boys and girls didn't go to school.
- Have no facility to safe drinking water and sanitation facility.
- Have no social dignity and status.

3.2 Achievements

[Describe in 200-400 words, and with concrete qualitative or quantitative data, the achievements in the area after the implementation of the activities. If the activities described in 2.3 finished many years ago, describe also the current situation in the area.]

Finally Basinda para village landless poor and their Peoples Organization (PO) took possession of **3.0 acres of public (khasland) out of 7.80 acres** through CDA's facilitation support. **Remaining 4.80 acres of the khasland are till under the grabbers.** The land (**3.0 acres**) is divided in individual parcels by **25 households (10 IPs & 15 Muslim)**. Per individual household divided land size average from 10 decimals (10hhs) to 15 decimals (15hhs). Finally got legal lease document by the land official and sub district administration authority. Resulted of the movement legal entitlement of the land and policy implementation is now under process in the Land Agency.

After the difference of 20 years they have changed not only economically but also socio-political aspect. Now there's per capita income increased doubles, planting different vegetables, fruit sapling besides the homestead, rearing the cow, goat and hen. Children are going to school, cultivate the vegetables at the homestead, professional transformation changed their livelihood, they involved with van/tempo/rickshaw pulling. Some of them day labourer at brick field or other involve with seasonal day labourer and going to outside for scoping. Some people are involved with small entrepreneurs. Over all 100 % population income increase compared with past and are now happy with fixation of a piece of land to ensure shelter/ security of habitat. Social harmony is increase among the IPs and Muslim community in their locality. They decorated their houses by planting various types of fruits trees besides their houses. Local elite person value them and seems ensure their participation in all cases is very much effective for the society.

3.3 Evidence

[List or describe in 50-200 words the evidence or independent reports that testify the achievements described in 3.2]

- ILC Asia Newsletter – Template, United for Land Rights, January 2017 Edition, email to **Date:** 16-Feb-17 5:57:43 PM, edcda08@gmail.com , Title, Landless Poor People Movement on Khas Land Rights.
- CDA quarterly news bulletin (1st issue in the year 2017, Jan-Feb-March 2017)-Bengali version.
- Broadcasted in many national TV channels and print Medias.
- Submitted memorandum to Sub district authority and District Authority
- Published in Online Media:



English Version (<http://www.abnews24.com/english/>)

- The incidence place/site visited by Representatives of ILC , Rome, Italy & Asia:

Mr.Adrea Fiorenza, Country Strategies Coordinator & Devianti Bhuwana Tungga Dewi, Asia Communication Officer.



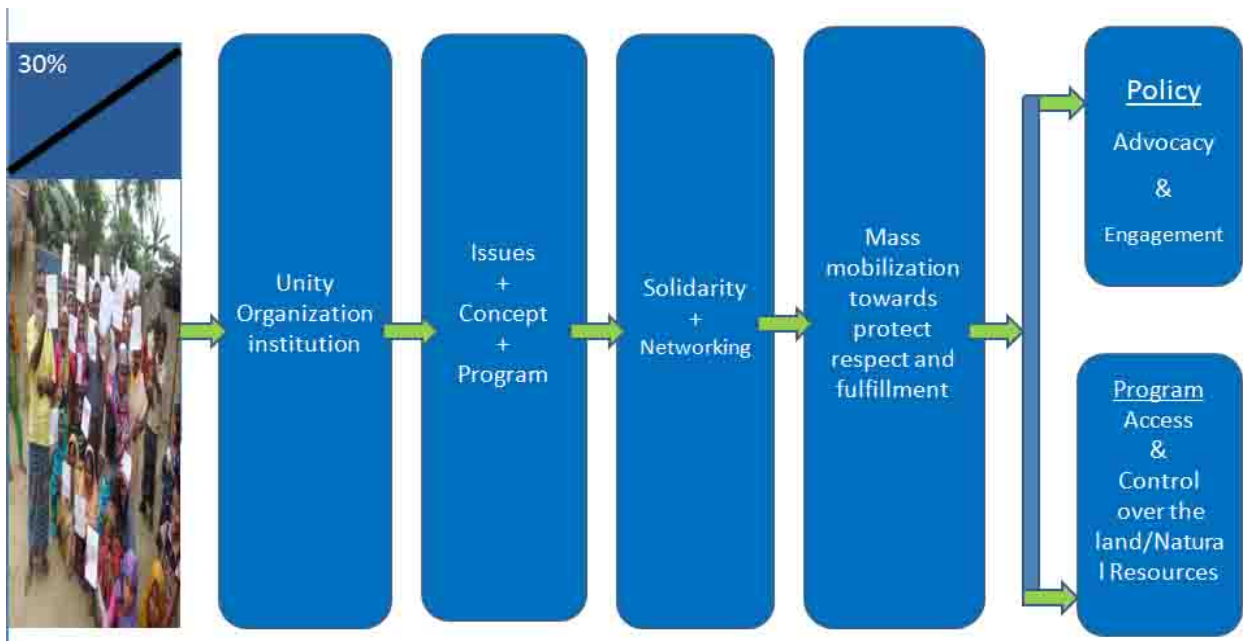
জাতিসংঘ সমর্থিত ভূমি জোট ইন্টারন্যাশনাল ল্যান্ড কোয়ালিশন (আইএলসি)-রোম এর ইতালী এবং ইন্দোনেশিয়া থেকে আগত প্রতিনিধি মি. এড্রি ফিওরেঞ্জা ও মিসেস দিন্দা তুঙ্গা দেবী গত ০৯-১০ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৭ তারিখে সিডিএ'র মাঠ পর্যায়ের কর্মসূচি পরিদর্শন করেন। পরিদর্শনের প্রথমে তারা ঠাকুরগাঁও-এর পীরগঞ্জ উপজেলার বাসিন্দাপাড়া জনসংগঠন পরিদর্শন করেন। এরপর দিনাজপুরের বোঁচাগঞ্জ উপজেলার নেহালগাঁও এবং পরে বিরলের মাধববাটি ভূমিহীন জনসংগঠন পরিদর্শন করেন।

4 Lessons learned

4.1 Lessons for civil society

[Describe in 100-200 words the lessons or advise for civil society organisations that would want to replicate the same solution. The lessons need to derive directly from the activities described in section 2.3 or from the changes described in section 3. The lessons need to reflect the view of the organisation that implemented the activities.]

- The land grabbers is very much powerful at society and they all time suppress the poor people by power & fake land identity.
- The role of civil society and civil society organization are requiring to supportive for ensuring human security.
- CDA's Peoples Centred Development Strategy itself as a lessons for Civil Society :



- Powerless need to mobilize under their own organization like Peoples Organization (POs) for self respect, unity, cooperation & collective strength to achieve common goal with legal framework.

4.2 Lessons for policy makers

[Describe in 100-200 words the lessons or advise for policy makers that would want to replicate the same solution. The lessons need to derive directly from the activities described in section 2.3 or from the changes described in section 3. The lessons need to reflect the view of the organisation that implemented the activities.]

- State-led **land reform** approach the main emphasis is given to the role of **policy makers** and state agencies responsible to carry out **land reform** programs.
- Require policy dialogue, monitoring & evaluation to measure the effectiveness of land policy implementation & adopted further contextual needs.
- State Policy makers & Civil Society organizations need together initiatives to **land reform** activities in **Bangladesh**, and as a result, Khasland distribution will be increase.
- Influencing policy process for Sustainable Development & livelihoods, Poor people is able to change their living status.
- Require a procedure for raising public support towards securing access to *khas* land by the landless poor.

4.3 Challenges

[Describe in 50-200 words the main challenges encountered during the implementation of the solution. The challenges should be related to the activities described in section 2.3 and should reflect the view of the organisation that implemented the activities.]

- Without distribution of Khasland to landless poor in Bangladesh, SDGs (Goal-1,target-1.4, Goal-2, Goal-5, Goal-11) could not be achieved.
- Without assistance of Land Administration Officials, state agencies, political leaders, policy makers, private sectors, & civil society organization, it could not be implement properly and effectively of government policies and the regulatory framework - especially "*Land Reform Ordinance-1984*" and *khas* land management and distribution policies of 1987 and 1997.

- Increasing Land grabbers & vested groups under the umbrella of political leaders.

4.4 Follow-up

[Reflect in 50-200 words on the potential for replication or scaling up of the solution. In this reflection, take into account the contextual factors that facilitated/complicated the implementation of the solution.]

- Maintain all formalities and procedure for taking the possession of Khas land e.g.- all documents prepared for applying Khas land, submit the application to Land office, Liaison with local UP body,
- Need more support from CDA for legal aspect Case filing, case follow up & legal aid support etc CDA is facilitating following follow up for addressing contextual factors: Strengthening Village Based Peoples Organization (POs)
 - Establish strong leadership of Peoples Organization (POs) for reducing poverty
 - More inclusion of Civil Society for ensuring human rights, good governance, and people centred land governance, protect ecology.
 - Raising People Voice and advocacy for Agrarian policy reform, peace building and social harmony, exercise national values to protect and prevent extremism.
 - Build relationship with local and national institution.
 - Legal aid support.
 - PO will transform in Cooperative Society and take registration from Cooperative Department.

5 Supporting material

5.1 References and further reading

[List the publications referenced in the text above, other relevant publications, and articles in the media. Give the full bibliographic reference for each publication/article. Limit the number of references to the five most relevant ones.]

- ILC Asia Newsletter – Template, United for Land Rights, January 2017 Edition, email to **Date:** 16-Feb-17 5:57:43 PM, edcda08@gmail.com , Title, Landless Poor People Movement on Khas Land Rights.
- CDA quarterly news bulletin (1st issue in the year 2017, Jan-Feb-March 2017)-Bengali version.
- Submitted memorandum to Sub district authority and District Authority

5.2 Photos, vidéos

[List up to five links to web pages with photos, maps, videos, or other audio-visual material]

Website ILC: **ILC Asia Newsletter – Template, United for Land Rights, January 2017 Edition**,
CDA ICT photos:





5.3 Callouts

[Transcribe 1-2 quotes of people implicated in this good practice that exemplify the spirit of the good practice]

Shefali Begum, Member of Basinda Para Peoples Organization (PO)- Basindapara Jonosongthon

- Got a piece of land to secure fixation of my living house.
- Sometimes we are thinking about legal procedure because grabbers are powerful and link with political leaders and land officials.
- Create scope to rear some livestock, planting trees & vegetables in homestead.

Shipi Mormu-IP women member of Basinda Para Peoples Organization (PO)- Basindapara Jonosongthon:

- We never forget the grabbers attack and burn my house.
- Land grabbers threat is reality of our life.
- We need strong support from Government Officials, political leaders and neighbour community.
- We need support for future of our children.

5.4 Contacts

[Full address and contact details]

Community Development Association (CDA)

Shah I Mobin Jinnah, Executive Director

House No-51, Bloc No-01, Upa-Shahar

Post Code-5200, Dinajpur, Bangladesh

Phone: +880-531-64428

Cell phone: + 88 01713195000

Email: edcda08@gmail.com,

Last update: [26th November 2017]

Authors: [author from partner organisation] and [author ILC Secretariat]

Tapan Kanti Dey

Md. Abdus Sattar

Eng. Md. Mostafizur Rahman

Mst. Shamim

Md. Minhazul Islam Chowdhury

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Shamim, and Chowdhury Minhazul Islam. (2017), **Landless Poor People Movement on Khas Land**

Rights, Case study of the ILC Database of Good Practices. Rome: ILC.

[Total word count: 2500 - 3000 words]