

**“In their hands”:  
for the Rural Poor Sustainable Development means Secure Access to Land**

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**Key words:** Sustainable development; Popular Coalition; access to land; security of tenure; land markets; social rights; food security; rural institutions; collaboration.

**ABSTRACT**

The paper looks in practical terms at what sustainable development means for rural communities and at what essential issues have to be addressed to tackle global hunger and poverty. These include access to productive assets, empowerment of the rural poor, ensuring of social rights, and food security. To achieve all of these requires stakeholders and others to work together, to develop viable rural institutions and to look to the future with a new attitude of collaboration. In this context, the paper concludes by identifying the role, functions and activities of the Popular Coalition.

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