Comments on Land Policies for Growth and Poverty Reduction:

Researchers have often neglected the profound impact of land policies on countries’ long-term path of social and economic development. This report draws on an impressive body of research to emphasize this dimension and illustrate implications for policy. It deserves a wide readership among academics and policymakers.

Yujiro Hayami, Chairman, FASID Graduate Faculty, and Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo, Japan

Historical experience in many countries demonstrates that without a clear land policy, it will be difficult or impossible to reduce deep-rooted structural poverty and inequality. Building on a wide array of research and experience, this report lays out the main dimensions of the issue and illustrates how they can help to develop an approach to land policy that fits into more general strategies for poverty reduction.

Alain deJanvry, Professor, University of California, Berkeley, USA

By documenting the long-neglected importance of land tenure for good governance and private sector development, especially in Africa, this report broadens the discussion, highlighting the far-reaching implications of land policy for economic development.

Kasim Kasanga, Minister of Lands, Government of Ghana

This report represents a major and welcome shift in World Bank thinking on land policy by offering an increased openness and flexibility in thinking, a readiness to admit to past mistakes, and an avoidance of dogmatism. The critical test will be to ensure that the report’s relatively more enlightened approach and principles will be turned into better Bank practice at the country level. This will require genuine commitment from senior management in the Bank and continued pressure from civil society advocates who defend the land rights of the poor.

Robin Palmer, Land Policy Adviser, Oxfam, Great Britain

This policy research report is a significant contribution to the knowledge and experience that can guide policies and programs for poverty-reducing growth. It has emerged from a participatory process that serves as an example to others in its efforts to consider the wide range of views and opinions that can inform effective land policy development. The report will be a critical resource for governments, civil society, and international organizations that must seize this moment when land has reappeared on the development agenda.

Bruce H. Moore, Director, International Land Coalition, Rome, Italy

This immensely rich compilation of experience as well as theory on land policy and administration highlights the complexity of the issues with which development practitioners must deal. It provides recommendations to improve policy with regard to land ownership and use, which is essential to fostering dynamic economic growth.

Emmy Simmons, Assistant Administrator, USAID

Land policy is the single most critical policy issue for sustainable development that can help to ensure peace and stability, economic growth, equitable social development, and rational resource management. Comprehensive and well balanced, the report provides a basis for donors to work together to address land policy within a shared operational framework.

Uwe Werblow, Head, Environment and Rural Development Unit, European Commission