

4.1 Good Governance and the Rule of Law

Currently, wider gaps are observed among constitutional ideals and policy practices/implementation in Ethiopian land law and land use and peacebuilding. Recent upheavals and, perhaps, ongoing conflicts as well as 'silent' contestations in different parts and inter-/intra-regional border areas of the country bear witness to the causal power of these gaps and the ensuing poor governance and rule of law besides resource scarcity. Therefore, the following are selected as top priority research areas for 2017/18.

- Innovative projects in land use/tenure changes and conflicts: The impacts on security of land rights and livelihood in pastoral areas;
- Conflict prevention and peace building processes in higher education institutions: assessing/exploring the dynamics strategies & challenges;
- Investing in land rights for agricultural/rural transformation
- Indigenous knowledge and laws in protecting fertility and sustainability of the ecology
- Media law and journalism in advancing justice and accountability on land use and protection of ecology