



## INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

### Securing Land Rights: Making Land Titling Work in Rwanda

In 2012, Rwanda's national land registry completed a nearly four-year project that, for the first time, mapped the country's 10.4 million parcels and prepared title documents for 8 million landholders. It was an unprecedented accomplishment in a country where the lack of clear land ownership had weighed on the economy and caused conflict. The program established a system for registering and transferring landownership, but long-term success hinged on ensuring that Rwandans registered all property transactions going forward. When a 2012 survey revealed that seven out of eight landowners neglected to pick up their titles, a registry team rapidly launched a nationwide campaign to raise awareness about the importance of titling and reporting transactions while managers simplified procedures and registration forms. To increase access in rural areas, the registry decentralized services and introduced a new software platform to speed transactions. By mid 2017, registrations of sales, purchases, and other transfers had begun to increase, but more improvements were still needed.

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*Farm workers carry sacks of coffee beans in Colombia's southwest Cauca department.  
Photo by Neil Palmer (CIAT).*

# Rainforest Alliance Certification in Colombia

In the early 2000s, the 500,000 smallholder farmers who produced more than three-quarters of Colombia's coffee gave little thought to the impact of their farming practices on the environment, as they struggled to earn a living. Many used dangerous chemicals to process beans and dumped contaminated water into rivers. To protect biodiversity in the coffee-growing regions of Latin America, the Global Environment Facility granted US\$12 million to a United Nations Development Programme project led by Rainforest Alliance to help farmers meet a certification standard designed to enforce better agricultural practices. The funding also enabled Rainforest Alliance to cultivate a global market for sustainably produced coffee. By 2017, about 5% of Colombian coffee farms were Rainforest Alliance certified while more than one-third of the country's coffee production had achieved certification under similar but less demanding systems. The inclusion of smallholders, who are usually hard to organize, makes this effort distinctive, but, with many farmers choosing not to participate in these voluntary systems, Colombia's water and forest resources remained under threat in some areas.

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## Featured Interview

Serving in the Rwandan Cabinet from 2002 to 2013, **Protais Musoni** is one of the country's longest-serving Cabinet members. In a 2010 interview with ISS, Musoni describes his experience with building institutions in his roles as deputy secretary-general of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, as governor of Kibungo province, and as Minister of Local Government for Rwanda. Musoni's state-building efforts laid the groundwork for an ambitious program of decentralization.



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