

Foreword

Need for a well-defined land rights system has been the debate in several forums and discussed widely among researchers and policy makers as poor land management practices have repercussions in terms of conflicts, misuse and inequitable distribution of resources. The State of Karnataka's initiative in streamlining land administration through e-governance services like Bhoomi (computerization of land records), KAVERI (registration after verification), Mojini (Measurement of properties) and its integration are noteworthy, since it ensures authenticity of the document and the respective property. 'Bhoomi Project' is a land mark initiative and its impact has been highlighted and noted, all over the world, as one of the successful e-governance initiatives for improved governance of the land records. The processes have been further upgraded to integrate Bhoomi, KAVERI, and Mojini which are seen as promising approaches to address the problems of land records in India.

The task taken up by ISEC team was to evaluate the initiative by reviewing user satisfaction with land services and assess the benefits of computerization, verification and decentralized online delivery of rural land records and online integration across various processes. The study also had to assess step wise impacts of Bhoomi, KAVERI, Mojini and integration between Bhoomi-KAVERI-Mojini implementation, document feedback on actual implementation. This was intended to facilitate the setting up of proper mechanisms for improvement.

The monograph has documented the processes of Bhoomi, KAVERI, Mojini and their integration and findings from the survey highlighting field problems at the representative study districts. The study also analyses the feedback obtained from the citizens who availed BKM services in the taluks post BKM integration. Issues related to constraints in the current monitoring system and ways to adopt a regular monitoring to assess their status and on-line functioning are addressed. Policy interventions to overcome the human and physical resource constraints for effective functioning are recommended.

The team has made appropriate suggestions which are based on field level observations and discussions with regional level officials. Policy recommendations discuss the interventions required at the administrative, technical, legal, social, financial and institutional levels. I am sure the study will be quite useful to the Survey Settlement and Land Records Department in specific and other state government departments at large. The results and recommendations of this study will also be beneficial to researchers and students pursuing the theme related to land governance and land resources management.

I congratulate all the authors and research of this monograph for their excellent work.

August 2015
Bangalore

M R Narayana
Director in Charge, ISEC