



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc.

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Think Globally. Act Locally!

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 9 July 2025

Re: Landcare as a Global Blueprint for Sustainability Through Local Action

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. is pleased to support and promote the work of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). ACIAR's 2022 report "Building global sustainability through local self-reliance: lessons from landcare," revealed that the Australian community-led Landcare movement offers vital lessons for achieving global sustainability through local self-reliance. The report explores the history, philosophy, and practical application of Landcare, showcasing its effectiveness in tackling complex environmental and social challenges worldwide.

The report underscores that Landcare is more than just environmental management; it embodies an ethic and process that empowers local communities to address issues pertinent to them. Although not initially born from top-down policy, Landcare emerged organically in Australia in the early 1980s as farmers recognized the need to collaborate on shared land degradation problems like salinity, pests, and weeds that crossed property boundaries.

A key insight from the report is that Landcare exemplifies the principle of subsidiarity, i.e. the idea that decisions should be made at the most local level possible. By fostering community ownership of problems and solutions, Landcare shifts the role of government from control to facilitation and support, enabling local groups to drive action.

"The Landcare experience shows that empowering communities to take charge of their local environment and address shared challenges is a powerful engine for sustainable development," note the editors Allan Dale, Jayne Curnow, Andrew Campbell, and Michael Seigel. "This monograph serves as a guide, distilling lessons learned over decades to inform how communities, governments, and partners worldwide can leverage this model to build ACIAR commissions collaborative research to achieve more productive and sustainable agricultural systems for the benefit of developing countries and Australia. This report aims to enhance understanding of the Landcare model's potential for broader implementation of the subsidiarity principle.

(Information for this media release sourced from <https://www.aciar.gov.au/publication/lessons-global-landcare>)



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