After 99 years, since the 1913 Land Act and nearly two decades of failed land reform, the patience of South Africa's landless people is fast running out.

Less than 6% of land has been redistributed and land reform projects have failed to result in equitable access to resources or to benefit from agriculture. Our research by 10 NGOs in 12 rural sites in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, and the Western Cape show that land and agrarian transformation is an illusion for the majority of rural South African. Skewed land ownership patterns remain entrenched. Levels of rural poverty remain high. Many rural people live with insecure tenure, and 1 in 4 households experience periodic hunger. The commodification of food from seed to table and the monopoly of large agri-business keep micro- and small-scale farmers out of business.

This month, as we mark 99 years of the June 19, 1913 Natives Land Act, will see the launch of a year-long campaign to reverse land dispossession, and to advocate for radical land and agrarian reform.

Community actions are expected across the country:

- Night vigils to commemorate the 1913 Natives Land Act
- Consciousness building on the history of land dispossession
- Marches for access to land and to reopen land restitution claims
- Defending community land claims at the Land Claims Court
- Land occupation where land claims are still not settled
- Exposure of human rights abuses in nature conservation areas

These are some of the most pressing demands:

1. Protect the rights of farm dwellers
2. Reopen the restitution claims process
3. Secure equitable rights to land and other resources
4. Defend the rights of rural women and children
5. Democratic structures for land ownership and management
6. Effective support to micro- and smallholder farmers
7. We need RADICAL land reform

We call for a People’s Land Summit in 2013 and a Charter of Rural Rights to deepen rural democracy.

For more info contact the TA coordinating office at 033-260 6173/6275, moniqueta@spp.org.za, https://sites.google.com/site/tshintshaintranet.