



At the global level, UN-Habitat and the World Bank are the custodian agencies for SDG Indicator 1.4.2, and they are tasked to develop the methodology for monitoring this indicator. They have joined forces with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN, which is the custodian for Indicator 5.a.1. It may be noted that SDG Indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 largely overlap.<sup>2</sup>

In the process of methodological refinement of indicators, it is required by the UN that National Statistical Systems be engaged (UNSD, 2017). At country level, National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are tasked to lead in the collection of data requirements of national governments, including data on land. NSOs are also tasked to report on country progress in the achievement of the SDGs. As such, there is need for capacity-strengthening for NSOs and land agencies in data collection, analysis, and reporting.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

### Objectives

This scoping study aims to contribute towards the refinement of methodologies for the collection of, and reporting on land data in line with SDG Indicator 1.4.2. The study has three specific objectives:

1. to examine the **NSO institutions and systems** for gathering land data and reporting on SDG Indicator 1.4.2 under SDG Goal 1, Target 1.4;
2. to document the **availability and quality of land data** with NSOs on SDG Indicator 1.4.2; and,
3. to explore possible **linkages between the NSOs and CSOs** for strengthening land monitoring, particularly on SDG Indicator 1.4.2.

### Process and Methodology

This regional summary paper summarizes the findings of eight country scoping studies on NSOs conducted between March and September 2018. These studies were carried out by civil society organizations (CSOs) in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

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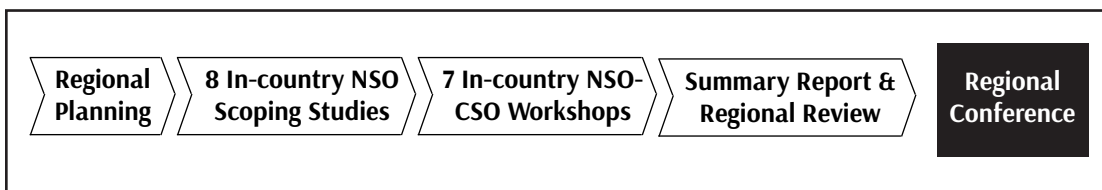
<sup>2</sup> While Indicator 1.4.2 measures tenure security on all types of land, Indicator 5.a.1 focuses on agricultural land for women, as this is seen as a key input in low and middle-income countries where poverty reduction strategies are frequently based on the agriculture sector.



The research process involved several steps:

- A **regional planning meeting** among researchers was held on 12-13 March 2018 to discuss the study outline, methodology and tools (guided questionnaire for NSOs), and workplan for the in-country scoping studies.
- **Scoping studies of NSOs** were conducted in eight countries.
- **NSO-CSO Workshops** were convened in seven countries to discuss the respective study findings.

**Figure 2. Overall process in the preparation of the study**



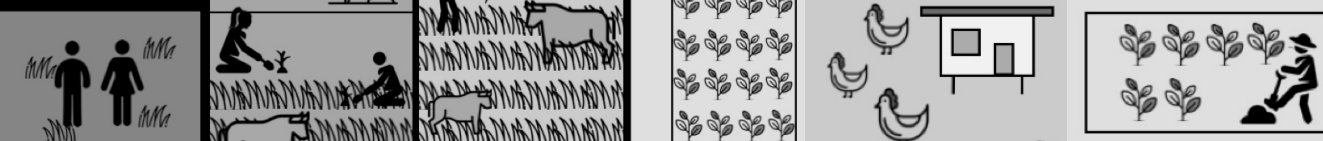
- A **regional summary report** was prepared and discussed at a **regional review workshop** among researchers held in Bangkok on 22-23 October 2018.
- The regional summary report was presented and discussed at an **Asian Regional Conference** held in Bangkok on 14-15 February 2019.

Qualitative studies were carried out in eight Asian countries through desk reviews of secondary sources, and analyses of primary data gathered through key informant interviews (KIIs) with officials and personnel of the NSOs in each country. Face-to-face interviews were conducted with the aid of an administered questionnaire/discussion guideline with 21 key questions – both objective and subjective in nature (See Annex A). This questionnaire is a modified version used in an earlier study conducted by the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) in 2017. All respondents were briefed about the purpose of the study, and on the points for discussion in the KIIs. In most cases, additional information was collected through follow-up interactions between the researchers and NSO officials and technical staff. These often involved visits to NSO offices and e-mail exchanges.

Table 1 below shows the lead CSO researchers and NSO offices per country.

**Table 1. CSO researchers and National Statistical Offices (NSOs), per country**

Country	CSO researcher	NSO
Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Association for Land Reform and Development</li> <li>■ Human Development Research Centre</li> </ul>	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)



Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ STAR Kampuchea</li> </ul>	National Institute of Statistics (NIS)
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ South Asia Rural Reconstruction Association</li> </ul>	Central Statistics Office (CSO - India)
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Consortium for Agrarian Reform</li> </ul>	Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS - Indonesia)
Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ National Union of Water Users Associations of the Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>■ Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users</li> <li>■ Rural Development Fund</li> </ul>	National Statistical Committee (NSC)
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Community Self-Reliance Centre</li> </ul>	Central Bureau Statistics (CBS - Nepal)
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment</li> </ul>	Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development</li> </ul>	Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

## Scope and Limitations

This study covers eight Asian countries that were chosen through convenient sampling based on the location of CSO partners in the Land Watch Asia Campaign.<sup>3</sup> These CSOs also constitute the Working Group of the Commitment-Based Initiative 8: “Sustainable, Reliable and Transparent Data and Information towards Responsible Land Governance.”<sup>4</sup> As such, this study cannot be taken as representative of the whole Asia region.

CSOs undertook eight in-country studies that focused specifically on the capacity of NSO institutions and information systems to monitor and report on SDG Indicator 1.4.2. As such, the research methodology relied on NSOs as the main informants of the studies. Land agencies were not interviewed, although the roles of land agencies in SDG monitoring were reported insofar as they were discussed by the NSOs.

The in-country scoping studies were conducted between March and December 2018.

In India, the researchers from the South Asia Rural Reconstruction Association (SARRA) were based in Bangalore. Thus, instead of interviewing officials at the Central Statistics Office (CSO-India) in New Delhi, the researchers interviewed the regional director of the National Sample

<sup>3</sup> Initiated by ANGOC in 2008, Land Watch Asia (LWA) is a regional campaign to ensure that access to land, agrarian reform and sustainable development for the rural poor are addressed in national and regional development agenda through land monitoring, policy work and networking.

<sup>4</sup> Convened by ANGOC for ILC-Asia, CBI 8 is one of the 10 action areas of ILC’s People Centered Land Governance which aims to promote transparency and accountability through “unhindered and timely public access to all information.”



Survey Office (NSSO) in the Rayalaseema region in the State of Andhra Pradesh where SARRA has its field programs. The researchers chose to engage with the NSSO because this is the agency tasked with collecting the statistical needs of the national government of India within their respective regions. The NSSO functions differently from State-level offices which collect their own statistical data based on the State-level development agenda and statistical program. The NSSO is a field office under the CSO-India, which in turn, is under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).

For Indonesia, the researcher from the Consortium for Agrarian Reform (KPA) was not able to conduct an interview with the NSO – the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) – for the in-country scoping paper. Instead, the CBS Director for Food and Crops Statistics who attended the Asian Regional Conference on 14-15 February 2019, provided his inputs for this regional paper and likewise provided the responses to the NSO Guided Questionnaire in behalf of CBS-Indonesia.

In all the NSO-CSO discussions and country papers, it was emphasized that land agencies are the ones who keep and maintain administrative records on land tenure. As such, the studies recommended that the role of land agencies for gathering land data and reporting on SDG Indicator 1.4.2, as well as their coordination and data-sharing mechanisms with NSOs, should be further studied.

## **Organization of the report**

This report provides a brief summary of the findings of the country studies. It focuses on four main topics:

1. A review of NSOs and surveys undertaken;
2. Findings on the availability of data for SDG Indicator 1.4.2;
3. Findings on the quality of data for SDG Indicator 1.4.2; and,
4. Prospects for NSO-CSO engagement.

## **SCOPING REVIEW OF NSOs**

### **Institutional set-up, roles and functions of NSOs**

All the countries covered in this study have an NSO established by an act of Parliament or Congress, except for India which was established through an executive issuance. Three of the NSOs (Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines) are under the supervision of the national planning agency