



## ABOUT ANGOC

The Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) is a regional association of national and regional networks of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Asia. It is one of the remaining regional membership-based networks that originated in Asia. ANGOC network members and partners work in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka, with an effective reach of some 3,000 CSOs and constituency-based organizations.

ANGOC was founded in Bangkok in February 1979, following a two-year series of village- and national-level consultations in 10 Asian countries in the framework of the World Conference for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD). Since then, the network has been contributing to empowering Asian rural communities by reforming policies of institutions and enhancing capacities of Asian CSOs. ANGOC has Consultative Status II with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN), and has official Consultative Status with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN.

## PROGRAM PRIORITIES, 2021-2025

### Land and Resource Rights of the Rural Poor

#### Context

While land and agrarian reforms have been legislated in some Asian countries, they remain an unfinished agenda. Small farmers' access to and control over land are still elusive. Several Asian countries recognize and support the rights of indigenous people and women, but the implementation of policies remain weak. During the COVID-19 pandemic, vulnerable populations and those with insecure tenure were among the most affected by food insecurity and loss of livelihoods.

#### Targets

- Transformative and effective land and resource policies and programs towards enhanced access to, control over, and ownership of land and resources by rural communities.
- Increased capacities of Asian CSOs and rural communities in defending their rights to land and resources.

#### Key activities

- Evidence-based Land Watch Asia (LWA) campaigns on land rights recognition and tenure reforms; research on the links between tenure and key topics such as climate change, conservation, and the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Mainstreaming *Land Rights as Human Rights* through campaigns on the prevention of landgrabs and the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
- Empowering women and advocating for the recognition of women's land and resource rights;

## Vision

*Vibrant, peaceful, diverse Asian rural communities, living in harmony with nature as stewards of the earth, whose members are able to realize their full human potentials, collectively chart their path to development, provide for their present and future needs, and share equitably the fruits of their labors in community celebrations of life.*

## Mission

*The ANGOC network shall advocate and promote land and resource rights, smallholder agriculture, and human rights and civic participation, by serving as a platform for Asian CSOs to generate knowledge, share tools, and conduct constructive policy dialogues.*

## Goals

*For 2021-2025, ANGOC as a resource center shall (a) advocate for land and resource rights of the rural poor; (b) promote smallholder agriculture towards sustainable food systems and livelihoods; and, (c) collaborate with other like-minded groups and individuals towards the protection of civic and democratic spaces through a broad platform of Asian CSOs, communities, and individuals that challenges the development agenda, reforms institutions, and fosters the exchange of critical lessons, tools and approaches towards food sovereignty, equitable land and resource rights, effective and responsible and democratic governance, and sustainable livelihoods.*



- Facilitating connections and exchanges between and among the network's partner-community-based organizations (CBOs), and convening multi-stakeholder policy dialogues; and,
- Tooling, mentoring, and trainings for CSOs and CBOs.

## Smallholder Agriculture towards Sustainable Food Systems and Livelihoods

#### Context

Asia is home to 75 percent of the world's farming households, 80 percent of whom are small-scale farmers and producers. Small-scale Asian farmers feed the world, yet they belong to the poorest, most vulnerable, and most food insecure segments of their countries' populations. As the COVID pandemic unraveled in 2020, nationwide lockdowns and restrictions on trade and travel have disrupted food chains, which in turn have crippled the livelihoods of small farmers across Asia.

## Targets

- Community of practitioners sharing and disseminating new information, technologies, and best practices in relation to smallholder agriculture and food sovereignty.
- Transformative, effective policies and programs on food systems that are centered on smallholder agriculture.

## Key activities

- Preparing action research on protected areas, sustainable land use planning, development of food strategies based on smallholder and family farming, credit, NAP formulation and implementation of the UN Decade of Family Farming;
- Linking small-scale producers and consumers by addressing the digital divide between urban and rural populations, strengthening local food systems through working towards the development of food hubs, campaigning on safe food and wellness;
- Enhancing youth participation in agriculture through modern educational modules and mentoring; and,
- Facilitating strategic capacity-building initiatives towards building a community of smallholder agriculture practitioners.



## Protection of Civic and Democratic Spaces

### Context

In varying degrees and with different dynamics, Asian countries have constricted civic spaces and civil society communities under threat. Fundamental rights are being suppressed, and key actors who exercise these rights are being persecuted. In Asia, where majority of populations are in rural areas and where economies are largely agricultural, the shrinking civic space disproportionately affects those working on human rights, land rights, and rural development.

Over the past few years, conflicts over land and resource conflicts have intensified. The rush to unsustainably utilize land for extractive industries, large-scale commodity production, and infrastructure development, has negatively affected the environment and has led to the displacement of communities. These conflicts have also led to injury and death of

community activists and human rights defenders. Such conflicts did not cease during the COVID-19 pandemic, and there has been an increase in illegal corporate activities and violence against communities during nationwide lockdowns.

### Target

Members of civil society are able to freely exercise civic actions (ex. freedom of speech, association, assembly, etc.) that are respected, promoted, and upheld, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

### Key activities

- Promotion of national and regional policy environment that respects and protects civic space, civil society, media, and rights defenders;
- Strengthening resilience of civil society to current threats and challenges, including digital security, political polarization, COVID 19, State counter-terrorism measures and financial sustainability;
- Facilitating linkages between and among CSOs and other social actors (ex. trade and labor unions, human rights groups, urban-based organizations, influencers, media, etc.);
- Seeking accountability from States and duty-bearers in instances of violations against civil and political rights of groups and individuals; and,
- Fostering a pool of practitioners to develop tools for active, non-violent reform campaigns.

## ANGOC Regional Network

- Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD)
- Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD)
- Bina Desa
- China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO)
- Community Development Association (CDA)
- Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC)
- Ekta Parishad
- Konsorsium Pembaruan Agraria (KPA)
- NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN)
- Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA)
- South Asia Rural Reconstruction Association (SARRA)
- STAR Kampuchea
- Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement (SARVODAYA)

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**Food and freedom! Jobs and justice! Land and labor! Peace and prosperity!**