

**BIG**  
Hopes on

**SMALL**  
Farms

Annual Report 2017



# Annual Report 2017

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## mission statement

“ANGOC network will serve as a platform for and enhance capacities of Asian NGOs working on food security and sustainable livelihoods through the promotion of land and resource rights and smallholder agriculture”

## vision statement

“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”

## goal statement

For 2015-2020, ANGOC as a knowledge center shall:

- ⇒ advocate for land and resource rights of the rural poor; and
- ⇒ promote smallholder agriculture towards sustainable food systems and livelihoods

through a broad platform of Asian NGOs (and individuals) that challenges the development agenda, reforms institutions, and fosters the exchange of critical lessons, tools and approaches towards enhanced food security, equitable land rights, effective and responsible governance and sustainable livelihoods.



# Message of Chairperson & Executive

**S**mallholder agriculture has always been an important item on the development agenda over the years, but it gained new impetus as a means to address the growing threat of rural out-migration as the planet anticipates millions joining the workforce in the next decades. Most of these new workers will be in sub-Saharan Africa, but a significant portion will come as well from developing economies, including South Asia. The challenge to keep them in rural communities is a story that is shining the spotlight on small-scale farming and the imperative of innovations that boost rural economies.

While they are expected to troop to rural areas in droves in search of better economic opportunities for themselves and their families back home, it is feared that they may be up for a disappointment as weak growth, on a global scale, in industries and the services sector could fail to provide them jobs. Matching the burgeoning of the workforce is the growing food demand from urban centers. These two trends have magnified the potential of the smallholder agriculture to feed this demand – by focusing on building infrastructure connections with smaller urban centers – as well as to minimize rural outmigration.

Discussions on revitalizing rural economies have provided opportunities to push harder the agenda of land rights and securing tenure that is critical in fighting poverty and hunger. For after all, addressing the growing food demand by the usual route that harnesses only the muscles of giant manufacturers and retailers will not make a dent in combatting rural out-migration. ANGOC actively supported efforts in the Philippines to mainstream the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure on Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).

Moreover, the year 2017 saw the network contributing immensely to the development discourse with an exploratory study establishing the link of land tenure to food security. The study was an opportunity to apply the continuum of land rights in Cambodia, Nepal, and the Philippines. It points to the need for further studies as it shows the many factors that families and communities associate with tenure rights.

At the regional and global levels, the network also participated in multi-stakeholder programs forming collective actions to improve agri-food research and innovation. ANGOC anticipates more work on empowering communities as drivers of agricultural innovations as well as in empowering them to fortify their defenses against, and their capabilities to mitigate, the risks of climate change.

Rohini Reddy  
Chairperson

Nathaniel Don Marquez  
Executive Director

# Land and Resource Rights

## *Context*

Land laws are evolving in the seven countries where the ANGO-led Land Watch Asia (LWA) campaign are engaged. Subject to changes in government policy and prevailing economic forces, they have also occasionally been influenced by the advocacy efforts of civil society organizations championing land rights of the marginalized rural poor. More so in recent years—with a growing public awareness of land issues, heightened vigilance by land sector workers, as well as pressure from the international community.



In **Bangladesh**, a new land use policy is being debated in Parliament to supersede the National Land Use Policy, 2001, which is seen as weak despite its noble goal of thwarting agricultural land conversion and ensuring land use efficiency. Moreover, a draft of the Agriculture Land Use Act has been prepared for discussion in Parliament, which hopes to enhance marginalized groups' access to land (Barkat, 2014).

Also in **Bangladesh**, legal, religious, and social values hinder women's ownership of land. Despite the fact that a high 88% of women are involved in agriculture, they actually own only 4% of the country's total land. This is due to various factors such as the lack of resources to purchase land in their own name and the fact that Bangladesh does not have the legal concept of co-ownership of marital property.

The Constitution of Bangladesh actually recognizes the equal rights of men and women. However, property rights are still largely influenced by religious inheritance laws, both Muslim and Hindu, that discriminate against women. Many customary laws of indigenous communities are likewise discriminatory against women, e.g., only sons inherit land or, if women do inherit property, control of the land is left in the hands of the male members of the family.

Studies further show that, although Bangladeshi women are engaged in agricultural activities, 48% are deprived of access to land. Since they are not recognized as farmers, their access to government-provided agricultural assistance, such as seeds, fertilizer, and small credit is severely limited.

Meanwhile, the situation of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh<sup>1</sup> is typified by the inhabitants of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in the South-eastern part of the country vs. the plains or lowland people. Those living in the area covered by the CHT have some advantages due to their special legal and political status. In contrast, the plains people are not accorded similar rights. Yet, IPs' customary land in both the plain areas and the CHT has been leased out to the private sector by the government, resulting in the conversion of these lands to make way for large plantations, forestry projects, extractive industries, development projects, and the like.

Other structural causes for Bangladesh's indigenous peoples being alienated from their land include: the lack of enforcement of the current tenure system and overlap between formal and customary tenure, multiple land claims, inadequate public administration capacity, corruption, uneven distribution of land, and inadequate legal protection for the poor. This is despite Bangladesh having ratified several international agreements which have a bearing on IP land rights. In a positive step to address the situation, the parliamentary caucus on IP issues has recently begun formulating an act on Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Rights.

In **Cambodia**, the Royal Government is still developing its agrarian reform laws following the reign of the Khmer Rouge. The first real change was the passage of the Land Law in 2001, allowing Cambodian nationals to own and transfer land – but without explicitly mentioning women.

The Constitution, as adopted in 1993, provides that all forms of discrimination shall be abolished and that all persons, individually or collectively, are entitled to the right to ownership, including right to own land. The 2001 Land Law, in fact, provides for joint land titles for husbands and wives.

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<sup>1</sup>As reported in the summary of country papers in the Lok Niti journal on *Indigenous peoples and their sacred lands* that can be accessed at the ANGOC portal < <http://www.angoc.org/portal/>>. Based on *Analysis on the Situation of Indigenous Peoples Customary Land and Resource Rights in Bangladesh* by S. Tripura, S. K. Ripa, and T. Sumaiya of Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD). For more details of the case, contact: [alrd@agni.com](mailto:alrd@agni.com).

With regard to Cambodia's indigenous peoples, a scoping study<sup>3</sup> reported that the laws governing land rights and other customary rights of IPs in Cambodia are very credible and well thought out on paper. The key problem, however, is a near complete lack of implementation of this legal and policy framework in the country.

Despite protective laws, Economic Land Concessions (ELCs) continue to be granted in protected areas, on the lands of indigenous peoples and in primary forests. In 2012, the government declared a moratorium on the granting of such concessions.<sup>4</sup> Now, it remains to be seen whether this pronouncement will actually put a stop to land grabbing in the country.

In **India**, the antiquated Land Acquisition Law, 1894 was finally replaced with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Act was passed in both Houses of Parliament in 2013, before coming into force on 1 January 2014 (PRS Legislative Research, 2014). The act promises a “humane, participative, informed, and transparent process” for land acquired in the name of industrialization, infrastructure, and urbanization with least disturbance to landowners and others affected.

The new law, expected to be pro-poor, is regarded as a victory for land rights advocates in the country, who had long criticized the 1894 bill as no longer adequate in present-day India. The old bill had been notoriously abused, much to the detriment of landowners, who lost their lands for the benefit of “public purpose,” that is, big development spurred by private industry. The new law seeks to counter this, protecting communities from large-scale evictions made in the name of industry (Kang, 2014).

Further, as a recent study on women and land in **India** reports,<sup>5</sup> the constitution recognizes equal rights for men and women, including the legal right of women to own land. However, very few actually do as a result of practices such as patriarchal inheritance, patrilocal residence, gender division of labor, gender segregation of public spaces, and discouragement of widow remarriage.

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<sup>3</sup>From the *Scoping study on the access to and control of land by indigenous people in Cambodia* by NGO Forum on Cambodia. For more details of the case, contact: [ngoforum@ngoforum.org.kh](mailto:ngoforum@ngoforum.org.kh).

<sup>3</sup>In 2014, the timeframe for ELCs was reduced from 99 years to 50 years. The government was said to have confiscated more than 50,000 ha from 9 private companies in 9 provinces.

<sup>4</sup>*Scoping study on women's land rights (India)* by the Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD). For more details of the case, contact: [avard@bol.net.in](mailto:avard@bol.net.in)

Hardly any attention had previously been paid to legal and institutional impediments in the acquisition of land through inheritance allotment, tenancy, or the situation of women who continue to have no assets. Indian women had been left out of laws regarding the distribution of public land and were forced to rely on the small possibility of obtaining private land from their families.

With regard to land rights of India's indigenous peoples, another recent study<sup>6</sup> related that large areas of land were declared as protected areas (forest or conservation areas) from 1970 to 2000, causing massive evictions of the communities residing there and leading to protest actions against the government. There have been positive developments, however. The *Panchayat* Extension to the Schedule Areas (PESA) Act, 1996 was enacted, conceding to the long-standing demand for tribal control over productive land and forest. Government is also under pressure to follow up the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Minister for Rural Development with participants of the *Jan Satyagraha*, which highlighted the issue of land rights of IPs and received widespread media coverage. Similarly encouraging have been the establishment of a separate Ministry of Tribal Affairs in October 1999; the formation of Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDPs) in areas where the ST population is more than 50%; and the passage of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

In **Indonesia**, the Consortium for Agrarian Reform (KPA) is at the forefront of advocacy on the development of the country's Land Bill. This Bill seeks to resolve issues arising from the lack of implementation of the Basic Agrarian Law (BAL) of 1960, which aimed to guide all other laws and regulations on land and agrarian reform. The Land Bill should address the skewed land ownership structure in the country, the escalation of agrarian conflicts (especially in forests, plantations, and mining areas), and environmental degradation. It is likewise expected to address one of the most enduring problems in the country, the lack of land and natural resources governance.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Condensed from the *Study on Indigenous Peoples (Scheduled Tribes of India)* by the Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD). For more details of the case, contact: [avard@bol.net.in](mailto:avard@bol.net.in).

<sup>6</sup>Based on KPA's report during the LWA Planning Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 15 September 2014.

A scoping study<sup>8</sup> relates how, for centuries now, Indonesia's women farmers have only had *access rights to land*, while *control over land* in the form of management rights, right to determine the rules of resource utilization, exclusion rights, and alienation rights remain in the hands of the men. Despite the BAL having led to the development of some legal principles, including gender equality in Agrarian Law, it can be said that the BAL is "gender neutral." It has not addressed gender inequality in terms of access to and control over agrarian resources. Thus women's ownership and control of land remains very limited.

In terms of Indonesia's indigenous peoples, a recent study<sup>9</sup> points out that the BAL did officially recognize their rights over customary land, and further stated that the agrarian law that applies to the earth, water and air space is customary law, to the extent that it is not contrary to national and state interests. The BAL even included a provision that third parties should secure temporary transfer of customary land rights each time they use customary lands. However, such provisions were later undermined by the passage of the Basic Forestry Law and the Basic Mining Law both in 1967.

Recent positive steps have been taken, however, towards upholding IPs' land rights: a) the decision of the Constitutional Court to rephrase a portion of the Forestry Act No. 41/1999 – providing some room for Indonesia's indigenous peoples to obtain legal recognition; b) the issuance of the One Map Policy to come up with integrated spatial data from different stakeholders including indigenous communities; and c) the Geospatial Information Act that allows for a customary area participatory map to be taken as a thematic map and thus become a reference in managing Indonesian forests. In addition, the Indonesian House of Representatives is preparing the draft Act on Recognition and Protection of IP Rights.

In **Nepal's** government programs for women empowerment and gender equality, no significant attention had been given to the promotion of women's rights to land. The truth is the majority of women in Nepal are not even aware of their rights as enshrined in national laws. A sign of progress, however, is the 2002 revision of the National Code of Nepal containing

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<sup>7</sup>Scoping study on women and land rights by Yayasan Bina Desa.

<sup>8</sup>Condensed from *Scoping Study of Indonesia Indigenous Peoples* by Jaringan Kerja Pemetaan Partisipatif/Network for Participatory Mapping (JKPP). For more details of the study, contact: erwin\_tea@yahoo.com or jkpp@indo.net.id.

some favorable provisions for daughters and widows. New provisions under the Eleventh Amendment Muluki Ain, derived from Hindu law and customary law, granted daughters and sons equal rights to inherit land, challenging long-held cultural practices and social norms. The issuance of joint ownership certificates for wives and husbands has also commenced, hopefully providing greater security to women, protecting them from marital violence, and enhancing their role in decision-making. The sad reality, however, is that legally mandated provisions such as these remain largely ignored in actual practice. Men continue to enjoy favored status with regard to land rights.

The indigenous peoples in Nepal can be divided into two distinct regional groups: Hill IPs and *Terai* IPs, as reported in a study.<sup>10</sup> The government of Nepal does not, however, officially recognize indigenous territories or community ownership of land. The Constitution of 1990 and the current Interim Constitution of Nepal of 2007 accept caste, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversities, but fall short of giving due rights to indigenous peoples. As a consequence, there has been no legislation specific to indigenous peoples. All laws, including those on land and natural resources, have deprived such groups of ownership, control and use of their traditionally owned, controlled and used ancestral lands.

In 2002, the first law on indigenous peoples was passed, but it mainly served to establish the Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities. In recent years, the government has begun including specific references to rights and needs of indigenous peoples in a number of important legal and policy documents – among them, the country’s Constitution and special legislation. The Three Year Interim Plan Paper (2007-2010) likewise contained policies for inclusive development of IPs and other disadvantaged groups.

Civil society organizations in the **Philippines** are still pushing for the passage of the National Land Use Act (NLUA), which had already been declared urgent by no less than the President and was approved by the House of Representatives. The NLUA, which has languished in Congress for nearly two decades, would be the first step to rationalizing and regulating land use for all sectors of society and not only a select group of individuals.

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<sup>9</sup>From the *Study on Status of Indigenous Peoples’ Land and Resource Rights* by the National NGO Federation of Nepal. For more details of the study, contact: [info@ngofederation.org](mailto:info@ngofederation.org).

It would pave the way for managing and developing land resources, without compromising future generations (National Land Use Act of 2013, 2013).<sup>11</sup>

Three national laws of the Philippines specifically mention women's land rights. These are the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA) for indigenous women, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (CARPER) for women farmers, and the Fisheries Code for fisher women. Great strides have likewise been taken on titling, as policies on land titles, stewardship contracts and patents now include the names of women, unlike in the past when only the men's names appeared in such documents. The Magna Carta of Women and several administrative orders from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) also mandate that titles be issued in the name of both spouses, or joint titling.<sup>12</sup>

A background paper on indigenous peoples in the country<sup>13</sup> cites the Philippines' distinction of being the first country in Southeast Asia to enact a law recognizing the traditional rights of indigenous peoples over ancestral domains with the passage of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997. Under the IPRA, the disposition of ancestral domains can either be communal ownership or through clan or family ownership. As such, a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) is issued to a community, while a Certificate of Ancestral Land Title (CALT) is awarded to clan or family claimants.

On another front, however, the IPs remain one of the most under-represented sectors in the governance of the Philippines. Without the necessary wherewithal, the sector has not been able to actively participate in the political exercises and as such merely settle for token representation in the legislature and other elective posts in government. Available opportunities for participation in policy making are limited by the sector's capacity to engage the bureaucracy and the ruling political elite.

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<sup>10</sup>The NLUA proposes the crafting of a National Physical Framework Plan (NPFP) which shall define the national strategy and objectives of the country's urban, rural and regional development (Marin, 2014).

<sup>11</sup>Condensed from *Women's land rights in the Philippines: a scoping study* by the Philippine partnership for the development of human resources in rural areas (PHILDHRRA).

<sup>12</sup>Condensed from *The Indigenous peoples in the Philippines: a background* by Dave de Vera and Shirley Libre of Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID). For more details of the case, contact: [devera.dave@gmail.com](mailto:devera.dave@gmail.com) or [balayluwad@yahoo.com](mailto:balayluwad@yahoo.com).



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Another challenge has been the establishment of ecozones in ancestral domain areas – overruling the rights and ownership of the IPs over such areas. As reported in the above-cited briefing paper on indigenous peoples' land rights,<sup>14</sup> there has also been a resurgence of large-scale mining operations since the enactment of the 1995 Mining Act. As of January 2013, there are 424 existing mining leases covering about 1.02 million hectares.<sup>15</sup> Despite the country's protective laws, it is estimated that mining applications would affect 67% of ancestral domains.<sup>16</sup> The Commission on Human Rights has investigated mining-related cases of harassment, threats, physical abuse, killings, and forced evacuation committed by company security personnel, the military and the police against indigenous communities.

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<sup>13</sup>From the Issue Briefing Paper on *The Customary Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Asia*, by Antonio B. Quizon

<sup>14</sup>Based on summary data from the website of the Philippines' Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Available from: <http://www.mgb.gov.ph>. Last accessed 29 July 2013.

<sup>15</sup>This finding is based on mapping activities done by mining-affected communities and their support groups (including AnthroWatch, ESSC, HARIBON and PAFID) in order to visualize land conflicts between mining, forests, and ancestral domains in the Philippines.

## ANGOC's contribution to pursuing land rights

Much of the work in 2017 contributed to efforts at mainstreaming the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure on Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT). ANGOC supported the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)'s Technical Cooperation Program in the Philippines by organizing a number of workshops and producing studies that raised awareness on tenure governance and the need to strengthen this in accordance to the VGGT principles and standards. The network's activities were geared towards helping policymakers and stakeholders in both governments and civil society gain an improved understanding of the VGGT as well as the VGSSF.



It contributed significantly as well to the development discourse with an exploratory study establishing the link of land tenure to food security. It continues to be a work in progress, and serves as an opportunity to apply the continuum of land rights in Cambodia, Nepal, and the Philippines. It opens more doors for further studies as it shows the various factors that families and communities associate with tenure rights.

In the international level, the network continued to contribute to discussions on land governance and the strategies by which civil society organizations tackle land-related challenges. There has been vibrant discussions as well on the critical role of research and documentation in getting governments and other stakeholders to respect land rights enshrined in their Constitutions.

## Major Activities undertaken by ANGOC and LWA Campaign

Piloting and consolidation of the Food Security Monitoring Framework in monitoring the implementation for SDGs at the household level

As member of the CSO Rural Cluster Work Plan of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), ANGOC has pursued advocacy works in monitoring the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the household level. This initiative builds on ANGOC’s earlier undertaking, the *200-Village Project*, that linked household food security to several factors, including land tenure.



The main activity of this initiative is to conduct an exploratory study on establishing the link of land tenure to food security. The study is part of ANGOC’s contribution to the discourse on *access to land* as a key intervention in addressing *food insecurity* in rural Asia. The study uses the continuum of land rights, a tool developed by GLTN to describe an existing tenure situation and for predicting how a range of tenure types may transform over time given different scenarios and intervention strategies. In particular, the study outlined a land rights continuum in Cambodia, Nepal and the Philippines; and described the links between land rights and food security, through community-level studies in the three countries.

Using focus group discussions (FGDs) as the main data gathering tool, the study focused on eight major topics: i) general household profiles, ii) housing and homelots, iii) incomes and livelihoods, iv) migration, v) credit and inputs, vi) tenurial status of farmlands, vii) perceptions of food security, and viii) perceptions of community problems. A total of 49 community-level FGDs were conducted – seven (7) in Cambodia, 20 in Nepal and 22 in the Philippines.

Some of the findings may be summarized as follows:

### *Tenure instruments*

- Majority of the landless and land-poor have undocumented tenure. Thus, claimants/tillers, farmworkers and tenants in the continuum of land rights have a higher chance for enjoying their “use”, “control” or “decision-making rights” over the land if they possess *tenure instruments* (including documentary evidence thereof).

- However, tenure instruments are often not enough. In the Cambodian study, which focuses on communities in state-owned forests and in state agricultural lands, tenure insecurity is linked to wider issues. The cited causes of tenure insecurity were poverty, followed by land grabbing, corruption, lack of food, lack of land for the next generation, inadequate access to health care, and cases of forced and distress land sales.
- The main sources of tenure security cited in the Cambodia study were: having a land title, schooling opportunities, affordable healthcare, strong community networks and supportive local authorities.

### *Food security*

- In all three countries, farming is the main source of *food* (primarily staples and grains), regardless of the tenure status. A smaller number of groups/ communities primarily grow *cash crops for income* to buy food for the household.
- In the Philippines, where agrarian reform has been widely implemented, *rice* farmers said that they had sufficient food supply, whereas *sugarcane* farmers said that they experience seasonal hunger each year.
- In all three countries, many farming households experience *seasonal hunger*, as the production or income from agriculture is often not enough to meet household food requirements.
- Those who have no land sell their labor. However, agricultural work is seasonal, unstable and low-paying.
- Many farming families with insecure tenure also suffer from nutritional deficiency. In the Philippine and Nepal cases, it was observed that landless agricultural laborers, sharecroppers and *Dalits* also have limited diversity in their diets (and possibly lack of nutrition) – due to unemployment, low wages and lack of access to land to grow other crops.
- While security of land tenure is cited as a key factor for ensuring food security, food security is linked to many other factors, such as availability of employment opportunities, presence of irrigation and inputs, reasonable prices for farmers' agricultural produce, remittances, crop protection, and income generating opportunities at the household level.

## *Homes and homelots*

- Those with formal tenure instruments feel that they have tenure security in their homelots, with no threat of being evicted. Those without formal tenure feel vulnerable to decisions of the landowner.

Tenure security over one's house and homelot is positively correlated not just with "ownership" documents, but also with "tenancy certificates", "provisional documentary evidence of settlement/ cultivation", and even "certificates of settlement" and proof of occupancy. *Tenure security can be seen as a continuum.*

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- In many areas, households with legal tenure tend to have houses built with more permanent housing materials and tend to occupy larger homelots than those with informal tenure.

## *Livelihoods and income*

- Those who own and control land generally consider their livelihoods and income sources to be stable and secure. On the other hand, farmworkers and tenants consider their income sources to be "temporary" and "unstable", as they are wholly dependent on decisions of the landowner.
- Nearly all households have *secondary* sources of income as a way to address the seasonality of work and the inadequacy of harvests. Diversification of livelihoods is a survival strategy as reliance on agriculture alone is often not sufficient for families to meet their basic food requirements.

## *Farm management*

- As farming (land) is the main source of livelihood, those who own and control land are able to plan according to their household needs, including for food needs and long-term food security. However, these decisions are not open to land claimants, landless agricultural workers and tenants.
- Ownership status provides households with a better sense of overall security that comes from the independence to make informed decisions about their livelihoods.

## *Farm size*

- Those with formal tenure rights tend to have larger farmland sizes. Farm size impacts directly on household food security through the direct supply of food, and through farm diversification which impacts directly on food variety and household nutrition, as larger farm sizes allow farmers to diversify.

## *Migration*

- There is continuing out-migration of the economically-productive youth from the rural areas in all three countries. Migration in Nepal has been driven largely by “push-factors” – grinding poverty, landlessness, limited landholdings, indebtedness, lack of work opportunities, subsistence agriculture and political instability. (Cambodia: “pull” factors; Phils: “push-pull” factors) Remittances from family members overseas play a paramount role in ensuring food security.
- As young males migrate to cities and abroad in search of work, agricultural tasks are left with women. And as agriculture is increasingly feminized, it will be increasingly important to ensure equal tenure rights for women.

## *Role of government*

- In all three country studies, the FGDs identified a long list of major problems affecting their respective communities. The role of government in addressing these issues was emphasized. But in order for government to act, there needs to be pressure from local land-poor organizations – and in the case of Nepal, through increased advocacy campaigns.

## *Governance*

- Although land titles were seen as an important source of security, many people in the Cambodia study felt that it did not provide full security. Most were still worried that their land would be taken away, nor did they trust the judiciary. Thus, *there can be no land tenure security without good governance.*

While considered a work-in-progress, the study provided an opportunity to apply the GLTN's continuum of land rights in the three countries. A realization is that when constructed from a grassroots perspective, the continuum shows a very different picture of reality. This includes *de facto* tenure rights, or how families and communities actually practice and assert their tenure rights through traditional, customary, and other forms that may lie beyond the legal and statutory framework. The study can also be used as a springboard for further studies as it also shows the *perceived* tenure rights of families and communities, which they associate with various other factors, such as livelihood, a sense of personal security, access to services, and food security.

## National Engagement Strategy (NES) in the Philippines

Convened by ANGOC, the National Engagement Strategy (NES), implemented by the members of the International Land Coalition (ILC) in the Philippines, aims to build on efforts to increase and strengthen access to and control of land and other natural resources in rural sectors. Anchored to the 10-point agenda of ILC on people-centered land governance, the NES Year 3 activities focused on influencing the political environment on land agenda, capacity building for the rural sector stakeholders, developing knowledge products for evidence-based advocacies, and networking with other stakeholders.



The main policy works of the Network were on the (i) completion of Notice of Coverage (NOC) issuance [regarded as the NOC Bill], continuing the land acquisition and distribution (LAD) component of the CARP; (ii) Indigenous Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCA) Bill on recognizing the contribution indigenous peoples in biodiversity conservation; and (iii) and the National Land Use Act (NLUA) Bill that aims to harmonize the overlapping land laws in the Philippines.

In terms of the capacity-building component, NES provided trainings on (i) paralegal among farmers in pursuit of claiming their land rights; (ii) the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) to support the evidence-based advocacies on land; and (iii) investigatory news writing to grassroots partners to encourage sharing of stories in the community level.

The Platform continues to maintain the *National Spatial Land Database* that serves as portal of spatial data that relates to land tenure, and the monitoring of land tenure in the Philippines through the *Land Monitoring Initiative*, wherein for the Year 3 implementation, focused on assessing the implementation of agrarian reform for public lands. Case documentations on community-based ecosystem management were also conducted to share the benefits of these activities in the preservation of conservation of natural resources – specifically, the *Payment for Ecosystem Services* in Mt. Kalatungan in Bukidnon; and the IP community boundary delineation in the Ancestral Domain of Dulangan-Manobo in Lebak, Sultan Kudarat.



## Changes in policies

The collective action to lobby for the passage of the Notice of Coverage (NOC) Bill resulted in a more inclusive open door policy of the Department of Agrarian Reform, which now welcomes a partnership with AR Now on efforts to address land rights issues. The department is expected to amend Administrative Order 9, 2006 (Agribusiness Ventures Arrangement), specifically Section 29 that has been deemed inimical to the interests of ARBs. Other policy changes include the use of ARB installation as a key results area of DAR.

The documentation and information dissemination on the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) practices in Mt. Kalatungan has influenced some local government units to draft ordinances supporting PES (e.g. water fees, etc.). In Cagayan de Oro, the City Council, some concerned government agencies, Xavier Science Foundation (XSF), and environment management experts regularly meet to draft the PES ordinance. Also, the Regional Development Council (RDC) in Northern Mindanao, led by the National Economic and Development Authority Region 10 (NEDA-10), already puts PES as one of the strategies for forest rehabilitation and management in its Regional Development Plan for 2017-2022.

## Changes in practices

*On paralegal work:* Paralegal volunteers hold sessions to share information and learn from each other's experiences and best practices in pursuing land rights claims. The volunteers suggested that the sessions be institutionalized and that regular legal clinic and tactic sessions be held in the future. Due to the collective actions on land rights advocacies of the Members, President Duterte approved DAR Secretary Rafael Mariano's proposal for a two-year moratorium on the conversion of agricultural lands. The President also approved the DAR Secretary's proposal for the condonation of penalties that farmer-beneficiaries incurred for falling behind on their amortization payments to state-run LBP for the land awarded to them under the agrarian reform program. LBP records showed that farmer-beneficiaries' unpaid interests on land amortization payments stood at PhP4.3 billion (US\$86.48 million). The DAR secretary also ordered to hold in abeyance the implementation of Administrative Order No. 4 series 2016 to thresh out and resolve some onerous provisions in the agribusiness venture agreements (AVAs) that were found to be disadvantageous to the farmers and tribal folks. Local mobilization activities also provided significance to DAR Regional Officers who are required to create Local Project Management Teams of the Block Farm Projects at the regional level.

Following dialogues conducted with the DAR Secretary, AR Now! members now work as a coalition in engaging DAR but recognize the right of members to directly engage or disengage with DAR. The chairperson of AR Now is appointed by the group to coordinate with DAR concerns of members and to set meetings/dialogues if necessary.

The DAR-AR Now engagement is a partnership model to fast-track land tenure issues of the partner communities of members. DAR and AR Now are both accountable and will take on tasks that will help resolve the issues. Since AR Now is recognized by Congress as a resource institution on agrarian reform, AR Now, with the rest of the NES Members, intend to participate and engage with the legislative department more frequently in various legislative proposals that will affect landless farmers and smallholder cultivators.

*On IP territory governance:* The change in attitude following the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP) formulation led to better facilitation with the IP leaders. The ADSDPP formulation project provided them renewed hopes to continue pushing for their ancestral domain claims. The crafting of ADSDPP by the indigenous peoples themselves affirms the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) and reinforces their customary laws. The Voluntary Guidelines for the Governance of Tenure (VGGT) and responsible agriculture investment principles is seen to become part of the policies that indigenous peoples will integrate in their ADSDPP, in support of IPRA and in parallel to their customary laws.

For PES in Kalatungan, it was observed that local Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Protected Area Superintendent (DENR-PASu) already recognized and respected the IP group as the primary stakeholders managing their resources. For instance, in resolving environmental issues concerning IPs, the PASu let the tribal leaders used their own customs and tradition in conflict resolution before implementing the national law.

## **Changes in agenda**

*On land rights claiming:* With the engagement with various stakeholders (government and LGUs) for paralegal interventions, there is now a shift towards providing more assistance in the resolution of second-generation land tenure improvement (LTI) cases rather than those categorized by DAR as new lands.

This was in response to the need to assist ARBs with problems on collective CLOA subdivision, untitled privately claimed lands (UPAL), operation land transfer (OLT) lands and even issuance of Land Distribution Information Schedule (LDIS) from Land Bank to strengthen their security on property rights.

*On National Land Use Act:* NES pushes for the passage of the National Land Use Act (NLUA) as it recognizes this to be an instrument in creating a national framework plan for land use that will address the improper use of land resources and poor land management in the country. In May 2017, NLUA Bill (HB 5240) was passed in the third and final reading in the Lower House. On 24 July 2017, the President, during his second State of the Nation Address (SONA), appealed to all legislators to immediately pass the NLUA.

*On IP territory:* The crafting of the ADSDPP strengthened the agenda of the IPs in Kalatungan. The ADSDPP is one of the main agenda stated in the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) which put the IPs, who have been marginalized for several decades, in control of their ancestral domain. The ADSDPP will become the basis for any development agenda and interventions in these IP communities' ancestral domain.

With regards to the PES initiative, before this strategy was launched in Mt. Kalatungan, government-led reforestation and rehabilitation were observed to be not effective despite several millions of funds poured for this purpose. Local management of resources (where IP communities are respected as forest stewards through PES), concerned government agencies, and local government units are now gradually shifting to support PES as forest rehabilitation strategy.

# Joint Action for Land Rights

The project “Joint Action for Land Rights” was a 24-month project implemented by the Asian NGO Coalition (ANGOC), KAISAHAN, and BALAOD Mindanaw, together with People in Need (PIN) in three regions in the Philippines: Leyte, Negros Occidental, and Northern Mindanao (Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental). It is funded by the European Union under its European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) Country-based Support Scheme for the Philippines.



The project aimed to strengthen the work of civil society organizations, including human rights organizations, in support of vulnerable and socially excluded groups with particular focus on the empowerment of these groups to claim their rights, including protecting the rights of human rights defenders.

In particular, the project aimed to achieve the following:

- Provide support and capacity building to human rights defenders in Western and Eastern Visayas, and Northern Mindanao to effectively monitor, document, and/or address land and related human rights abuses, conduct relevant advocacy activities, and meet urgent needs of HRDs threatened by human rights violations through the establishment of a protection fund;
- Engage relevant stakeholders in policy dialogue aiming to influence the policy and legal environment towards enhanced land rights claim-making and protection of HRDs working on land rights.

Within 24 months, the project provided capacity building of HRDs through tailored managerial, operational and technical capacity building support so they become more effective in supporting the marginalized communities affected by land grabbing and can better defend themselves against human rights abuses.

To enhance capacity building, small projects on land rights protection (such as information and advocacy campaigns, documentation of specific land grabbing cases which will also serve as a basis for local and national advocacy with different stakeholders, actions empowering communities which are in the middle of land grabbing cases or for implementation of a security and protection measures etc.), were funded and implemented through sub-grants provided to 20 HRDs/CSOs in the project areas.

In order to protect HRDs, the Action provided financial assistance through the Protection Fund or legal/paralegal support in urgent cases when HRDs were at direct risk of violence, death, imprisonment or any other human rights abuse.

With a comprehensive advocacy strategy, the action raised awareness around the subject of land rights through campaigns targeting the public, relevant policy-makers, and media. In addition, by engaging with stakeholders, such as duty-bearers from the State and the corporate sector, the action shared good practices and issues in land transactions promoting transparency and fair partnerships.

The specific role of ANGOC in the JALR project was the design and conduct of: capacity building activities on advocacy and land monitoring for HRDs; multi-stakeholder policy dialogues at the regional and national levels; administration of a grant facility for media professionals; local media briefings as well as the publication of knowledge products on relevant land rights advocacy, case briefs, and lessons learned.

## Mainstreaming the Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure: Philippines

In 2016, a technical cooperation program (TCP) on mainstreaming the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure on Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) was approved and launched. This program was supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the lead implementing organization.



The TCP had three components: a) the review of the Land Sector Development Framework (LSDF) as assigned to the DENR, b) the updating of the Philippine land valuation system as assigned to the Department of Finance (DoF), and, c) the mainstreaming of the VGGT and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (VGSSF).

In support of this TCP, ANGO organized several workshops and produced studies that raised awareness on land governance in the context of land rights, land tenure, climate change, natural disasters, and fisheries. The activities and studies produced have contributed to an improved understanding of the VGGT and the VGSSF, among national and local governments, civil society organizations, people's organizations (of farmers, fisherfolks, and indigenous peoples), and private individuals.

In particular, ANGO was able to increase awareness among local and national government agencies on VGGT and VGSSF principles pertaining to tenure of fisheries, small-scale fisheries and fishing rights by:

- Producing and publishing information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on the VGGT in the Cebuano language. The materials are continually being disseminated in different forums.

- Conducting a three-day national orientation and training on the VGGT and VGSSF, which was participated in by 19 representatives from six government agencies, one Constitutional Body, and FAO.

ANGOC and its CSO partners likewise contributed to increasing awareness of multiple stakeholders on the linkages between governance of tenure, natural disasters, and climate change. The following studies were released or published:

- The summary study *“Discussion Paper on Climate Change and Land Tenure in the Philippines: A scoping of legislations, recent field experiences, and their implications for land tenure and climate change policies”*. This came after the National Multi-stakeholder Forum on Tenure and Climate Change jointly organized by ANGOC, FAO, Department of Agriculture (DA), GIZ and Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF).
- A study *“Scoping of Legislations on Climate Change and Natural Disasters vis-a-vis Tenure”*.
- Two case studies on the VGGT that contextualize the issues, and generate recommendations for the summary study. These cases highlighted the relationships between the impacts of climate change, social and policy responses, and land tenure from two major typhoons (Washi/Sendong in 2011 and Haiyan/Yolanda in 2012) that affected communities in the provinces of Eastern Samar, Misamis Oriental, and Bukidnon.

Contributing to the finalization of the above studies was the conduct of: a) one national multi-stakeholder forum, b) two provincial consultations with LGUs, line agencies, and community representatives, c) two focus group discussions with communities, and d) one roundtable discussion with CSOs.

In terms of enhancing the capacities among land-based sectors regarding the VGGT and VGSSF principles pertaining to governance of tenure of fisheries, small-scale fisheries and fishing rights, the following interventions were carried out by ANGOC and its CSO partners:

- Finalized and printed the study *“Scoping Paper on the VGSSF and the Philippine Policies and Laws on Fisheries”* after the National Multi-stakeholder Forum on VGSSF jointly organized by ANGOC, FAO, DA, GIZ, and PCAF.

- Two case studies were prepared to disseminate information on the VGSSF, contextualize the issues, and generate recommendations for the scoping study. These cases highlighted: a) overlapping or conflicting laws in the management of ancestral waters as mandated by IPRA and municipal waters by the Fisheries Code (Coron, Palawan), and b) overlapping policies in the coastal waters (Infanta and Polilio Islands, Quezon).
- Published the IEC materials on VGSSF in English, Tagalog, and Cebuano languages. These materials are being disseminated in various forums.
- Contributing to the finalization of the above studies was the conduct of: a) one national multi-stakeholder forum, b) two provincial consultations with LGUs, line agencies and community representatives, c) two focus group discussions with communities and d) two roundtable discussion with CSOs and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

In summary, ANGOC produced 13 knowledge products. Through the various processes, ANGOC was able to reach a total of 520 individuals (292 males, 228 females) representing around 52 different national government offices, about 37 local government offices, 27 people's organizations, 32 civil society organizations (CSOs) which include two academic institutions, 9 international organizations and development partners, and 5 private offices.

The consultation processes undertaken in the preparation of the studies contributed in arriving at a shared analysis of the issues faced by communities of farmers, small-scale fishers, and indigenous peoples in relation to their rights to land and resources. Local issues were amplified and in some instances, the provincial consultation processes provided spaces for dialogues between communities, local government units, and provincial offices of line agencies. These processes were also used to explain the VGGT and VGSSF, thus taking the discourse to the local level and not just to the capital of the country.



## ANGOC and LWA organized and participated in a number of global and regional land-related events

### *Asia Pacific Learning Exchange of GLTN CSO Partners: Strengthening Land Tenure Security for Urban Poverty Reduction in Asia-Pacific (Bayview Park Hotel, Manila, Philippines; 07-08 November 2017)*

The objective of the learning exchange focused on discussing land-related challenges in the region, exploring the strategies that CSOs are currently using to tackle them and identifying ways in which shared knowledge and collaboration among the cluster members can advance individual and collective goals. ANGOC provided inputs in the framing of the program, shared its land monitoring initiative, assisted in the facilitation of two sessions and explained its initiative on the continuum of land rights. ANGOC took the opportunity to emphasize the critical role that research, documentation, and indicators play in engaging decision makers, advocating for policy change, and in enforcing accountability of governments for the land rights enshrined in their Constitutions, laws and international commitments in relation to land access, land tenure security and urban poverty reduction. Facilitated by Chair Emeritus Fr. Francis Lucas, the small group on the link of rural-urban looked at the processes that affect the living conditions of both the urban and rural poor and their security of land tenure.

The following actions were highlighted as key next steps for the CSOs, individually and collectively: a) strengthening collaboration within the cluster, b) reflecting on CSO's approaches and work to strengthen collaboration with others at the city level, c) deepening the understanding and developing capacities on land tools, and d) undertaking land tenure-related initiatives such as using the continuum of land rights in their national contexts to inform their work.

### *Southeast Asia Regional Workshop on UNGP on Business and Human Rights and Land Rights (Verjandel Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines; 20 October 2017)*

Co-organized by ANGOC, Consortium for Agrarian Reform- Indonesia (KPA), Oxfam in Indonesia, International Land Coalition (ILC Asia), and the Philippines' Commission of Human Rights (CHR), this workshop: a) presented and discussed the draft studies on the relevance and status of implementation of UNGP BHR in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines; b) explored and strengthened country partnerships between NHRIs and CSOs on the formulation and implementation of National Action Plans on BHR; and, c) built strategic partnerships to pursue regional and national action for BHR in relation to land issues in Southeast Asia.

In terms of mainstreaming UNGP BHR in Southeast Asia, participants recommended the following:

- engage with ASEAN Inter Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and Southeast Asian National Human Rights Forum (SEANF) to come up with a policy with mainstreaming BHR;
- CSOs to work with NHRIs in mainstreaming BHR by documenting experiences on land rights vis-à-vis business investments;
- influence business policies and expose bad practices of private investors in agriculture; and,
- propose guidelines/parameters/indicators that constitute land rights and include or consider these as human rights.

*Regional Forum on Continuum of Land Rights and Food Security (Verjandel Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines; 16-17 October 2017)*

ANGOC organized the regional forum on 16 October 2017 in Quezon City, Philippines where the draft papers were presented and discussed. In the Cambodian case study, two land rights continuums were formulated. *First*, the land rights continuum for State-owned *forestlands* illustrates a process of how informal settlers in forest communities gradually gain increasing State recognition of their “possession” rights or claims over forestland, leading towards obtaining Community Forest certificates (rather than land titles). It identifies four main categories or phases in this land rights continuum. In the Nepal case study, the land rights continuum illustrates eight major types of smallholder farmers, based on their legal tenure and bundle of rights effected under contemporary law. These include: public land tillers, contract farmers, sharecroppers, tenants (on private lands), farmers tilling land on mortgage, *Guthi* land tillers, *Birta* land tillers and smallholders. As for the Philippine case study, the land rights continuum illustrates a set of 11 different tenure categories of lowland farmers and farmworkers in alienable and disposable lands. The continuum – from informal to formal rights – categorizes farmers and farmworkers according to their (a) *physical access* and actual use of the land, and (b) their *tenure instrument* and legal recognition of rights over the land, which includes the various milestones towards land ownership provided under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The field study focuses on two main crops – rice and sugarcane – owing to the high poverty incidence and the different prevailing tenure systems in these two crops.

The writeshop process (17 October) provided the authors of the case studies to have a peer review process on the respective drafts. As such, revisions were undertaken to incorporate the revisions of the country cases. At the same time, the regional summary was discussed and critiqued by the participants for finalization.

*ILC Asia Regional Assembly (Korony 3 Hotel, Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan; 13-15 September 2017) and Asia Land Forum (Damas Hotel, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; 12 September 2017)*

As co-chairs of the ILC Asia Regional Platform, ANGOC and CSRC steered the conduct of the ILC Asia Regional Assembly. Major decisions taken were: a) approval of 2016 minutes of regional assembly, b) 2017 Annual Report, c) Asia regional strategy paper, d) inputs for the formulation of 2018 work plan and budget, e) suggestions to enhance membership involvement and f) preparations for 2018 Global Land Forum.

With regard to the Asia Land Forum, ANGOC summarized the presentations and discussions. The forum demanded: a) governments to respect and uphold the rights to the agricultural land, pasture, and forests of local communities, especially women and indigenous peoples; b) agribusiness companies, banks, and investors in Asia to respect the rights of local communities to land and natural resources by strictly observing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT); c) governments to take action on the need of small farmers for agrarian reform implementation; and d) governments governing related agencies in Asia region, research institutes, and customary leaders to recognize the essential role of pastoralists in global environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and mitigation of climate change.

*Expert Consultation Workshop: The Dashboard for Land Governance Monitoring (Bogor, Indonesia; 30-31 August 2017)*

The Dashboard Initiative of the International Land Coalition (ILC) is both an internal planning tool (to direct its strategic interventions towards attaining the People Centered Land Governance) and its contribution to the monitoring of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests and Fisheries (VGGT) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Recognizing the various initiatives of its members in the area of land governance monitoring, a regional expert consultation was organized: i) to position the initiative squarely among similar land monitoring proposals, ii) to define the indicators that will be used, and iii) to establish an agreed-upon strategy for its effective implementation. ANGOC and Land Watch Asia (LWA) partners such as ALRD, CSRC, KPA, PAFID and XSF participated to share the land monitoring initiatives of LWA and their respective organizations. For the LWA campaign, there are possibilities for exchange of information and sharing of experiences on major thematic areas such as land grabs, displacement, and access to and distribution of land.

### *ILC Asia Steering Committee Meeting (Bogor, Indonesia; 28-29 August 2017)*

The meeting reviewed the status of implementation of the 2017 work plan, prepared for the Asia Land Forum and Regional Assembly and met with National Organizing Committee (NOC) in relation to the 2018 Global Land Forum (GLF). Under the guidance of the Committee, the 2017 work plan has been updated, major activities charted for the regional land forum and clarified expectations with NOC in relation to the work program for the GLF.

### *32<sup>nd</sup> CIRDAP Technical Committee Meeting (Comilla, Bangladesh; 3-6 May 2017)*

Representatives from 12 of the 15 members of the Centre on Integrated Rural Integrated Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) gathered in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Technical Committee at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Comilla, Bangladesh on 3-6 May 2017. Aimed at fostering participation of and dialogue between various stakeholders in promoting sustainable rural development in the Asia-Pacific, this meeting focused on reviewing Members' programs on poverty alleviation.

Bangladesh Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD&C) Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Rural Development and Cooperative Division Secretary In-Charge Ananda Chandra Biswas, Rural and Regional Development Relation Affairs of Malaysia Minister Aziza Binte Ahmad, and BRAD Director General Muhammad Moududur Rashid Shofdar were present in the meeting. The Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) as national network member and Board of Director, represented ANGOC in the said event. With the finalization of CIRDAP's new strategic plan, partnerships and networks will be broadened among governments in other countries as well as among civil society organizations working on rural development.

As such, the discussion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ANGOC and CIRDPAP has been concluded and will be signed in the next Governing Council of CIRDPAP. The major elements of the MoU are expected to be as follows:

- ANGOC will share its publications to the planned CIRDPAP's e-library. Translation of ANGOC publications to the different languages of member-countries of CIRDPAP will be explored.
- ANGOC to take the responsibility for identifying and linking its member organizations and partners with the CIRDPAP member-countries to enhance CIRDPAP's linkages and collaboration in the areas of land, agriculture, food security, and other land-related issues.
- ANGOC and its LWA partners shall present its CSO Land Monitoring Reports and other knowledge products on land rights and smallholder agriculture to enhance the dialogue process between CSOs and governments on the major challenges and strategic actions on land governance in the region.
- CIRDPAP and ANGOC to jointly develop collaborative actions to build on and expand on ANGOC's ongoing initiative on participatory evidenced-based documentation linking access to land and food security.

On the other hand, ALRD will organize a meeting with CIRDPAP Head Quarter in Bangladesh to discuss Bangladesh Government's project on "One House, One Farm" as an initiative to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh.

### ***Global Soil Week 2017 (Scandic Berlin Potsdamer Plants, Berlin, Germany; 22-24 May 2017)***

Coordinated by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies e.V. (IASS), the GSW2017 "Catalyzing SDG Implementation through Soil and Land Review" has three parallel working groups: a) sustaining and upscaling achievements of Sustainable Land Management Initiatives [data, knowledge, and action]; b) right to defend land [strengthening accountability at the local level through thematic reviews]; and c) protecting land resources for shared prosperity.

ANGOC facilitated one of the working groups of the thematic workshop on "Right to (defend) Land: Strengthening accountability at the local level through thematic reviews." The working group recommended that in order to be inclusive and consultative, it is essential to have diverse approaches and methodologies in data gathering and analysis towards the preparation of SDG reviews.

Specifically, governments should utilize a multi-source approach of using existing national data and statistics along with community/citizen-generated data and other alternative sources of data. Likewise, in addition to existing SDG indicators, governments should incorporate alternative/proxy indicators and data to broaden the scope of covering only documented and formal land rights. Finally, governments should ensure transparency in all stages of the SDG review process (data gathering, analysis, report writing and dissemination strategy).

*Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on SDG Indicator 1.4.2 (World Bank Headquarters, Washington D.C, USA; 25-26 May 2017)*

A major challenge for the SDG indicators is the need to have globally comparable data given that land concepts are highly country and regional specific (e.g. SDG indicator 1.4.2 on tenure security). As such, the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) has classified this indicator 1.4.2 under Tier III, because the conceptual clarity on the methodology is still being developed and baseline data are being compiled. Given that only Tier I indicators will be mainstreamed in the data reporting plans for UN member states, the Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) and the Global Land Indicator Initiative (GLII) have requested the two custodian agencies (UN-Habitat and World Bank) to fast track the reclassification of the land indicator to Tier II status. An Expert Group Meeting was convened with the view of developing a set of questions to be incorporated in existing national representation household surveys for measuring land tenure security indicator. ANGOC shared the Land Watch Asia land monitoring initiative, noting that indicators used by LWA can contribute in monitoring the implementation of global processes such as SDGs. In particular, alternative indicators and data generated through alternative methods can complement official data.

The following key activities were undertaken in the Philippines:

*National Dialogue on the Joint DAR-DENR-LRA-NCIP Administrative Order, No. 1, Series of 2012 (Brentwood Suites, Quezon City; 20 November 2017)*

In partnership with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), ANGOC and the Joint Action for Land Rights organized a national policy dialogue on the Joint DAR-DENR-LRA-NCIP Administrative Order, No. 1, Series of 2012 (JAO 1). The national dialogue was organized to (1) discuss and gather lessons from cases overlapping land claims within ancestral domains

of indigenous peoples and indigenous cultural communities; (2) validate existing policy recommendations for the revision of the policy; and (3) formulate concrete next steps on the particular cases, for the revision of the policy, and other initiatives. Representatives from 4 Indigenous Peoples Organizations participated as 2 shared their stories on how their rights to their ancestral domains were compromised in situations of overlapping land claims. Proposed revisions to the JAO 1 were presented by a writer's group organized by the National Anti-Poverty Commission Indigenous Peoples Sectoral Council and inputs were gathered from the participants present. Finally, a representative from the Office of the Cabinet Secretary urged the stakeholders present to support the efforts of the Office of the President to steer the review and revision of the JAO 1, and to address issues surrounding overlapping land claims in ancestral domains.

***National Multi-stakeholder Forum on Tenure and Climate Change (Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries, Quezon City; 10 November 2017)***

A national multi-stakeholder forum on tenure and climate change was conducted in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA), the FAO, GIZ, and the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) to build awareness among a broad set of stakeholders on the link between land tenure and climate change. The *“Scoping of Legislations on Climate Change and Natural Disasters vis-a-vis Tenure”* was presented, which findings reveal that though there are Philippine laws that govern land tenure and climate change, there are now laws that explicitly gather the link between them. As for international instruments, only the VGGT explicitly discusses this link given the context of intensifying natural disasters and climate change. As well, the *“Discussion Paper on Climate Change and Land Tenure in the Philippines: A scoping of legislations, recent field experiences, and their implications for land tenure and climate change policies”* was presented. The presentation lifted lessons from experiences from the 2 strongest typhoons that has hit the Philippines, if not the world: Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) and Washi (Locally known as Sendong). Lessons on the importance of tenure and its governance in climate change adaptation and mitigation were discussion therein.

*National Multi-stakeholder Forum on the Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Small-Scale Fisheries (Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries, Quezon City; 2 October 2017)*

Similar to the national multi-stakeholder forum on tenure and climate change, a multi-stakeholder forum on the VGSSF was organized by the ANGO in partnership with the DA, FAO, GIZ, and PCAF to build awareness among a broad set of stakeholders on the VGSSF and its importance of securing small-scale fisheries in the Philippines. The “*Scoping Paper on the VGSSF and the Philippine Policies and Laws on Fisheries*” was discussed revealing that around 1.8 million municipal fishers in the Philippines contribute to more than 26 percent of the country’s total fish production. However, small fisherfolk remain among the poorest of the poor, with 39.2 percent of fishers living below the poverty line. In this regard, the VGSSF may provide guidance to national and local government offices through its rights-based recognition of the important role of small-scale fisheries in meeting the nutritional and socioeconomic needs of Filipinos.

*ILC-NES meeting with Vice President Maria Leonor G. Robredo (Office of the Vice President, Quezon City; 22 August 2017)*

Recognizing the importance of the Anti-Poverty Program of the Office of the Vice President (OVP), National Engagement Strategy (NES) in the Philippines met with Vice President Maria Leonor “Leni” Gerona Robredo on 22 August 2017 to explore possibilities of partnerships with the initiatives of the NES platform. NES Philippines believes that the Anti-Poverty Framework of the OVP can be enhanced by the actions of the network on land rights, as access to land and tenurial security are essential elements in poverty and hunger reduction, particularly in rural Philippines.

*VGSSF Orientation and Validation Workshop and Coron Provincial Consultation (Coron, Palawan, Philippines; 11 August 2017)*

The provincial consultation in Coron served as a follow-up to the focus group discussion (FGD) conducted for building the case study on “The Ancestral Lands and Waters of the Indigenous Tagbanwa Communities of Northern Palawan.” This case study discusses the access, rights, and management of the Tagbanwa peoples over their ancestral waters. The awarding of a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) to the Calamian Tagbanwa tribe has allowed them



them to better assert their rights to and conserve water areas which are of traditional significance to them and which are the main source of their livelihood. However, the Tagbanwa still face conflicts with the municipal government, especially on matters related to the recognition and management of their ancestral waters. The provincial consultation was attended by 54 individuals – 45 males and 9 females, representing various organizations: 1 from FAO, 3 from CSOs, 12 from indigenous Tagbanwa peoples organizations and 8 from local government units and local offices of agencies. The event functioned as a learning session on the VGSSF, as a validation workshop on the “Scoping Paper on the VGSSF and Philippine Policies and Laws on Fisheries,” and on the findings of the case study. Participants were asked to provide inputs and recommendation to the working papers, and were also solicited for policy recommendations and best community practices. The consultation also opened up avenues for engagement between the IP-fisherfolk community and the local government of Coron and Busuanga, Palawan.

*VGSSF Orientation and Validation Workshop and Infanta Provincial Consultation (Infanta, Quezon, Philippines; 28 June 2017)*

A provincial consultation was held in Infanta, Quezon to orient participants on the contents of the VGSSF, to validate the findings of the “Scoping Paper on the VGSSF and Philippine Policies and Laws on Fisheries,” and of the case study entitled “Access and Rights to Water Resources in Infanta and Polillo Group of Islands, Quezon.” The case study in Quezon outlines how local communities have joined together with CSOs and local governments in demanding for the closure of illegal fishponds established by private individuals on mangrove areas. The communities are now able to manage these fishing resources. At present however, these communities are also faced with the challenge of dealing with the destructive effects of the human settlements along mangrove areas. The consultation was attended by 16 participants (9 males and 7 females) from the fishing communities and community-based organizations in Infanta and Polillo, and from local government offices in the case study areas. As in Coron, the provincial consultation served as an avenue for deepening participants’ understanding of the present issues, for discussing policy recommendations and best practices, and for establishing regular engagements between the local government and small-scale fishers in the communities.

*Orientation Seminar on VGGT and VGSSF for Government Agencies, Hotel Dominique, Tagaytay, Philippines; 26-28 April 2017)*

This orientation-seminar was organized by the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) through the Letter of Agreement (LoA) between FAO and ANGOC as a component of the Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) entitled, “Mainstreaming Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure (VGGT): Philippines,” supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The overall goal of this TCP is to enhance the government’s capacity to strengthen land tenure governance consistent with the principles and standards of the VGGT.

Representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Finance (DOF), the Department of the Agrarian Reform (DAR), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) participated in the three-day orientation-seminar. Through the event, participants were able to: i) understand and appreciate the background, objectives, and major topics of the VGGT and VGSSF; and ii) identify key challenges, and recommend solutions and possible areas of collaboration for government agencies in improving land governance.

The seminar concluded with participants’ unanimous recognition of the following:

- the VGGT’s provisions ought to be incorporated in the review, revision, creation, and implementation of tenure policies;
- the Land Sector Development Framework must be updated and mainstreamed through broad-based, multi-stakeholder consultations;
- policies must be framed within the inter-linkages among tenure security, food security, poverty reduction, disasters, and climate change adaptation; and,
- the harmonization of fragmented policies and coinciding NGA institutional mandates is in order to prevent the furtherance of tenure-related issues such as the increasing prevalence of overlapping land claims and titles.

*Project Inception Workshop of TCP Mainstreaming VGGT Philippines (Richmonde Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines; 6-7 March 2017)*

The overall goal of this Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is to contribute to the government's capacity to strengthen land tenure governance consistent with the VGGT principles and standards. Its foreseen impact is *strengthened policies, legal instruments and procedures contributing to enhance land and natural resources governance and improve tenure security*. The intended project outcome is that *principles outlined in the VGGT mainstreamed among key institutions dealing with the tenure of land and fisheries*. The TCP has three components: a) review of land sector development framework with Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as lead, b) updating of Philippine land valuation system with Department of Finance (DoF) as lead, and c) mainstreaming VGGT and VGSSF as assigned to ANGOC.

*Policy Dialogue on the Status of Implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) without Mandate to Issue of Notices of Coverage (Sta. Fe Resort, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Philippines; 31 July 2017)*

In partnership with Kaisahan tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan tungo sa Kaunlaran (Kaisahan for Solidarity towards Agrarian Reform and Rural Development), the Provincial Agrarian Reform Office, and Social Action Centers (SACs) of Negros Occidental held a Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program with Extension and Reforms (CARPER) Tripartite Advocacy 2017 with the Theme: "Strengthening Tripartism towards People's Agenda for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development." The Tripartite Advocacy forum served as a venue for the DAR Regional Director to provide updates on Land Acquisition and Distribution in Negros Occidental and for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) affiliated with Kaisahan and the SACs to raise their concerns with the implementation of CARPER in their respective localities in the presence of concerned national and local officials and personnel of DAR. Action points were earned for the issues raised by the ARBs. DAR committed to revise various policies on fast-tracking implementation of LAD regardless of the absence of mandate to issue Notices of Coverage, combat illegal land use conversion, and capacity development of ARBs.

***Policy Dialogue on Overlapping Land Claims (Demiren Hotel Restaurant, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, Philippines; 19-20 June 2017)***

In partnership with Balaod Mindanaw, Xavier Science Foundation-Institute of Land Governance (XSF-ILG), the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro and PAFID conducted a policy dialogue on overlapping land claims in Northern Mindanao. Representatives from 7 Indigenous Peoples Organizations from Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental shared stories on how their rights to their ancestral domains were compromised in situations of overlapping land claims in the presence of national, regional and local government representatives from the DAR, DENR, NCIP, DILG, NEDA, DA and CSOs. Notable government officials present were the Directors of the Bureau of Land Tenure Improvement (BLTI) of DAR and Land Management Bureau (LMB) of DENR. Cases discussed revolved on overlapping claims of ancestral domains with agrarian reform, agribusiness, forestry, pasturelands, and mining. It was agreed that the Joint DAR-DENR-LRA-NCIP Administrative Order 01 Series of 2012 or JAO 1 should be revised to ensure equity in the recognition of tenure and natural resource access arrangements of land and natural resource stakeholders, particularly giving equitable footing for indigenous peoples to have their tenure over their ancestral domains recognized by the state. Other agreements emerged: CSOs and IPOs should be part of the review, revision and implementation of the JAO 1; strengthen oversight functions in the implementation of the JAO 1; build the capacities of stakeholders to deal with overlapping land claims especially of the NCIP, LGUs, and IPs.

***Land Monitoring Training (Dynasty Hotel, Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental, Philippines; 29-31 March 2017)***

ANGOC conducted a workshop on “Training on Land Monitoring towards Enhancing Land Rights” with BALAOD Mindanaw. Twenty-two (15 males, 7 females) Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) representing 8 people’s organizations from Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental participated in the training workshop. The training aimed to: broaden the understanding of HRDs on land monitoring in support of their advocacy plans; and enhance the capacities of HRDs on land monitoring. Outputs of the training workshop include: 8 draft land monitoring plans with feedback, 8 draft case briefs with feedback, 8 draft request letters with feedback.

## *Land Monitoring Training (Montebello Villa Hotel, Cebu City, Philippines; 22-24 February 2017)*

ANGOC conducted a workshop on “Training on Land Monitoring towards Enhancing Land Rights” – with KAISAHAN. Thirty-eight (12 males, 26 females) HRDs representing 21 people’s organizations from Negros Occidental and Leyte participated in the training workshop. The training aimed to: broaden the understanding of HRDs on land monitoring in support of their advocacy plans; and enhance the capacities of HRDs on land monitoring. Outputs of the training workshop include: 21 draft land monitoring plans with feedback, 21 draft case briefs with feedback, 21 draft request letters with feedback.

## *Advocacy Training for Land Rights (Dynasty Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines; 10-12 January 2017)*

Jointly organized by ANGOC and BALAOD Mindanaw as part of the Joint Action Land Rights project, this advocacy training program broadened the understanding of human rights defenders on policy advocacy and campaigns in relation to their land issues, and enhanced the capacities of HRD on land rights advocacy and campaign. Twenty-four participants from 4 HRD groups in the provinces of Negros and Ormoc participated in the training course.

## *Advocacy Training for Land Rights (Montebello Villa Hotel, Cebu City, Philippines; 23-26 January 2017)*

Jointly organized by ANGOC and KAISAHAN as part of the Joint Action Land Rights project, this advocacy training program broadened the understanding of human rights defenders on policy advocacy and campaigns in relation to their land issues, and enhanced the capacities of HRD on land rights advocacy and campaign. Thirty-seven participants from 20 HRD groups in the provinces of Negros and Ormoc participated in the training course.

# Smallholder Agriculture towards Sustainable Food Systems and Livelihood

## *Context*

Strengthening smallholder agriculture as key to building vibrant food systems to feed growing urban demand hogged the headlines in 2017. Small-scale farmers and transforming rural economies to stem the tide of rural out-migration became hot topics in the development agenda.



Meeting the 2030 development agenda now rests heavily on how policymakers heed calls to tap the vast potential of rural areas for economic growth, which is closely linked to growing urban food demand. There have been evidences of rural economic changes creating huge impacts on the welfare of farming communities and, in the process, slowing the relocation of the younger workforce to urban centers.

This strategy has become critical as millions of young people in developing economies are poised to enter the labor market in the coming decades, with urban areas seen once more as their likely destination. There are fears that urban markets, including in developing economies in South Asia, may not have jobs for these new entrants due to weak growth in industries and in the service sector. Robust small-scale farms that feed the demand of small urban centers are seen as a best option to keep the young workforce from leaving rural areas.

## *ANGOC's contribution in promoting smallholder agriculture*

A big chunk of ANGOC's work for smallholder agriculture was anchored to the growing need for innovations that are seen to boost capabilities of communities to achieve and sustain food security. It trained the spotlight on nurturing rootedness in rural environment to stem the tide of rural out-migration due to issues of food and hunger. The network also participated in multi-stakeholder programs at the global level to build collective actions to improve agri-food research and innovation. ANGOC focused on helping to build the collection action on empowering communities as drivers of agricultural innovations.

## *Major Activities*

The 2017 World Food Day (WFD), “Transforming Migration: Invest in Rural Development,” focused on the link of migration to food security and rural development – ensuring that families are not forced to leave their homes due to hunger and poverty, particularly in the rural areas. Together with FAO, ANGOC celebrated WFD with the theme, ***Nurturing Rootedness in Rural Environment towards Resilient and Vibrant Communities.***



While land is valued with its ecological and economic services, land itself is intrinsic to the lives of rural communities – land bears their rural heritage and spirituality. Ensuring rootedness in the rural environment not only strengthens rural competitiveness through secure and equitable land tenure and access to natural resources, sustainable livelihoods, social cohesion, fulfilment of human rights, and preserving the natural and cultural heritage; it also helps address problems in urban communities by fostering peace, security, and development in the communities. Reinforcement of these values, therefore, precludes the issues brought by rural out-migration.

ANGOC sustained its advocacy for security of land and resource tenure among farmers and smallholders. The organization’s work in this area aimed to boost smallholders’ capabilities, for them to rely less on external help and for them to improve their ability to mitigate the risks of climate change.

Other activities in the area of smallholder agriculture and food security that ANGOC participated in this 2017 include:

*Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) Steering Committee Meeting (IFAD Headquarters, Rome Italy; 13-15 June 2017)*

The main agenda of the GFAR Steering Committee revolved around defining critical elements needed for collective actions to succeed. A *Collective Action (CA)* is a multi-stakeholder program of work initiated by three or more GFAR partners, which includes farmers, and contributes to GFAR's vision and mission. As such, these actions aim to strengthen and transform agri-food research and innovation systems toward development goals driven by stakeholder demand. Using the inputs from an online consultation process, the SC developed 14 CAs which shall be further developed by the GFAR partners.

ANGOC expressed interest in involvement in the CA on empowering rural communities as drivers of agricultural innovations, through contributing to the area of capacity enhancement on advocacy and negotiation. Towards this end, ANGOC has been organizing regional capacity building programs for CSOs and people's organizations on such areas in pursuit of land/ agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture, and participatory governance. ANGOC shall also be involved by reviewing and sharpening its food security monitoring framework, developed in 1998 after the World Food Summit, towards the redefinition of the metrics for providing investments to agricultural innovations.

*GFAR Steering Committee Meeting (FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy; 8-9 February 2017)*

As one of the elected CSO representatives to the GFAR Steering Committee, ANGOC participated in the deliberation of the following items: governance, crafting the new GFAR Medium Term Plan and Collective Actions, and the communication system of GFAR. For the next three years, the Steering Committee identified five key focus areas: i) Enabling and empowering sustainable rural communities; ii) Increasing knowledge flow for development impact; iii) Supporting transformative learning and youth leadership development; iv) Changing value systems and metrics to deliver the SDGs; and v) Enabling sustainable rural enterprises. These areas will further be refined as the GFAR Medium Term Plan is finalized. The Steering Committee members recognized that within this frame, there is tremendous opportunity for a wide range of new and existing networked actions towards specific SDG outcomes.



# Institutional Updates

The 33rd ANGOC Board of Directors Meeting was convened last 16 October 2017 at the ANGOC Regional Secretariat Office in Quezon City, Philippines. The Board decided on the following:

- approval of the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting (April 2015) and the caucus of ANGOC (October 2015);
- approval of the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports and the 2016 Audit Report;
- formalization of the Memorandum of Understanding between ANGOC and the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP);
- identification of strategies in the role of the members towards enhancing the sustainability of the network;
- approval of the 2017-2018 work plan of the Regional Secretariat; and
- constitution of the Governance and Membership Review Committee.



ANGOC is a member of the Council of the International Land Coalition (ILC) and a steering committee member of both GFAR and ILC Asia.

# 2017 List of Knowledge Products

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- ANGOC. (2017). *From the Farmland to the Table: Exploring the Links Between Tenure and Food Security*. Quezon City: ANGOC and GLTN.
- ANGOC. (2017). *Land as a Human Right: An Imperative towards the Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals*. Lok Niti. Vol. 1, No. 1.1, 2017. Quezon City: ANGOC.
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- Realtalk. (2017). *A peek on PH fisheries situation*. [Online article written for ANGOC and the VGGT TCP: <https://www.realtalk.news/stories/data/philippine-ips-by-policies-and-numbers/>]
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- Uprety, L. and Basnet, J. (2017). *Study on Continuum of Land and Property Rights in Nepal*. Quezon City: ANGOC and CSRC.

## Video

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- Probe Productions, Inc. *Soundbites: Farmer's Right to Land*. [Abridged Video documentation prepared for ANGOC and the Joint Action for Land Rights].
- Probe Productions, Inc. *Farmer's Right to Land*. [Full Video documentation prepared for ANGOC and the Joint Action for Land Rights].

## Poster

- ANGOC. (2017). *Nurturing Rootedness in the Rural Environment towards Resilient and Vibrant Communities*. [World Food Day Poster].

# 2017 Calendar of Major Activities

## JANUARY

- 10-12 *JALR Advocacy Training for Land Rights* (Dynasty Hotel, Cagayan de Oro, Philippines)
- 23-26 *JALR Advocacy Training for Land Rights* (Montebello Villa Hotel, Cebu City, Philippines)

## FEBRUARY

- 6 *CSO Roundtable Discussion on the Philippines' Experience on Tenure Reform in Public Lands: The Case of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program* (DENR Central Office, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 8-9 *GFAR Steering Committee Meeting* (FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy)
- 22-24 *JALR Land Monitoring Training* (Montebello Villa Hotel, Cebu City, Philippines)

## MARCH

- 6-7 *Project Inception Workshop of Technical Cooperation Programme on Mainstreaming the VGGT in the Philippines* (Richmonde Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 20-24 *World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty* (World Bank Headquarters, Washington D.C., USA)

## APRIL

- 18-21 *GIS Tools for Development Workers: Advocacy, Agrarian Reform and Indigenous Peoples* (Brentwood Suites Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 26-28 *Orientation Seminar on the VGGT and VGSSF for Government Agencies* (Hotel Dominique, Tagaytay City, Philippines)

## MAY

- 3-6 *Thirty-Second CIRDAP Technical Committee Meeting* (Camilla, Bangladesh)
- 15 *Land Sector Development Framework Consultation* (Hotel Jen, Pasay City, Philippines)
- 22-24 *Global Soil Week 2017* (Scandic Berlin Potsdamer Plants, Berlin Germany)
- 25-26 *Expert Group Meeting on SDG Indicator 1.4.2* (World Bank Headquarters, Washington D.C., USA)

## JUNE

- 13-15 *GFAR Steering Committee Meeting* (IFAD Headquarters, Rome, Italy)
- 19-20 *Policy Dialogue on Overlapping Land Claims* (Demiren Hotel Restaurant, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines)
- 27-28 *VGSSF Orientation and Validation Workshop and Provincial Consultation* (Fiesta Infanta, Infanta, Quezon, Philippines)
- 29 *CSO Roundtable Discussion on the Land Sector Development Framework Review* (DENR Central Office, Quezon City, Philippines)

## JULY

- 10-15 *ILC NES Global Workshop* (Hotel Reina Isabel, Quito, Ecuador)
- 20 *State of Environment Address and People's March to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources* (Quezon City Memorial Circle, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 21 *State of the Environment Jam* (Sagul Food Park, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 25 *Green Joke: A Comedy Show for the Environment* (Historia Boutique Bar and Restaurant, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 27 *Land rights scorecard assessment: Ang tunay na repormang agraryo* (Partnership Center, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 31 *Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program with Extension and Reforms Tripartite Advocacy Conference* (Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Philippines)
- 31 *Study Tour Visit of the National Association of Young Entrepreneurs Students of Taiwan* (ANGOC Office, Quezon City, Philippines)

## AUGUST

- 4 *VGSSF Forum with Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Reform* (BFAR Office, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 11 *VGSSF Provincial Consultation* (Darayonan Lodge, Coron, Palawan, Philippines)
- 15-16 *ILC NES-Philippines Review and Planning* (SEARSOLIN, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines)



- 18 *General Assembly of the Peoples Campaign for Agrarian Reform [AR Now!]* (Verjandel Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 12 ILC NES Philippines Dialogue with the Office of the Vice President of the Philippines (OVP Office, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 28-29 *ILC Asia Steering Committee Meeting* (Hotel Whiz, Bogor, Indonesia)
- 30-31 *Asia Regional Meeting of Experts on ILC's Dashboard Initiative* (Hotel Whiz, Bogor, Indonesia)

## SEPTEMBER

- 1-5 *Drone Training* (KEF, Dagwey Training Center, Imugan, Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines)
- 7 *Provincial Consultation on Tenure and Climate Change* (Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines)
- 12 *Asia Land Forum* (Damas Hotel, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)
- 13-15 *ILC Asia Regional Assembly* (Korony 3 Hotel, Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan)
- 21-22 *ANGOC Mid-Year Review and Planning* (Hotel Dominique, Tagaytay City, Philippines)
- 28 *Provincial Consultation on Tenure and Climate Change* (Hotel Rodolfo, Tacloban City, Leyte, Philippines)

## OCTOBER

- 2 *National Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the VGSSF* (Department of Agriculture, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 11 *Stakeholders' Meeting on the Joint Administrative Order #1 series of 2012* (Malacañang, Manila City, Philippines)
- 15 *33rd ANGOC Board Meeting* (ANGOC Office, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 16-17 *Regional Forum on Continuum of Land Rights and Food Security* (Verjandel Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 19 *Writers' Planning Meeting on UNGP on Business and Human Rights* (ANGOC Office, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 20 *Southeast Asia Regional Workshop on UNGP on Business and Human Rights and Land Rights* (Verjandel Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines)

## NOVEMBER

- 7-8 *Asia-Pacific Learning Exchange of GLTN CSO Partners: Strengthening Land Tenure Security for Urban Poverty Reduction in Asia-Pacific* (Bayview Park Hotel, Manila City, Philippines)
- 8-9 *NAPC-IP Sectoral Council Writeshop on the JAO 1* (Madison 101 Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 10 *National Multi-stakeholder Forum on Tenure and Climate Change* (Department of Agriculture, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 20 *National Dialogue on the Joint Administrative Order #1* (Brentwood Suites Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 28 *EU Special Rapporteur on Human Rights CSO Consultation* (RCBC Plaza, Makati City, Philippines)
- 28-29 *VGGT Project Advisory Committee Meeting and Technical Working Group Presentation of Outputs* (Sulo Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 29-30 *JALR Learning Exchange* (San Vicente, Sumilao, Bukidnon, Philippines)

## DECEMBER

- 11 *ILC Membership Committee Meeting* (IFAD Headquarters, Rome, Italy)
- 12-14 *ILC Council Meeting* (Abitart Hotel, Rome, Italy)
- 26-28 *ANGOC Writeshop for JALR Publications* (Baguio City, Benguet, Philippines)

# List of Board of Directors (2015-2018)

Chairperson: Rohini Reddy, SARRA (India)

Vice Chairperson: Chet Charya, STAR Kampuchea (Cambodia)

## Members:

Rowshan Jahan Moni, ALRD (Bangladesh)

Haoming Huang, CANGO (China)

Surendra Kumar, GPF (India)

Dwi Astuti, Bina Desa (Indonesia)

Jagat Banset, CSRC (Nepal)

Daya Sagar Shrestha, NFN (Nepal)

Caridad Corridor, PhilDHRRA (Philippines)

Chaminda Rajakaruna, SARVODAYA (Sri Lanka)

Roel Ravanera (Individual)

Fr. Francis Lucas, Chair Emeritus

# List of Members

## *Bangladesh*

Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD)  
Community Development Association (CDA)

## *Cambodia*

STAR Kampuchea

## *China*

China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO)

## *India*

Asian Institute for Rural Development (AIRD)  
Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD)  
Gandhi Peace Foundation (GPF)  
South Asia Rural Reconstruction Association (SARRA)

## *Indonesia*

Bina Desa  
Bina Swadaya  
Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI)

## *Nepal*

Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC)  
NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN)

## *Philippines*

Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA)  
South East Asia Rural and Social Leadership Institute (SEARSOLIN)

## *Sri Lanka*

Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement (SARVODAYA)