

2021 ANGOC Annual Report

Land Rights Movements Endure through the COVID-19 Pandemic



Founded in 1979, the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) is a regional association of national and regional networks of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Asia actively engaged in promoting food sovereignty, land rights and agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture, participatory governance, and rural development. ANGOC network members and partners work in 10 Asian countries together with some 3,000 ANGOC CSOs and community-based organizations (CBOs). ANGOC actively engages in joint field programs and policy

discussions with national governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and international financial institutions (IFIs).

The complexity of Asian realities and diversity of CSOs highlight the need for a development leadership to service the poor of Asia --providing a forum for articulation of their needs and aspirations as well as expression of Asian values and perspectives. Thus, the ANGOC network shall advocate and promote land and resource rights, smallholder agriculture, and human rights and civic participation, by serving as a platform for Asian CSOs to generate knowledge, share tools, and conduct constructive policy dialogues.

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2021 ANGOC Annual Report



Land Rights Movements Endure through the COVID-19 Pandemic

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ANGOC 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.

ANGOC Mission Statement

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

ANGOC Goal Statement

For 2021 to 2025, the ANGOC network shall: a) advocate for land and resource rights of the rural poor; b) promote smallholder agriculture towards sustainable food systems and livelihoods; and, c) protect civic and democratic spaces through a broad platform of Asian CSOs, communities, and individuals that challenges the development agenda, reforms institutions, and fosters the exchange of critical lessons, tools and approaches.

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Message of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, and Executive Director

As the world continues to recover from the havoc brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the threat of the virus remains. The destruction of the environment, increased incidences of poverty and hunger, intensified land and resource conflicts, and the shrinking democratic spaces in a number of countries in the region have slowed down the progress of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

More than ever, civil society organizations (CSOs) continue to be agents of democratic expression in search for a more just, sustainable, and inclusive approaches to sustainable development. With limited mobility and interactions with communities done through online means, the monitoring role that CSOs perform remain critical to increase transparency and accountability.

For 2021, six major studies were prepared and used for dialogues with governments and international organizations.

First, with the growing land grabbing phenomenon and the conflicts that it has inevitably spawned across the region, Lok Niti: Land grabs and dispossession provide key perspectives on how and why land grabbing is happening in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines.

Second, as 2021 marks a decade since the UN Human Rights Council unanimously endorsed the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the publication Mainstreaming Land Rights in the UNGPs provides the status of Implementation of the UNGPs and civil society recommendations on including land rights in the National Action Plan of the UNGPs.

Third, the second volume of *In defense of land rights: A monitoring report on land conflicts in six Asian countries*, kept track of the nature, drivers, and impacts of land conflicts in six countries amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative also involved the use of common methodologies for gathering information on land and resource conflicts and attacks against rights defenders. Resolving land conflicts would necessitate addressing their roots, which would entail (a) building food security and agricultural strategies based on smallholder or family farming and agrarian reforms; (b) recognition and protection of customary and traditional land rights;

c) delineation and allocation of rights to lands under the so-called "public domain;" (d) reviewing the scope of "public interest" in State-led acquisitions; and, (e) questioning the role of the State and officials as "brokers" for private land investments.

Fourth, while the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 1.4 signifies a new global recognition that secure land tenure should be a central strategy in combating poverty, the land agenda has not been prominent in recent SDG reporting processes of governments. Thus, the publication Getting a Clearer Picture: Civil Society Reports on the Progress Towards SDG Target 1.4 in Seven Asian Countries, 2020 identifies gaps in reporting on land under the SDGs and assesses the implementation progress on addressing land rights under SDG 1.4.

Fifth, the publication *No* Time to Waste: Climate action through secure land rights and sustainable land use describes the links between land rights, climate change, and resource management. While climate change affects everyone, it disproportionately impacts the lives and livelihoods of those who are poor and lack land tenure rights. The publication also shares experiences from rural communities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and the Philippines.

Sixth, a major constraint to the productivity of farmers is their lack of access to sufficient support and credit for investing in crops, technology, or security amidst risks and in the face of shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic. The study, The Pest Called Credit Insecurity: Case Studies on Agricultural Credit Programs for Smallholder Farmers in Five Asian Countries analyze the relevance, appropriateness, accessibility, and usefulness of the selected agricultural credit programs; and, outline recommendations for government lending institutions to improve smallholders' access to and utilization of such programs.

We would like to thank the ANGOC Network and Land Watch Asia members in these collective efforts to advance land rights and promote smallholder agriculture in the region.

Chet Charya Chairperson

Jitram Lama Vice Chairperson (South Asia) Iwan Nurdin Vice Chairperson (Southeast Asia)

Nathaniel Don Marquez Executive Director

Reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic

Around 75 percent of the world's farming households are located in Asia, most of which are family farmers and small-scale producers. Small farmers in the region significantly contribute to the world's supply of staples such as rice, corn, root crops, and pulses.¹ Ironically, agricultural producers are among the poorest and most food-insecure segments of Asian populations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe disruptions in food supply chains, undermining the ability of small food producers to access their land and the natural resources they need, thereby rendering them more vulnerable to encroachment on their tenure rights.

Throughout Asia today, small food producers are finding their movements severely restricted, leaving them more vulnerable to encroachment on their tenure rights. On the other hand, certain large-scale land-based investments, such as mining, have been declared as essential services, thus benefiting from expedited administrative decisions and some de-regulation. There are already documented cases of deals on contested lands, increasing conflicts, evictions, and other land rights-related violations in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, government measures to protect vulnerable populations, including from evictions, have been ignored in certain places. Women and youth have been particularly exposed to internal pressures to relinquish their rights to more powerful family or community members.

At the same time, rural women have become more vulnerable to gender-based complexities administrative violence. The of government procedures and discriminatory customary and social norms can put women at risk, especially in places where birth certificates, land titles, and other legal documents are entrusted to male family members. Given the social and customary barriers, as well as the difficulties in navigating these administrative requirements, it can be particularly difficult for women to secure their land rights. Women often face greater economic losses as a result of such crises (including the COVID-19 pandemic) due to their greater vulnerabilities and lack of tenure security. There are reports of women being forced to cede their land after losing their husbands to COVID-19.

¹ https://angoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Agrarian_Reforms_in-Asia_Global_Land_Forum-Bandung_2018.pdf

Lockdowns to contain the spread of COVID-19 have made farmers and indigenous people more vulnerable to losing their land. Farmers have been unable to tend to their fields, and some indigenous people kept from forests because of restrictions on movement, making it easier for illegal loggers and companies to encroach their land.

From January to December 2020, the Land Watch Asia partners gathered at least **1,371** *reported* **cases** of land and resource conflicts in the six Asian countries, covering **6.47 million hectares**, and affecting **2.37 million households**. Over three-fourths of the affected community sectors were small farmers and indigenous peoples. The main drivers in 70 percent of land conflict cases are private investments and government projects. State agencies were reported as the main adversaries in land conflict with communities, brought about by government infrastructure and development projects. Many land conflicts have led to incidents of violence. There were 712 individual victims of violence and human rights violations (HRVs) in the 664 reported cases of land conflict in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines. In four countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines), there were 189 cases of violence committed against communities. These incidents directly affected 80,216 households, of which 29,507 households became victims of forcible eviction and displacement. They were driven away from their homes and lands, and in some cases, their houses were demolished, and crops destroyed.

Meanwhile, across a number of countries, civilians and social activists alike point out disturbing instances of increased State militarization and aggressive policing; government crackdowns on dissent, media and free speech. In the 2021 report published by the Asia Foundation, it noted that "the trend towards more authoritarian governance... is well established in many Asian countries..." and "the deterioration of political rights and civil liberties is reflected in the diminishing space for free media and growing restrictions on civil society" (Burke, 2021).

ANGOC's contribution in ensuring and defending land and resource rights

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

It is in this context that ANGOC and the Land Watch Asia (LWA) campaign have been advocating for transformative, effective land and resource policies and programs towards enhanced access to, control over, and ownership of land and resources by rural communities. At the same time, the campaign continues to enhance the capacities of Asian CSOs and rural communities in defending their rights to land and resources.

Highlights of the national campaigns are as follows:

Bangladesh

The Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) organized 11 national and local level seminars, roundtables, workshops, meetings, and public hearings (through online platform and in-person), focusing on land rights of indigenous communities and religious minorities, women's land rights, water rights, and protection of rivers from encroachment and pollution. Demand for *Khas* Land Recovery and Distribution Act has been created among the CSOs. Through technical and financial support from ALRD, a local partner assisted 69 landless farmers at Chatmohar, Pabna in applying for *khas* land and successfully completed the distribution of around 17 hectares of land. Similarly, its partner in Meherpur district facilitated 59 land-related mutations.

Cambodia

As a member of Land and Housing Rights Network (LAHRiN), STAR Kampuchea (SK) contributes to the advocacy and lobbying activities with the Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) on incorporating NGOs' inputs into the final version of the Environment and Social Risk Management Framework of Land Allocation for Social and Economic Development–III (LASED III).

LASED III is a World Bank-supported project of the Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Royal Government of Cambodia which aims to provide access to land tenure security, agricultural and social services, and selected infrastructure to small farmers and communities in the project areas.

On 26 June 2020, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a USD93-million credit from the International Development Association (IDA) for LASED III.

For the promotion of human rights and democracy, SK administers the Implementation on Social Accountability Framework (ISAF) and Innovative Social Accountability for Cambodia (ISAC) in three provinces of Cambodia. Through these initiatives, SK is able to engage the local authorities (service providers) and citizens (service receivers) to work together through using citizens' scorecards to promote good governance and public service. The service providers have changed their behaviors to be accountable and responsive on providing the services to their citizens.

India

On 6 March 2021, the Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD) organized a national consultation on the adverse impact of India's Farm Laws of 2020, which have now been repealed. This consultation was attended by over 50 individuals representing civil society organizations, media, and the academe.

Indonesia

KPA has been in the forefront in reaching and influencing the public opinion through policy studies and mass mobilizations to push the implementation of agrarian reform in Indonesia. Also, KPA has launched campaigns against the criminalization of land rights defenders, has provided paralegal trainings and legal aid, and has regularly prepared annual reports analyzing the agrarian conflicts and agrarian policy in the country.

Through the implementation of the Agrarian Reform Priority Location (LPRA) System, 655,000 hectares were secured and consolidated in 533 villages.

KPA has also contributed to the economic, social, and environmental improvement of partner-villages (covering more than eight hectares) through transformative agrarian reform. The main components of this program include restructuring land use, land control and ownership, production works, and the marketing and consumption systems.

Nepal

The Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) has been advocating for secure land tenure for landless, land-poor and tenant peasants to protect, promote and safe-guard their rights to access and own land. CSRC facilitated the identification of 18,400 landless persons and 79,334 informal settlers in 13 local governments. As a result, temporary certificates were issued to 24,397 families by the local Land Issues Facilitation Committees.

On the other hand, the NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) has likewise engaged in lobbying and advocacy to implement agrarian reform and land distribution policy for land ownership certificates to landless people. NFN supported the alliance building of NGOs working on land rights in Nepal and organized regular meetings, policy dialogue and seminars on issues.

Philippines

In partnership with the Bukluran ng mga Katutubo para sa Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan sa Pilipinas (Bukluran) and Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID), ANGOC contributed towards enhancing the capacities of indigenous peoples in recognizing and defending their land and resource rights over their traditional territories and natural resources. Some 54 learning materials (briefers and videos) covering 18 topics (key legislations, resource management, and institutional capacities including note taking, facing the media, conducting meetings, writing proposals, understanding financial statements) were developed and formatted into English, Tagalog, and Cebuano languages. A four-part webinar series was organized and participated by 51 indigenous peoples (31 males, 20 females) from seven organizations.

Building on the gains of previous efforts in improving the tenurial security of indigenous peoples in Bukidnon, southern Philippines, ANGOC in partnership with the Xavier Science Foundation, Inc. (XSF) through the **Secure Access to Land and Resources (SALaR) Project,** mapped, surveyed, and distributed certificates of customary land occupancy to 351 indigenous households. At the same time, three types of products were developed to enhance knowledge on land issues and influence policy and practice.

With the support of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), ANGOC spearheaded the documentation of the achievements, challenges, lessons, and emerging outcomes of the SALaR Project in Laos, the Philippines, and Uganda. ANGOC and GLTN jointly organized four online preparatory meetings and a three-day "online writeshop" with SALaR partners in the three countries. Through these exchanges, the country reports were finalized and a consolidated project summary was prepared and finalized by ANGOC. For details, see https://angoc.org/portal/securing-land-rights-of-smallholder-farmers-the-secure-access-to-land-and-resources-salar-project-experience-in-laos-the -philippines-and-uganda/

At the regional level, the major contributions of ANGOC and LWA to enhancing and protecting land rights are as follows:

- developed and piloted a land conflict monitoring tool in six countries as a contribution to efforts on enhancing capacities of CSOs in evidence-advocacy;
- increased awareness and understanding on the trends, drivers, impacts, and forwarded recommendations to address land and resource conflicts in six countries;
- deepened the understanding on land grabbing in selected sectors;
- contributed in reviving the land rights discussion in the SDGs by analyzing governments' progress towards achieving SDG Target 1.4 and broadening the discussion of land to include issues related to transparency in land governance and resource conflicts;
- monitored the status of and advocated for the formulation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), with emphasis on protecting land rights and ensuring food security; and,
- underscored the nexus of land rights, land use, and climate change, and the importance of incorporating land rights framework in addressing climate change and formulating disaster reduction plans.

These interventions were undertaken in partnership with the following organizations: Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD), Bina Desa, Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (CARRD), Centre for Legislative Research and Advocacy (CLRA), Community Development Association (CDA), Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC), Ekta Parishad (EP), Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU), Konsorsium Pembaruan Agrarian (KPA), National Association of Pasture Users (Kyrgyz Jayity), National Union of Water Users Associations of the Kyrgyz Republic (NUWUA), NGOs for Fisheries Reform (NFR), Peoples Campaign for Agrarian Reform Network, Inc. (AR Now!), Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID), South Asia for Rural Reconstruction Association (SARRA), Social Development Foundation (SDF), STAR Kampuchea (SK), and Xavier Science Foundation, Inc. (XSF).

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Land conflict monitoring

The prevalence of land conflicts in Asia raises questions about the state of land governance in the region. Land conflicts result in loss of livelihoods, violations of human rights, loss of lives, and should thus signal an urgency for government and other stakeholders to act.

Improving its methodology, the Land Watch Asia campaign produced the **second** volume of the publication *"In Defense of Land Rights"* covering Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines. Information on the cases and the attacks came from secondary sources – covering at least 1,371 reported cases affecting 2.37 million households and 6.47 million hectares of land. The summary report was presented and discussed during the thematic learning workshop organized by ANGOC in conjunction with the *Asia Land Forum* convened by the International Land Coalition – Asia last 27 October 2021.

- The main drivers in 70 percent of land conflict cases are private investments and government projects. In many cases, State agencies were reported as the main adversaries in land conflict with communities, brought about by government infrastructure and development projects.
- Many cases (23 percent) involve conflict over common resources such as water and fishery resources, coastal areas, forests, national parks, and protected areas.
- Many land conflicts have led to incidents of violence. There were 712 individual victims of violence and human rights violations (HRVs) related to land conflicts in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines.
- 49 individuals were killed 38 from the Philippines. 201 individuals were criminalized, most of them from Indonesia. 79 individuals were injured, 64 people were detained, and 213 were threatened with death, injury, detention, and displacement.
- Nearly 60 percent of alleged perpetrators of violence against individuals are from the military or police.
- In four countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines) incidents of land conflict-related violence affected 80,216 households, of which 29,507 households became victims of forcible eviction and displacement. They were driven away from their homes and lands, and in some cases, their houses were demolished, and crops destroyed.
- Yet many impacts of land conflicts remain invisible and go unreported, e.g., effects on women and domestic abuse, schooling of children, and others.
- In Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, and the Philippines, a large portion of the affected communities (40 percent of the responses) involved political actions such as protests and demonstrations while others resorted to negotiation (20 percent), judicial courts/legal action (18 percent), government administrative bodies (16 percent) and local/customary systems (three percent).
- While some corrective actions were taken by governments (in 23 percent of cases) and by companies (in three percent of cases), no action was deemed taken in 71 percent of all cases. At the same time, the present database is not able to capture the information on whether communities are satisfied with the corrective actions instituted.

The report demanded that companies should exercise due diligence to prevent human rights abuses, and be accountable for any negative direct and indirect impacts which their operations might have on vulnerable populations. On the other hand, the protection of human rights, and not economic investments, should be the utmost priority of governments.

Resolving land conflicts would necessitate addressing their roots, which would entail:

 building food security and agricultural strategies based on smallholder or family farming and agrarian reforms;



- recognition and protection of customary and traditional land rights;
- delineation and allocation of rights to lands under the so-called "public domain" (State land, forest areas);
- reviewing the scope of "public interest" in State-led acquisitions; and,
- questioning the role of the State and officials as "brokers" for private land investments.

For more details, see https://angoc.org/portal/in-defense-of-land-rights-a-monitoring -report-on-land-conflicts-in-six-asian-countries-vol-2/

Land grab sectoral studies

LWA partners documented six cases of land grabbing which demonstrate that while there are differences in methods and approaches employed by perpetrators, there are common features that define land grabbing.

The land involved, for example, is usually larger than what is usually involved in ordinary buy-and-sell transactions. Fraud or force is often used to acquire the land and is resorted to by those in superior positions of money, power, knowledge, and privilege. Land grabbers may be individuals or companies, private or State-owned, local or foreign. And what is also significant is that land acquisition can be executed through legal means as the elite and powerful use their positions to use laws or bend the laws to their advantage. In Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, government policies encouraging investments in rapidly expanding plantations – sugarcane for Cambodia and oil palm for the Philippines and Indonesia – have consequently fostered land grabbing.

There are also cases where it is the national government itself that is primarily involved in land grabbing.

In Bangladesh, the national government adopted the policy of establishing economic zones to attract foreign investments to shore up the national accounts. Unfortunately, these economic zones have been carved out of prime agricultural lands, thus depriving too many of its citizens of their right over the land. Then in Nepal, public land that could have also gone to its own citizens who have long been waiting to take control of land they can call their own have been instead leased to private firms that promise to bring in tax revenue and also provide jobs.

In these cases, the government and State-run companies themselves have used their powers of eminent domain to acquire and transfer lands to the corporate sector to the gross disadvantage of their own citizens.

The case studies show four basic failures in land governance: a) the lack of transparency, accountability and popular empowerment that has caused elite capture of land and resources; b) faulty national legal systems that have failed to legally recognize the land rights of local users; c) the bias toward the protection of the needs of investors rather than the rights of the rural poor; and, d) the sidelining of smallholder production that is practiced by the majority of the region's agricultural workers.

Mainstreaming land rights in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)

The year 2021 marks a decade since the United Nations Human Rights Council unanimously endorsed the UNGPs. The guidelines thus present an opportunity for land rights advocacies to become the center of national and regional policy discussions.

Thus, to take stock of gains and plan steps that must be pursued, the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), with the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP), Land Watch Asia (LWA), UNDP Business and Human Rights Asia (UNDP B+HR Asia), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) in Southeast Asia, the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institution Forum (SEANF), and the International Land Coalition

(ILC) jointly organized a regional workshop on **Mainstreaming Land Rights in the UNGPs in Asia** in August 2021.

The workshop provided an opportunity for stakeholders to appreciate the relevance of incorporating land rights in the BHR discourse, particularly in the process of UNGP implementation, including development of a National Action Plan (NAP). Around 153 participants representing 68 organizations from 24 countries advocating for land rights in the implementation of BHR at the country and regional level were engaged. Such organizations involved CSOs, National Human Rights Institutions/Commissions, private sector groups, media, academe, State agencies leading the NAP-formulation in selected countries, and intergovernmental organizations. Based on the country reports, the progress of the six countries in instituting their respective NAPs has been assessed as follows:

Country	Phase	Observation
Bangladesh	Not Initiated	There is no information whether the government, aside from the Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, has committed to the institution of a NAP.
Cambodia	Not Initiated	There is no information if Cambodia has committed to the development of a NAP.
		There are efforts by some CSOs to campaign for the establishment of a National Human Rights Institute (NHRI).
India	Drafting	The Indian Ministry of Corporate Affairs issued a National Guideline for Responsible Business Climate under its NAP for the UNGPs. The NAP refers to a Zero Draft document issued in 2019. In addition, the focus of discussions for this NAP refers to labor rights.
Indonesia	Assessment and Consultation	By Presidential Decree, BHR was added to the 2015 to 2019 National Action Plan for Human Rights. However, the country report clarifies that the decree only mandates policymakers to have a better understanding of BHR. Unfortunately, this NAP has not been renewed after it expired in 2019.
Nepal	Not Initiated	Efforts at instituting a NAP are being hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic. The government has only made a verbal commitment to implement BHR.
Philippines	Initiation	While a prior commitment to institute a NAP for UNGPs was secured from the previous administration, the current administration has not taken proactive measures to pursue the process. In its thematic report to the UNWG, the government reiterated its support for the drafting of a NAP.

Although a protracted process, the formulation of the NAPs in the different countries can provide the platform to pursue the assertion of land rights as human rights. Three interrelated actions should be undertaken in framing the NAPs:

- continue efforts on popularizing or mainstreaming BHR in order for all the stakeholders to be aware of their responsibilities under the UNGPs;
- strengthen National Human Rights Institutions and Commissions with guaranteed independence and resources to perform an encompassing mandate in line with the Paris Principles to promote and protect human rights and implement the UNGPs; and,
- lobby for the formulation and adoption of NAPs for UNGPs, with a strong focus on protecting land rights.

For more details, see https://angoc.org/portal/mainstreaming-land-rights-in-theungps-a-situationer-on-the-united-nations-guiding-principles-on-business-andhuman-rights-in-selected-countries-in-asia-vol-2/

Reviving the land agenda in the Sustainable Development Goals

The target 1.4 under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 signifies a new global recognition that secure land tenure and access to natural resources and basic services, *especially for poor and vulnerable women and men*, should be central in the global strategy to fight poverty and social exclusion. SDG Indicator 1.4.2 specifies the parameters of land rights and measure of the progress in achieving Target 1.4: "Proportion of total adult population with secure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure."

However, reporting of governments on land rights is wanting. Thus, the Land Watch Asia campaign initiated the **CSO Report on SDG 1.4** as a contribution in sustaining the SDG reporting processes of governments, with emphasis on land-related targets.

Reports from LWA partners in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and the Philippines revealed that the SDGs have been incorporated into the medium- and long-term plans of their respective governments. However, most National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are still currently in the process of developing and further refining the methodologies and measurements of SDG 1.4.2. At the same time, the poor state of land records and land administration, the multiple agencies and sources of data on land tenure security, and the diversity of land tenure systems within

each country – all pose major challenges to the development of specific indicators and methodologies for gathering, consolidating, and reporting on SDG 1.4.2.

Further, none of the countries collect or report perception data on tenure rights, as stipulated under SDG 1.4.2. This is an important matter, in view of the fact that having some legal rights does not automatically guarantee security of tenure, especially if people perceive that their legitimate tenure rights are not adequately protected. Meanwhile, many CSOs have begun to conduct community-level focus group discussions and consultations about local-level perceptions of security of land tenure. These have led CSOs to realize the multiple threats local people face in the enjoyment of land tenure rights – including land grabbing, land disputes, development aggression, State expropriation, armed conflict, natural disasters and climate change.

The CSO reports are thus being used in lobbying of governments to include them as inputs to their Voluntary National Reviews as well as pursue the policy work of CSOs on land rights by optimizing the SDGs as a space for dialogue with various stakeholders in the land sector.

Understanding the link of land tenure, land use, and climate change

Land tenure is a particularly important issue in Asia, a region most prone to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change, and home to the world's poorest who depend on land for their life and livelihoods. However, public understanding of the links between climate change, disasters, and land tenure is still very limited, even among civil society organizations.

But while climate change affects everyone, those who are poor and lack land tenure rights are among the most vulnerable to the direct effects of climate change. Moreover, the lack of tenure security limits people's choices and diminishes their capacity to recover and rebuild when a disaster strikes. Coupled with land degradation, poverty reduces the resiliency of communities to the effects of climate change.

Land tenure rights, therefore, influence the way that land and natural resources are used and can impact directly on the environment and on climate change.

On this note, Land Watch Asia partners documented cases describing how the lack of land rights and tenure security increases the vulnerability of the rural poor, and reduces their capacity to cope with the changes brought about by climate change. The cases illustrated how improved tenure security, resource rights and land governance can increase the capacity of poor people to adapt to climate change.



There is a need to address land tenure issues in early efforts at building resilience and disaster preparedness. Climate change adaptation needs to be mainstreamed into national planning and policy frameworks, including land policy. These efforts should aim to deliver adequate tenure security, as this is necessary to provide people with the rights, resources, and incentives for good land and resource management in ways that reduce their vulnerability. With the increasing recognition given to traditional knowledge and practices for ecological preservation and restoration, it also becomes imperative and timely that we initiate discussions on improving their tenure along the discourse of climate change mitigation.

ANGOC's contribution to enhancing smallholder agriculture towards sustainable food systems and livelihood

Asia is home to 75 percent of the world's farming households, 80 percent of whom are small-scale farmers and producers. Small-scale Asian farmers feed the world, yet they belong to the poorest, most vulnerable, and most food insecure segments of their countries' populations. As the COVID-19 pandemic unraveled in 2020, nationwide lockdowns and restrictions on trade and travel have disrupted food chains, which in turn have crippled the livelihoods of small farmers across Asia.

Moreover, increasing corporate control of the food industry has further compounded the situation of Asia's small farmers as they face a new layer of barriers.

Hence, the ANGOC network shall strive to build communities of practitioners sharing and disseminating new information, technologies, and best practices in relation to smallholder agriculture and food sovereignty. At the same time, ANGOC shall advocate for transformative, effective policies and programs on food systems that are centered on smallholder agriculture.

World Food Day

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ANGOC celebrated the 2021 World Food Day with the theme, "Supporting Small Producers NOW for a Bountiful Future."

As we aim for better health and better life, especially at this time of continued battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, it is likewise vital to support small producers who sustain the world with "better nutrition, better environment, and better life."

Corollary to the 2021 FAO World Food Day Theme, this is a call for everyone to be more conscious about our actions towards food choices and the way we consume food. Championing the produce of our small farmers means supporting a more sustainable agri-food system – a more viable long-term approach to a healthier future for the people and the planet.

Review of agricultural credit programs

A major constraint to the productivity of farmers is their lack of access to sufficient support and credit for investing in crops, technology, or to provide them with security

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amidst risks and in the face of shocks.² Though credit programs are available, they are risky and unpredictable owing to higher transaction costs of farm credit, unaffordability of the loans, inflexibility of payment schemes, low capital returns in agriculture, and swaying environmental and market factors.³



Thus, ANGOC and members conducted case studies on agricultural finance in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines which analyzed the relevance, appropriateness, accessibility, and usefulness of existing government production credit assistance for smallholder farmers on selected crops in the countries. The overview of the credit programs analyzed by each country are presented below.

Country	Brief Overview of Selected Credit Program	Objective of Selected Credit Program
Bangladesh	The study is directed at the crop loan credit program of the Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), particularly for the production credit assistance for smallholder farmers involved in Boro paddy production in the Northern, Central and Southern districts of the country. In Fiscal Years 2020 to 2021, 55 banks were involved in the provision of agricultural loans in Bangladesh, seeking to provide a total target amount for loans of BDT26,292 crores (USD 3.1 billion).	Help farmers achieve self-sufficiency in food production and strengthen the rural economy

² https://www.ifpri.org/blog/project-will-explore-ways-boost-southeast-asia-smallholders'-access-finance

³ https://aboutphilippines.org/files/Making_Microfinance_Work_for_Agriculture_Introduction_Preliminaries_and_Main.pdf;https://

www.raflearning.org/post/inflection-point-unlocking-growth-era-farmer-finance

India	The KCC government credit program seeks to provide adequate, convenient, and timely credit support to farmers at the lowest rate of interest from the banking system under a single window with flexible and simplified procedures for their cultivation and other needs. The annual budget of the program	Ensure that the credit requirements for farmers in the agriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry sector are being met
	is around INR 2 lakhs crore (approximately USD 22.957 billion) and covers farm credit, consumption and farm assets maintenance. It can provide collateral-free loans of up to INR 160,000 (approximately USD 2,150).	
Indonesia	The study focuses on rural communities that are engaged in realizing self-reliance (Desa Swabina). The case involves the KUR (People's Business Credit) Program, one of the long-running agricultural credit programs of the Indonesian government. In 2021, the Indonesian government increased the KUR budget to IDR 70 trillion (USD 4.8 billion), a 40 percent increase from its allocation of IDR 50 trillion in 2020.	Generate employment and income for farmers and help to expand their business
Nepal	The study focused on the credit scheme of the Agriculture Development Bank, Limited (ADBL) and the grant program of the Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project (PMAMP). The Project, which has a total budget of NRs 13,074,200,000 (approximately USD 108.9 billion), started in 2016 and will run continuously until 2027.	Increase production, productivity, management of inputs and technical manpower, mechanization and development of marketing infrastructure

Philippines	The study is focused on the Agrarian Production Credit Program (APCP), a PhP2.5-billion (approximately USD 49.8 million) credit facility designed to meet the credit needs of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), including landless farmworkers. APCP adopts a whole-of- government support to provide clients with credit and other vital support services.	Ensure sustainable production of crops and increase the productivity, income and capacities of agrarian reform farmers-beneficiaries
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The papers have highlighted the main challenges faced by smallholder farmers in accessing to formal credit:

- Lack of land for credit collateral.
- Illiterate farmers have difficulty in complying with complex credit procedures, e.g., filling out of application forms, moving from one office to another, bribery requirements, time-loss, etc.
- Formal credit programs do not address all of the farmers' credit requirements.
- Although women and other marginal groups (e.g., indigenous peoples) have some access to crop loans, they do not receive proper attention let alone priority from program officials.
- While official policy encourages organic farming, government officials admit there is no priority support for it at the grassroots.
- Smallholder farmers lack awareness about official agricultural credit programs. There are inadequate information sharing mechanisms about the government's grant and loan programs.
- Smallholder farmers have a traditional negative conservative attitude towards borrowing. Credit systems also do not follow the pattern of farmers' lives, e.g., the poorest groups are located in villages far from the city, and smallholders live in remote areas where retail banking is limited and production risks are high as considered by lending institutions.
- Smallholder farmers do not have proper access to markets to sell their production. Middlemen do not provide fair prices for the produce of the farmers who also do not have sufficient facilities and working capital for the fair marketing of their product.

In conclusion, the studies reveal that the five programs demonstrate their relevance to credit needs of their respective target clientele. The credit programs have already begun to adjust their procedures to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, women and organic farming are not yet a true priority target of the credit programs.

There are four main categories of recommendations: a) improving the public credit programs; b) gender-related concerns; c) support for the adoption of organic farming; and, d) measures to enable farmers to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Series of webinars on agriculture and food security

Ekta Parishad and the Jai Jagat Campaign conducted 12 Days of Action between 21 September to 2 October 2021 – International Day of Peace to International Day of Nonviolence) – towards "Making Violence History."

In solidarity with Ekta Parishad and Jai Jagat, the ANGOC Regional Network organized a series of learning exchanges with the objective of discussing and exchanging solutions to addressing violence, highlighting local experiences as a bottom-up approach towards countering inequality.

With ANGOC's continuing commitment towards a people-centered sustainable development, the topics of the learning exchange-webinars included the overall theme of "Food and freedom, Jobs and justice, Land and labor, Peace and prosperity." This initiative contributes to the mission of the ANGOC as the network continues to work towards facilitating exchanges of experiences, lessons, innovations, and evidence-based recommendations for the present and succeeding generations.

Six out of the 12 webinars involved topics related to agriculture and food security.

Day 2 of 12 Days of Action: *Community actions on sustainable natural resource management amidst climate change and natural disasters*

Day 3 of 12 Days of Action: *Is community development work possible during the time of COVID-19 pandemic?*

Day 6 of the 12 Days of Action: Women as key to food security and peace

Day 8 of the 12 Days of Action: *Promoting improved livelihoods of land users and ensuring food security in the context of climate change*

Day 9 of the 12 Days of Action: *Today's Future: Harnessing the youth's involvement in agriculture*

Day 11 of the 12 Days of Action: *Responses to the COVID-19 impact on smallholder farmers*

At the country level, ANGOC members have undertaken the following interventions:

Bangladesh

ALRD organized five webinars involving partner organizations working in different districts. Also, research has been conducted on government credit programs for small farmers for ANGOC. Further, ALRD conducted and presented a scoping study on *Family Farming in Bangladesh: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities*. Apparently, it is clear from the discussions and field experience of the experts involved in these activities of ALRD that without the systematic intervention of family farming, food security will be threatened in the near future with the decreasing arable land due to both natural and human intervention.

Cambodia

STAR Kampuchea has been supporting six community fisheries (CFi) to protect fish conservation areas with a size of 8,016.61 hectares in two provinces of Cambodia. As a result of this project, the fish catch of fisherfolk increased from five kilograms per day in 2020 to six kilograms per day in 2021. Communities use 20% of their catch for food, 30% for processing, and 30% for sale.

China

CANGO has been promoting sustainable development of agriculture and livelihoods of local farmers. Past initiatives include the *Reserve Seed Conservation initiative* helped to update more than 500 kinds of database information of self-reserved seeds, having 65 kinds of rare varieties conserved.

The program on "*i Ecological Community*" developed by CANGO together with China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, organized sessions of self-reservation and conservation forums attended by 170 participants.

The *Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change Adaption* initiative explored the integration of the climate change adaption into eco-agriculture demonstrations and rural development through CSOs exchange between China and countries in Southeast Asia.

Finally, the *Communication Initiative for China Civil Climate Action Stories* has showed the best practices made by different regions in China to adapt to and mitigate climate change including the story of *Straw, Garlic and Silage: Practices Cope with Climate Change from Villages in Yunnan Province of China*.

CANGO promoted the integration of agriculture into the overall strategic framework of coping with climate change, and the adaptability of agriculture to climate change with the full consideration to the livelihood and life of local residents. In addition, CANGO supported Chinese CSOs to deliver their voices and share Chinese story at the international stage.

India

The South Asia Rural Reconstruction Association (SARRA) has been promoting sustainable agriculture in partnership with Sri Venkateswara University by organizing country-specific training programs focusing on soil health and climate resilient agriculture practices without using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. SARRA has likewise been teaching government agricultural extension workers to promote organic farming. As a result, partner farming communities of SARRA have been preserving traditional seeds and practicing the said technology.

Nepal

NFN prepared a CSO Report on SDG 1 and SDG 2 and engaged government in dialogues to formulate pro-people policies on food security and smallholder agriculture.

On its part, CSRC collaborated with MoLMCPA and other organizations to formulate a guideline on formulation of land use plan in four local governments.

CSRC also supported Gadhawa Rural Municipality to formulate the Local Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment Act. Participatory approach was adopted in the formulation process that ensured the priorities of the stakeholders and the needs of the communities are included in the Act, linking the producers' produce to the market with assurance of fair price.

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Philippines

In December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly declared the years 2019 to 2028 as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDFF). The UNDFF serves as a framework in response to the family farming sector's challenges, such as poverty, lack of secure and adequate food, limited farm extension and lack of security on farmland, decreased productivity, and risk from climate change or devastation caused by natural disasters.

To achieve the Global Action Plan, a National Action Plan (NAP) has been developed by the Philippines. This has been spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture (DA), together with different sectors, organizations of Filipino family farmers and CSOs.

ANGOC, the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA), Peoples Campaign for Agrarian Network, Inc. (AR Now!) and the National Engagement Strategy (NES Philippines) produced a briefer of the NAP in Tagalog, Cebuano and English languages in order to widely disseminate the NAP and to be used by farmer organizations in lobbying its implementation to the local governments and provincial offices of government agencies.

ANGOC's contribution to protecting civic and democratic spaces

In varying degrees and with different dynamics, Asian countries have constricted civic spaces and civil society communities under threat. Fundamental rights are being suppressed, and key actors who exercise these rights are being persecuted. In Asia, where the majority of populations are in rural areas and where economies are largely agricultural, the shrinking civic space disproportionately affects those working on human rights, land rights, and rural development. Rural women have become more vulnerable to gender-based violence while facing more limited access to justice since support centers are closed or operated under restricted movement orders. Pastoralist and indigenous peoples' communities have also been notably impacted, as national borders have closed, and movements have been restricted within national territories.

At the same time, politicians and State leaders have taken advantage of the pandemic to consolidate their power and stifle dissent, inequities have further increased that lead to hunger and poverty.

In February 2021, the ANGOC network issued a statement in solidarity with farmers and groups from rural India, who call for the repeal of the three Indian Agriculture Acts of 2020, which were seen as detrimental to the livelihoods of small farmers. The network called on the government of India to demonstrate that it puts the rights and needs of its people before unequitable economic gain by revoking the three laws, and by protecting democracy amid protests that have been ongoing since November 2020.

In November 2021, faced with pressure from the citizenry, the government of India repealed the three laws.

With regard to the situation in Myanmar, the ANGOC network and its partners issued a statement in March 2021condemning the violence and erosion of democracy in the country, and standing in solidarity with the Burmese people in calling for the end of military rule. In particular, the statement called:

• For the military junta regime to: a) cease all forms of violence against protestors and civilians, b) release all detained civilian leaders including National League for Democracy General Secretary Aung San Suu Kyi, and c) step down from power.

- *For the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)* to condemn the reign of the violent Burmese military regime and call for the return of civilian rule and recognizing the legitimately elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, unilaterally and collectively.
- For the international community to stand in solidarity with the people of Myanmar against military rule, and to ensure that the Burmese military is made accountable for its atrocities against its own people. As such, foreign governments must come together to discuss strategies and peaceful interventions to protect protestors and civilians from violence and to provide security to refugees seeking asylum and foreigners seeking repatriation.
- *Civil society organizations and civilians alike* must continue to spread awareness on the ongoing crisis in Myanmar, express solidarity to networks and groups assisting non-violent and peaceful initiatives of civil disobedience movements, and discuss further on ways in which the global community may support the people of Myanmar.
- **Political leaders in Myanmar** to work with the people in building a new, democratic Constitution, which will place political power in the hands of civilians, will allow for all liberties granted under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and which will be inclusive of people of all religions and ethnic groups residing within Myanmar.

Series of webinars on democracy, peace and human rights

As part of the 12 Days of Action Webinar Series described in the previous section, ANGOC conducted six webinars related to democratic peoples' movements as well as strengthening civil society organizations and development workers.

Day 1 of 12 Days of Action: *In search of peace and land rights during the Martial Law Era in the Philippines*

Day 4 of the 12 Days of Action: Urban youth and rural issues

Day 5 of the 12 Days of Action: *Foot marches, hunger strikes, and fasts as forms of protest*

Day 7 of the 12 Days of Action: *Inner peace and coping with the pandemic: a webinar class on wellness and yoga*

Day 10 of the 12 Days of Action: *Rohingya refugees, resource conflict, and regional cooperation*

Day 12 of the 12 Days of Action: *Art for advocacy* **31**

At the country level, ANGOC members have have implemented the following interventions:

Bangladesh

Civil society actors including media were mobilized by ALRD and partners to support minority communities in Sunamganj and Rangpur districts as they faced violence, torture and harassments. After issuing joint statements, conducting fact finding missions and releasing investigative reports, duty bearers initiated responsive actions.

China

CANGO has been focusing on capacity building activities for CSOs enhancing their service delivery and participation in social governance. CANGO has also cooperated with the central government departments to study CSOs' professional development and CSOs' engagement in global dialogues. Finally, CANGO actively participates in the development and revision of relevant policies and regulations, such as the Charity Law, the Overseas NGO Law, the Anti-Domestic Violence Law, and the Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women.

Nepal

NFN mobilized rapid response teams across the country to support affected people by COVID-19 and monitor the human rights situation. The government was engaged continuously to respect the new Constitution towards establishing lasting peace, protection of human rights and ensuring effective service delivery.

On the other hand, CSRC and Amnesty International-Nepal jointly conducted a research entitled "Violation in the Name of Conservation". The said study shed light to the cases of the families of landless and informal settlers who experienced vivid torture of forced eviction from the premises of national park and conservation in the name of preserving natural resources. Several national and international organizations have shown their concern and directed the Government of Nepal to address the facts explored by the study findings.

Institutional Updates

For 2021, the ANGOC Board of Trustees deliberated and decided on the following:

- confirmed the appointment of Denise Hyacinth Joy Musni as Deputy Executive Director of the ANGOC Regional Secretariat effected 01 January 2021;
- approved the ANGOC Strategic Action Plan for 2021 to 2025 and the work plan for 2021 to 2022; and,
- issued letters of condolences for the passing of GN Reddi of South Asia Rural Reconstruction Association (SARRA) and PM Tripathi of the Association of Voluntary Agencies in Rural Development (AVARD).

For the next five years, ANGOC shall advocate for land and resource rights of the rural poor; promote smallholder agriculture towards sustainable food systems and livelihoods; and, collaborate with other like-minded groups and individuals towards the protection of civic and democratic spaces.

On another note, the ANGOC network submitted its inputs to the draft General Comment on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights prepared by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). Such document seeks to clarify the specific obligations of States parties relating to land and the governance of tenure of land under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Among the major points raised by ANGOC included:

- On Women and Land Rights. The document should emphasize the non-discrimination clause under Article 2, paragraph 2 of the Covenant as a State obligation to make their laws secular and grant land ownership rights to women. Likewise, States should recognize the role of women in food systems as producers and processors and implement policies, as regards land in particular, that support their activities.
- On Indigenous People, Land, and the Environment. The document should take into account the unintended consequences environmental initiatives have on indigenous people. For instance, while the campaign of certain environmental causes to protect wildlife and forests have succeeded in establishing reserves and protected areas, such efforts have also displaced the indigenous peoples from their ancestral domains, where they have co-existed with wildlife and have tended the land's

resources for centuries. Therefore, States should recognize their obligation to respect indigenous peoples' rights and not subvert such rights in advancing other agenda.

- On Climate Change and Displacement. The subsection on Climate Change needs to further elaborate on the displacement of people as a result of weather becoming more severe. It should be underscored that the root cause of land conflict may arise because of the effects of climate change. On this aspect, States should have the obligation to ensure that policies are in place to protect those susceptible to loss of land as a result of climate change. There should be available remedies, including compensation, for those who lose their lands.
- On Global and Regional Shocks. It is recommended that a section dealing with global or regional shocks be added. The world has seen how economic crises and pandemics amplify the hardships of vulnerable and marginalized peoples and communities. Economic crises are cyclical in nature and the next economic bubble bursting may come soon after the economic recovery from this pandemic. Thus, in global or regional shock events, States should not waver in their efforts to protect land rights and any other right that affect the enjoyment of land rights. States should also implement social protection measures during such times, not only in terms of providing for subsistence, but also to alleviate peoples' vulnerabilities.

ANGOC continues to provide strategic and governance guidance in a number of international networks: as a Steering Committee member of both the Global Forum for Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), as a member of the Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCA) Consortium and the International Land Coalition (ILC).

2021 Knowledge Products

The ANGOC network and Land Watch Asia partners have developed 120 reports and knowledge products for the year. The materials are available at https://angoc.org/ portal/

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2021 Calendar of Major Activites

JANUARY

- 13 ANGOC Board of Trustees Meeting, Zoom
- 13 ANGOC Expanded Board of Trustees Meeting, Zoom
- 14 LWA Land Monitoring Working Group Meeting, Zoom
- 16 Consultation on Business and Human Rights in India
- 20 Focus Group Discussion on Agrarian Reform Sector, Zoom
- 21 LWA Land Monitoring Working Group Meeting, Zoom
- 22 Land Rights as Human Rights Working Group Meeting, Zoom

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- 23 Enhancing Capacities of IP Representatives on Effective Participation and Constructive Engagement with LGUs and Other Stakeholders - Webinar #2, Zoom
- 26 ICCA Southeast Asia Strategic Planning, Zoom
- 29 Pivot table review for Land Rights as Human Rights Working Group, Zoom
- 29 Virtual Focus Group Discussion on *Safeguards and the Accountability Mechanism of ADB, Zoom*
- 30 Enhancing Capacities of IP Representatives on Effective Participation and Constructive Engagement with LGUs and Other Stakeholders - Webinar #3, Zoom

FEBRUARY

5 Securing Land Rights of Smallholder Farmers: The Secure Access to Land and Resources Project Experience in Laos, the Philippines and Uganda -Writeshop #1, Zoom

- 6 Enhancing Capacities of IP Representatives on Effective Participation and Constructive Engagement with LGUs and Other Stakeholders - Webinar #4, Zoom
- 11 LWA Land Monitoring Working Group Meeting, Zoom
- 11 Stakeholder's Dialogue on *Piloting a Food Hub Towards Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 among Rural Households in Rural Mindanao, Zoom*
- 11 Presentation of Draft Philippines UNDFF NAP by Department of Agriculture
- 14 ANGOC 42nd Anniversary

16	Dialogue between Philippines Department of Agrarian Reform and Buhid-
	CSO support groups
23	CSO Consultation on Business and Human Rights in NAP in India
24	Commission of Human Rights – Economic Social Cultural Rights Focal
	Persons' (Virtual) Training of Trainers on Land Conflict Monitoring
25	ICCA South East Asia Strategic Planning
26	Securing Land Rights of Smallholder Farmers: The Secure Access to Land
	and Resources Project Experience in Laos, the Philippines and Uganda -
	Writeshop Series #2, Zoom

MARCH

1	Securing Land Rights of Smallholder Farmers: The Secure Access to Land and Resources Project Experience in Laos, the Philippines and Uganda -
	Writeshop Series #3, Zoom
2	Planning Meeting of country researchers on study on public agricultural credit program
3	Securing Land Rights of Smallholder Farmers: The Secure Access to Land and Resources Project Experience in Laos, the Philippines and Uganda - Writeshop Series #4, Zoom
4	Validation Workshop on Land and Water Conflict Monitoring in the Philippines
4	Fair Finance Asia Midterm Review Learning Event
8	Focus Group Discussion on the <i>Drivers and Effects of Farmland Conversion</i> <i>in Bulacan, Philippines, Zoom</i>
15 to 19	2nd UN South Asia Forum on Business and Human Rights
18 to 19	Responsible Agricultural Investment Learning Cycle Inception Workshop
24	ESCAP Forum on Sustainable Development
30	Meeting of country researchers of the study on public agricultural credit program #1

APRIL

- 12 to 14 Securing Land Rights of Smallholder Farmers: *The Secure Access to Land and Resources Project Experience in Laos, the Philippines and Uganda –* Final Writeshop, Zoom
- 15 *Global action against the military takeover in Myanmar*
- 22 Multi-stakeholder Workshop on *Land and Resource Conflicts in the Philippines*, Zoom
- 28 Regional meeting of Land Watch Asia Land Monitoring Working Group
- 47

29 Meeting of country researchers of the study on public agricultural credit program #2

MAY

- 3 to 5 54th Asian Development Bank Board of Governors Meeting
- 6 Land Collaborative Learning Cycle on Private Sector and Land
- 14 Focus group discussion with Philippine Government representatives regarding the Agrarian Production Credit Program
- 19 Focus group discussion with Philippine farmer representatives regarding the Agrarian Production Credit Program
- 24 Meeting of country researchers of the study on public agricultural credit program #3
- 31 International Land Coalition *Learning Session on Gender Justice*

JUNE

- International Land Coalition *Learning Session on Gender Justice* Focus group discussion with Philippine farmer representatives regarding
- the Agrarian Production Credit Program
- 8 to 10 17th ICCA General Assembly

JULY

1	Regional meeting of Land Watch Asia Land Monitoring Working Group
1 to 4	United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum: The New
	Decade of Action?
8	Fair Finance Asia Learning Session on Interpreting Financial Institutions'
	Sustainability Reports
15	Meeting of country researchers of the study on public agricultural credit
	program #4
21	Launch of UNDFF Philippine Action Plan for Family Farming

AUGUST

- 3 to 4 Regional Workshop on *Mainstreaming Land Rights in the UNGPs in Asia* 4 *The Role of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples in Asia in Ecosystem Restoration and Conservation*
- 13 Learning Exchange Workshop on *Public Credit/Production Assistance to Smallholder Rice Farmers in the Philippines*

SEPTEMBER

21	Day 1 of 12 Days of Action: <i>"In search of peace and land rights during the Martial Law Era in the Philippines"</i>
22	Day 2 of 12 Days of Action: <i>Community actions on sustainable natural resource management amidst climate change and natural disasters</i>
23	Day 3 of the 12 Days of Action: <i>"Is community development work possible during the COVID-19 pandemic?"</i>
24	Day 4 of the 12 Days of Action: "Urban Youth and Rural Issues"
25	Day 5 of the 12 Days of Action: <i>"Foot marches, hunger strikes, and fasts as forms of protest"</i>
26	Day 6 of the 12 Days of Action: "Women as key to food security and peace"
27	Day 7 of the 12 Days of Action: <i>"Inner Peace and Coping with the Pandemic: A Webinar Class on Wellness and Yoga"</i>
28	Day 8 of the 12 Days of Action: "Promoting improved livelihoods of land users and ensuring food security in the context of climate change"
29	Day 9 of the 12 Days of Action: "Today's Future: Harnessing the Youth's Involvement in Agriculture"
30	Day 10 of the 12 Days of Action: "Impact of Rohingya Influx in Bangladesh

on Regional Peace, Environment and Stability"

OCTOBER

Day 11 of the 12 Days of Action: <i>"Situation of Farmers During Covid-19 Pandemic"</i>
Day 12 of the 12 Days of Action: "Using Art for Advocacy"
Consultation on the State of the Human Rights Situation of Fisherfolk in
the Philippines
Dialogue Workshop towards the Preparation of the 2022 Philippine
Voluntary National Report on the SDGs
World Food Day
Regional meeting of Land Watch Asia Land Monitoring Working Group
Meeting of country researchers of the study on public agricultural credit
program #5
Asia Land Forum

NOVEMBER

- 10 to 11 Philippine Housing Forum: Building Forward Better for Inclusive Housing11 International Land Coalition Asia Regional Assembly
- 16 to 18 9th International Land Coalition Assembly of Members
- 21 India Land and Development Conference Asia Day: *Mainstreaming Land Rights in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Six Asian Countries: Learning Event*
- 21 India Land and Development Conference Asia Day: *Land and Resource Conflict Monitoring in Asia*
- 24 Meeting of country researchers of the study on public agricultural credit program #6
- 24 to 25 Fair Finance Asia Training on sustainable finance policies and regulation

DECEMBER

- 6 Regional Learning Event on Agricultural Credit for Smallholders in Five Asian Countries
- 22 Regional meeting of Land Watch Asia Land Monitoring Working Group

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2021 Annual Report



Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement (SARVODAYA)

Individual members

- Antonio Ledesma, S.J.
- Antonio Francis Lucas
- Antonio B. Quizon
- Roel Ravanera
- Edgardo Valenzuela

