



RALLYING WOMEN AND GIRLS TO SECURE LAND RIGHTS

from Eradicating Poverty to Empowering Women as Decision-Makers

Securing land rights for women in Asia is a key driving factor of poverty eradication as well as empowerment of those who are involved in agriculture and food production. Land rights sustain the livelihoods of rural women, regardless of ethnicity, empower their social, economic and political autonomy, and reduce their vulnerability to marginalisation.

International Land Coalition Asia (ILC Asia) is a coalition of 54 civil society organisations whose vision is to achieve a just, equitable and inclusive world in which land rights are secured and poverty is eradicated. This means putting those who live on and from the land at the centre of decision-making. Too often, they are excluded from decisions about their land by those in power. For women, this is

especially true, with research showing that women own less than 15% of the world's land ^[1] while young women are less than half as likely as young men to own land by themselves.

ILC Asia members have convened as the Asia Working Group on Women's Land Rights, inspired by the Beijing+25 review process. The Working Group aims to make a contribution and mainstream land rights in the five-year action plan that will be adopted from 2021 to 2026. ILC acknowledges that these action plans are intended to ensure that the 2030 Agenda fulfills the aspirations of gender equality, women empowerment and women's human rights as well as related promises made in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The development of this action plan is part of the world's 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), a political declaration adopted by United Nations' 189 Member States as a roadmap for the achievement of gender equality and a guarantee that no woman is left behind. For ILC members and partners, land tenure rights are central to these commitments.

¹ SIGI 2019 Global Report

FACTS AND FIGURES

Economic Justice

Agriculture is the main driver of sustainable economic growth.

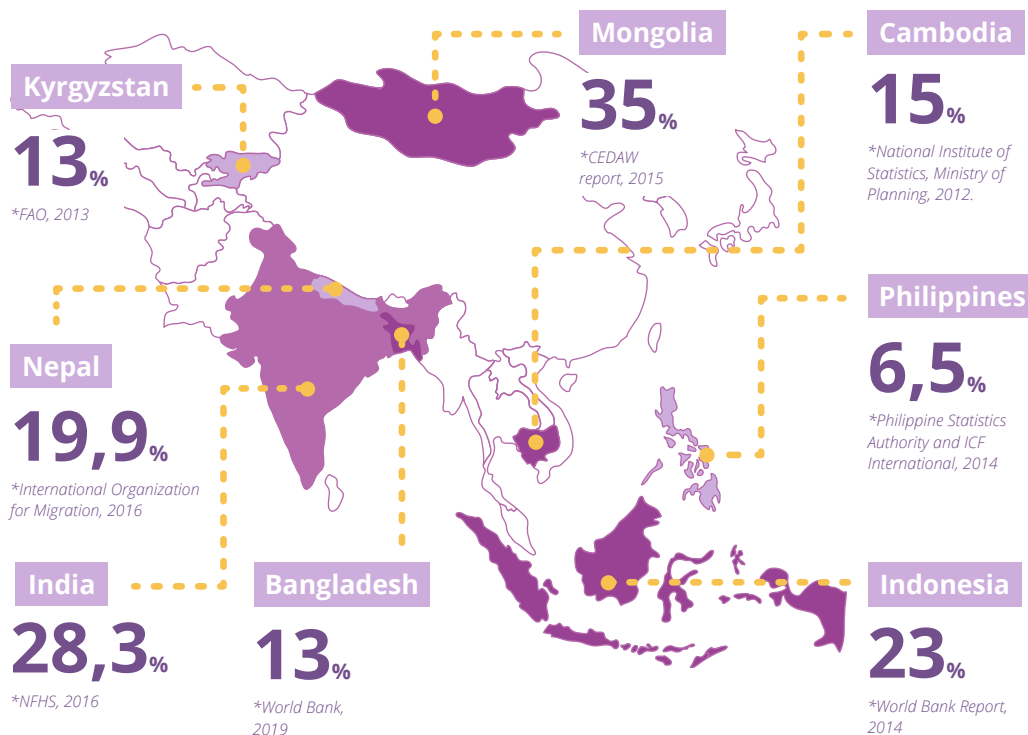
Women farmers are routinely denied the right to own the land they cultivate despite their major contribution to the agriculture sector.



Access to and control over land ownership can serve as a source of food security, water, shelter, capital, and financial resources – allowing them to generate income and allocate resources fairly within the household. Asset generation that includes technical and entrepreneurial training on food processing and production should be an important policy for rural women, especially for single, widowed and marginalised women.



Land Ownership among Women



Reflecting upon the statistics of land ownership among women in Asia, the Working Group on Women's Land Rights in Asia will take affirmative actions by engaging with a variety of stakeholders at the national, regional and global level to hold our governments accountable.

**Variation in data derives from different agencies*

Climate Justice



200 million

people were affected

More than 70,000

people were killed by natural disasters

Women and children make up the majority of deaths resulting from water-related disasters (UNDP 2012).



Securing land rights for women can be an effective tactic to address climate change, enhance resilience by effective land use and control, and minimise the spread of hazard-prone land. Excluding or diluting women's input often results in land and climate change-related policies that fail to take into account gendered realities, interests, and local knowledge that tackle climate-induced harms and gender inequality.

Feminist Movement and Leadership

Feminist movement and leadership that positions not just individuals but rather a critical mass of grassroots common women of rural, urban, youth, minority and indigenous backgrounds is important if we want to create change. The goal of a strong feminist movement is to shift oppressive power dynamics that control women's bodily autonomy, freedom of movement and expression, which have become even more critical in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.



We need to ensure the collaboration with other women's

rights organisations, share knowledge about the nature and impacts of transformative feminist leadership, and emphasise the importance of collective power movement.



FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN



Evidence-Based Advocacy

Conduct field-based impact assessment on selected themes and develop alternative reports on the implementation of international treaties such as the CEDAW and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This will help the Review Committees propose policy recommendations/concluding observations to governments and ensure that the governments synergise with the country law/policies and implement their human rights treaty obligations.



Public Campaign

Develop and create knowledge based on significant gender responsive laws, programmes, schemes, action plans related to policy frameworks, and national, regional and international guiding principles—CEDAW, Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), SDGs targets related to land and gender, and the BPfA's relevant clauses.



Capacity Building

Organise training on legal provision and mechanisms to secure indigenous and rural women's tenure rights, address gender-based discrimination and patriarchal prejudices that have deprived women of their right to land. Learn best practices from other members of the working group to overcome the challenges we encounter in our work.



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