

Project Report (PR) (for all non-NES activities) to be completed by an implementing organisation receiving ILC grants at the end of the grant period; to be completed yearly by Secretariat staff responsible for global programmes and/or projects; and possibly to be used as a progress report for a project/programme.

Project Report — ILC Grant LMR 1403

Name of the programme/project/research product/event: **Land Matrix Development in Asia and the Pacific**

Start and close: **1 August 2014 – 31 December 2015**

Country: **Philippines**

Region: **Asia**

Name of the organisation(s) carrying out the activities, or authors of a research project: **Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)**

Date of the report: **13 April 2016**

Cofinancing target stated in the proposal: **AFA Counterpart (from other donors)**

Cofinancing target actually achieved: **Yes / No** what amount? **135,500 USD** (Please explain why not)

Report of the programme/project/research product/event/training/piece of work (15 pages)

The purpose of the report is to describe the:

i) main purpose of the work undertaken;

The project is an effort by AFA to contribute to improved land governance by acting as Asia regional focal point for a global and independent land monitoring initiative that promotes transparency and accountability in decisions over land and investment.

As landlessness continue to be a major problem of small scale farmers, and as large scale land acquisitions become a serious threat to their farming livelihoods, we know that good land policies enacted and implemented well by governments, in partnership with CSOs, will mean security of land tenure for millions of small scale women and men farmers and will put a stop to massive land grabbing.

We know that evidences, trends, statistics and case studies are very important in effective policy advocacy as they capture the realities and the magnitude of the situation or problem that has to be addressed and describe some policy options. As AFA tries to intensify our initiatives on land rights at national, regional, and international levels, the Land Matrix can (1) give us the necessary data as well as the necessary skills to get data, (2) strengthen our partnerships with other CSOs who are working on land rights issues as well, and (3) present to policy makers the extent of the problem on large scale land acquisitions as well as different policy options taken by governments. These knowledge will help AFA in our efforts to increase our members' capacity on policy advocacy and knowledge sharing for land rights, to support the land rights struggles of our members and support the wider movement of land rights advocates in Asia and Pacific and in the world.

ii) background;

The Asian Farmers Association (AFA) is an alliance of national farmers' organizations, currently with 17 member organizations in 13 countries in Southeast, East, South and Central Asia, with a combined membership of around 12 million small scale women and men farmers, fishers and indigenous peoples. Landlessness and lack of security over land, water and forest resources have been identified as priority issues by our members. According to the Land Matrix, Asia is second to Africa in terms of the number of hectareage affected by land deals (5.9 million hectares). Of the 807

deals currently being implemented, Southeast Asia is hosting 379 land deals covering agriculture, conservation, forestry, industry, renewable energy, tourism and other deals.

Three of our members have a strong advocacy focus on land rights: the National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) is leading the land rights movement in Nepal; PAKISAMA, a national confederation of peasant organizations in the Philippines, is carrying out active non-violent struggles for agrarian and aquatic reform in the Philippines; Aliansi Petani Indonesia (API) is continuing its various actions for agrarian reform in Indonesia, while new member Agriculture and Farmers Federation Myanmar (AFFM) is providing education and legal assistance to farmers on their land rights. Our members from the developed countries in East Asia (Japan, Taiwan and South Korea) tell us that their agricultural development was made possible by the completion of agrarian reform in their countries. NLRF, PAKISAMA, AFFM and API have engaged their governments in enacting pro-farmer land policies and in implementing these policies in some of their areas.

Because land rights is a primary advocacy, AFA has conducted several regional activities to build knowledge around land issues and capacities in addressing them. First, in 2011, we had a consultation on land issues, where members shared the issues they faced in their countries. This led to an increased awareness on land issues especially the increasing large scale land acquisitions in Asia which are displacing and harming the farmers. Second, with the support of ILC, we conducted a research on large scale land acquisitions in Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines, and came out with a research paper, an issue paper entitled "Land Grabs or Large Scale Land Investments? Protecting Farmers' Rights to Land" that was translated into local languages of our members, and a video, all of which were uploaded in our website.

Third, we also joined the ANGOC-led land rights advisory council in 2013 and participated in the land rights tribunal in 2014, where we experienced and learned about innovative and effective strategies for furthering the advocacy for land rights and land tenure security. Fourth, our members are currently conducting national sessions on the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF), Voluntary Guidelines for the Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of Climate Change and Food Security (VGGT) and the Principles of Responsible Agro Investments (RAI) to raise awareness on these instruments. Fifth, AFA is about to assess two existing land tools in Myanmar using the Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC) and is about to implement awareness-raising/popularization of VGGT among CSOs and governments, both supported by ILC.

Due to these initiatives, we have increased the awareness of our members on issues related to land rights and the various responses, strategies, and tactics that they can use to advocate the issue in their countries. Through the researches, consultations, and projects, our members have also increased their capacity for advocacy at the national level; especially in engaging their governments and joining the wider movement for land rights and land tenure security in their countries. We have firmed up an alternative framework for agricultural investments on smallholders for food security and poverty reduction.

At the regional and international levels, we were able to raise awareness on the issues and have the farmers' analyses and recommendations included in policy dialogues and conference statements. We have articulated these analyses and recommendations and used the various knowledge materials to advocate for land rights and land tenure security in the various fora and consultations which AFA attended, particularly those organized by inter-governmental bodies such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Global Agriculture for Food Security Program (GAFSP), International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

iii) principal objectives of the action and how they contribute to the realisation of the PCLG (see list below);

The main work of AFA in this project is to coordinate data collection and facilitate regional networks, research and communication activities in Asia for the Land Matrix.

iv) brief description of relevant stakeholders;

The relevant stakeholders include AFA member farmer organizations, ILC Asia members, MTCP2 farmer organizations, government ministries and agencies related to land, non-government organizations, researchers, media and academe.

v) number and type of target groups (disaggregated by gender);

The project directly involved 17 AFA member farmer organizations from 13 countries, with membership of around 12 million farmers, approximately 50% of whom are women. It also indirectly involved MTCP2 farmer organizations and ILC member organizations in Asia.

vi) areas of work and geographic areas.

AFA set up a regional data unit composed of a regional data coordinator, a regional data assistant/admin and country data coordinators.

The regional data coordinator was responsible for overall supervision of the project's activities (data collection, communication, networking, research) . He was supported by a full-time regional data assistant/admin, a remote team of country data coordinators (who liaised with the regional data coordinator and the regional data assistant/admin), and other staff in AFA for specific functions.

The report should also address how it has contributed to the 10 commitments of People Centred Land Governance listed below.

1. Respect, protect and strengthen the land rights of women and men living in poverty.
2. Ensure equitable land distribution and public investment that supports small-scale farming systems.
3. Recognise and protect the diverse tenure and production systems upon which people's livelihoods depend.
4. Ensure gender justice in relation to land.
5. Respect and protect the inherent land and territorial rights of indigenous peoples.
6. Enable the role of local land users in territorial and ecosystem management.
7. Ensure that processes of decision-making over land are inclusive.
8. Ensure transparency and accountability.
9. Prevent and remedy land grabbing.
10. Respect and protect the civil and political rights of Human Rights Defenders working on land issues.

The project directly contributed to commitment number 8 (ensure transparency and accountability) by helping make data on land deals available and accessible. Through data availability, deals can be scrutinized by the public and those who will be affected can take action to protect their rights. Investors are obliged to follow rules and regulations, while policy makers are pressured to make sure those rules and regulations are enforced. Communities and other stakeholders can also demand better policies and laws to protect land rights.

These data and the analysis can also contribute to all other commitments by providing evidence base to advocacies and actions to protect land rights, support small scale farming systems, recognize and protect tenure systems, ensure gender justice, inclusive decision making on land, prevent and remedy land grabbing, and protect human rights defenders.

Activities

Please refer to the logframe and be results oriented as much as possible.

What was the main focus of the activities?

- influencing policy, policy implementation, advocacy, etc., describe the initial situation and the changes it has brought about, by citing concrete evidence.
- capacity building, please describe how these have changed the activities of your organisation and the target groups for your actions.
- knowledge production, describe how this was used and whether it helped in raising awareness/advocating on crucial issues or giving unheard voices access to new forums.

The main focus of the activities were on 4 areas:

DATA COLLECTION

Activities:

- regional data coordinator was trained and oriented on the objectives and mechanisms of the Land Matrix
- regional data unit was set up composed of data coordinator and data assistant (later promoted to data admin)
- data assistant trained on the use of the database
- country data coordinators identified and oriented
- call for data contributors sent out
- introduced LM to partners in Asia and the Pacific, ILC members, as well as FOs and CSOs engaged in MTCP2 and GAFSP

Outputs:

- Regional data coordinator, data assistant, country data coordinators and volunteer data contributors oriented and trained on the land matrix (*See Annex: Country Data Coordinators*)
- Existing data validated
- New data from country coordinators entered (*See Annex: Deals that have been validated and updated*)

NETWORKING

Activities:

- introduced the Land Matrix to our existing network (AFA member farmer organizations) and expand network based on the issue of large scale land acquisitions such as: ILC Asia members, FOs in MTCP2, CSOs in GAFSP, research institutions in APAARI, CSOs in the regional network of CSOs engaged in FAO Asia processes. (*See Annex: Networking Activities*)

Outputs:

- LM presented to ILC Asia GA and Land Forum (*See Annex: LM AFP at ILC Asia GA and Land Forum*)
- LM presented to ILC GA and Global Land Forum (*See Annex: LM AFP at the ILC Global Land Forum and Assembly of Members*)
- Partner FOs and CSOs oriented on the use of the land matrix (*See Annex: Land Matrix Asia Launch*)

- Commitment to use and contribute obtained (*See Annex: Orientation Training on Land Matrix for AFA*)

RESEARCH

Activities:

- lobbied for the inclusion of large scale land acquisitions in the research agenda of partner research institutions (APAARI)
- encouraged partners, especially agri research institutions, students and researchers to do their researches on large scale land acquisitions and use the data from the Land Matrix
- prepare analysis of data and trends for presentation

Outputs:

- analysis of data and trends in large scale land acquisitions in Asia (powerpoint) – presented to AFA and ILC conferences (*See Annex: The Land Matrix Initiative in Asia*)
- analysis of data and trends in large scale land acquisitions in the Philippines (email message) – used to provide support to data needs of AFA member in response to a global petition on land investments.

COMMUNICATION

Activities:

- disseminated information to introduce the Land Matrix to our networks and to the general public
- released news on findings and applications of data from the Land Matrix (*See Annex: AFA presents data on large scale land acquisitions in Asia at the 2015 Global Land Forum*)
- encouraged members of our network to use data from the Land Matrix for their researches, policy papers, and other publications and share the same to a wider audience

Outputs:

- Blog
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Brochure
- Poster
- Powerpoint presentations

Have you collaborated with other organisations to implement the planned activities? With whom and what type of org? Has this led to new partnerships and alliances?

We collaborated with AFA member farmer organizations, ILC member organizations, MTCP2 farmer organizations, LM partners, MRLG partners, among others.

This led to new cooperation on land issues.

How many people were engaged in the activities? (Please disaggregate by gender where possible.)

AFA members (approximately 34 individuals, 30% of whom are female).

Did you use any communication tools for the activities? Which ones? And did they work well?

Communication tools that were used and which were effective were as follows:

- Brochure, Poster, LM video: used for introducing LM in various events
- Blog, Facebook, Twitter: used for communicating to wider audience
- PPTs: used for presenting data/trends on large scale land acquisitions

Achievements

Looking back over the implementation period of the activities or programme, state three major accomplishments/changes achieved by the project/programme/research product/event/training/piece of work. Why do you consider them significant?

1. Established the regional data unit in AFA and built its capacity to do data collection, networking, research and communication, especially ensuring data quality, thus the data assistant was promoted to data admin in charge of reviewing all deals in Asia.
2. Introduced the Land Matrix to AFA members, ILC members, MTCP2 FOs and oriented them on the issue of large scale land acquisitions and how to contribute data on land deals, as well as to various fora on that relate to land issues
3. Oriented and trained country data coordinators on data collection, four of which functioned effectively and systematically collected data for the Land Matrix

Has the change had an impact on people, communities and/ or their organisations? (If yes, how many? Disaggregate by gender where possible and provide evidence.)

1. Improved capacity of AFA to contribute to improved land governance through open and transparent data on land deals
2. Enlarged network of organizations with awareness and interest to contribute and use data from the Land Matrix
3. Developed capacity of organizations at country level to collect data on land deals

Sustainability of the project, please elaborate.

AFA was able to mobilize a huge counterpart to the real cost of the Land Matrix work from various projects supported by other donors.

This means that the seed fund provided by ILC was effectively used as a leverage to mobilize further funds.

Lessons learned/good practices, replication, and scaling up

What went particularly well or badly in this project/programme?

What went particularly well:

- Regional data unit was established
- Regional data coordinator was trained
- Regional data assistant was trained and promoted to data admin
- Organizations from AFA, ILC, MTCP2 were introduced to and oriented on the Land Matrix
- Country data coordinators were oriented and trained
- All existing data in covered countries were validated
- New data were added

What went particularly badly:

- Not all country data coordinators functioned effectively due to the challenge of distance training and the technical nature of the work
- No accomplishments in the area of research

What factors or approaches contributed to its success or failure?

Success factors:

- Credibility of AFA
- Good network of members and partners
- Capable persons at the regional data unit
- Mandate from AFA general assembly to be regional focal point
- Mandate from Execom to be regional partner

Failure factors:

- Difficulty in finding common time and good connection to do online training for country coordinators
- Lack of capacity of some country coordinators to assign a person able to do the technical work
- Lack of time, staff and resources led some organizations to decline to be country data coordinators
- Lack of capacity to do research work (unless it is funded and contracted out)
- Conflicting schedules with other activities of the network

Recommendations Based on Activities, Results and Success and Failure Factors:

REGIONAL DATA UNIT

- Hire a regional research and communications person to improve efforts in these areas

DATA COLLECTION

- Expand data collection, validation and updating from 12 countries to all Asian countries in the Land Matrix (including review of data entries by JASIL in the countries they cover)

NETWORKING

- Identify and make contact with possible data contributors all Asian countries in the Land Matrix and introduce them to the regional and country pages where their names logos can be added
- Conduct regional consultation on LSLA in Asia to identify issues for advocacy
- Conduct lobby mapping and stakeholder analysis for advocacy on LSLA in the region

RESEARCH

- Contribute case studies to the Land Matrix Analytical Report to be released in May
- Prepare one major research paper on LSLA in Asia
- Prepare one issue paper for advocacy on LSLA in Asia

COMMUNICATION

- Prepare write ups and profiles for the regional and country pages
- Prepare brochures, posters and other materials for promotion
- Release monthly updates through the blog, e-newsletter, FB and Twitter

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Train the regional data coordinator, regional data admin and data contributors in the use of the new Land Matrix editor
- Train the regional data coordinator, regional data admin and data contributors in the use of the and Matrix content management system
- Train AFA members, ILC members and MTCP2 FOs in collecting data on land deals
- Train AFA members, ILC members and MTCP2 FOs in data analysis and advocacy

Additional project/activity material

Please provide us with any audio-visual documentation produced as a result of the work – videos, photos, etc. Please include press releases/public statements/media articles and/or any additional material related to these activities.

Links to Online Tools:

www.landmatrixasia.blogspot.com

www.facebook.com/landmatrixasia

www.twitter.com/landmatrixasia

ANNEXES:

01 Country Data Coordinators

02 Deals that have been validated and updated

03 Networking Activities

04 LM AFP at ILC Asia GA and Land Forum

05 LM AFP at the ILC Global Land Forum and Assembly of Members

06 Land Matrix Asia Launch

07 Orientation Training on Land Matrix for AFA

08 The Land Matrix Initiative in Asia

09 AFA presents data on large scale land acquisitions in Asia at the 2015 Global Land Forum