



Call for proposals and Terms of Reference: Scoping Study Women's Access to Land in South Asia

The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance of different and varied organizations. The membership of the coalition is composed of a number of intergovernmental, governmental and civil-society organizations whose commitment is to the eradication of rural poverty through the promotion of secure and equitable access to land. The members work together with the rural poor to increase their secure access to natural resources, especially land, and allow them to participate directly in the policy and decision making processes that could affect them.

ILC members in Asia have identified women's access to and control over land as a key issue for collaboration in the region at their regional meeting in 2007. In order to start identifying concrete areas for collaboration, members agreed on the necessity of a scoping study on the status of women's land rights in the South Asian sub-region (India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka). The scoping study is expected to be a major input to a planned ILC conference on women's access to land in 2010.

ILC's Asia regional platform is thus calling for proposals for this scoping study, according to the following terms of reference:

1. **Content of the study/research questions:** This scoping study will assess the situation of women's access to land in key countries in South Asia (India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka). The study will not just look at what the land problem is but more importantly, examine what the groups in the target countries are doing, who are the key players, and what strategic actions and opportunities there are for advocacy by ILC members and partners.

The study should look into the following:

- a) the **Legal** framework in the target countries
- b) **Actual** – what is happening on the ground
- c) **Response** – who is working on the issue/how are people and groups responding
- d) **Support needed** – what strategic support should ILC provide
- e) **Opportunities for engagement** – what channels are there to influence policy formulation and implementation and what potential partnerships that ILC can build on

The study should analyze the legal, social, gender and institutional impediments to women gaining control over land and other related natural resources *both in theory and in practice*. It should also provide examples of cases where women were able to negotiate for land rights effectively and try to draw lessons from such examples.

The study should identify key organizations, networks, and individuals who are active in research and action on issues of gender and land tenure and briefly describe the types of activities these actors are undertaking

The study should include a synthesis of recommendations from relevant groups and individuals with emphasis on opportunities and suggestions for concrete actions in the short and medium term.

2. **Proposed duration of study:** 15 October 2009 to 15 February 2010
3. **Methodology:** The researcher will undertake relevant literature reviews and interview key individuals and organizations actively engaged in gender and land tenure issues in South Asia.
4. **Length and structure of report:** The main report should not be more than 20 pages plus annexes with country-specific information. The researcher will submit a proposed format for the report with the proposal. Before the start of the scoping study, the ILC regional platform may provide comments on the proposed format.
5. **Budget:** \$10,000
6. **Deadline for applications:** 30 September 2009

Suggested outline for proposals:

Proposals should not exceed **10** pages and should include the following components:

- a. Title (should summarize the content or core subject of the proposal)
- b. Objectives and justification of the project. This section should indicate the general purpose and specific objectives of the project, stating clearly the problem to be discussed and inputs provided by the project. Goals should be precise, clear and achievable within the time limits and amounts specified in this call and must respond to the topic (max. 2 pages).
- c. Theoretical framework. This section should define the framework that will guide the project with clarity, accuracy and feasibility (max.1 page).
- d. Methodology: this section should show how the problem will be addressed, describe the community-based approach and target audiences as well as possible partnerships with other institutions involved (max. 2 pages).
- e. Timetable and budget. A schedule of the activities should outline timing, results, personnel involved and a budget (max. 10% administrative cost).
- f. Bibliography
- g. Curriculum vitae of lead researcher

Note: All proposals may be sent to the ILC Asia Regional Secretariat by email rmodina@yahoo.com ; by fax +632 9217498 or by post to: Rolando Modina, ILC Asia Regional Node Coordinator c/o ANGOC, 6A Malumanay Street, U.P. Village, Diliman 1103, Quezon City, PHILIPPINES (140409)

For more information on ILC, please go to www.landcoalition.org