



Food and Agriculture
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Measuring SDG Indicator 5.a.1

Background Paper

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1. Background

In 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. Building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** comprises 17 goals and 169 targets. From a gender perspective, the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** represent a significant step forward from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), covering for the first time all core areas of the women empowerment's agenda. The historic and unprecedented ambition set out in this Agenda requires an equally ambitious drive to ensure its implementation and an authoritative monitoring framework.

Recognizing that gender equality is critical to achieving the vision set out in the 2030 Agenda, and indeed an objective in its own right, **Goal 5** is dedicated to *achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls*. Under Goal 5, **Target 5.A** directs countries to *undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws*. FAO is the custodian agency of target 5.A, which is monitored by two indicators, a 'de facto' indicator on women's land tenure rights land, **indicator 5.a.1**, and a 'de jure' indicator on women's land rights in the legal framework, **indicator 5.a.2**.

The methodological work required to develop the **5.a.1** protocol was carried out by the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project, an initiative jointly executed by the United Nations Statistics Division and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in collaboration with National Statistical Offices, the Asian Development Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank.

2. Rationale

The two target 5.A indicators **focus on land** because this is a key economic resource inextricably linked to the access, use and control of other economic and productive resources. Ownership and/or control of land is critical for poverty reduction, food security, inclusiveness and overall sustainable development objectives. In terms of **gender equality**, an increase in the rights to land of women is tightly connected to women empowerment. Indeed, owning or bearing rights to land¹ reduces women's reliance on male partners and relatives, increases their bargaining power within the household², improves their chances of accessing extension services and credit, and encourages them to undertake and expand their investments and join producers organizations.

Indicator 5.a.1 is divided in two sub-indicators, which have been formulated as follows:

- (a) Proportion of total **agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex**

¹ According to Deere and Leon (2003) "The Gender Asset Gap: Land in Latin America" World Development Vol. 31, No. 6, pp. 925–947, there is a "growing body of case study evidence from Latin America demonstrating that if one compares peasant women landowners with those who are landless, women landowners have a much greater choice of marriage partners and strike a stronger marriage bargain. Within marriage women landowners play a greater role in both household and farm decision-making, including productive decisions and those governing the disposition of what is produced and how income so generated is used."

² Evidence for this was found in South Asia: Agarwal, B. (1994). "A field of one's own: gender and land rights in South Asia." Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

(b) Share of women among **owners or rights bearers of agricultural land**, by type of tenure

Sub-indicator (a) measures the prevalence of people in the agricultural population with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land (disaggregated by sex); sub-indicator (b) focuses on the gender parity, measuring the extent to which women are disadvantaged in ownership/tenure rights over agricultural land.

While indicator 5.a.1 focusses on gender parity in ownership and tenure rights over agricultural land, other SDG indicators recognize the importance of strengthening secure tenure rights for all. Indicator 1.4.2, for instance, measures the “*proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure*”. Indicator 5.a.1 and 1.4.2 show similarities and differences. Both of them tell about individual rights and they promote sex-disaggregated data. However, while indicator 1.4.2 speaks about ‘any land’ and refers to the total adult population, indicator 5.a.1 focuses on agricultural land and refers to the adult individuals living in agricultural households. In addition, indicator 1.4.2 focuses on monitoring the penetration legally recognized documents and the perceptions on tenure security, whereby indicator 5.a.1 looks also at the ‘de facto’ ownership / tenure rights by considering both legal documentations and alienation rights.

FAO, UN-HABITAT and the World Bank are collaborating to align concepts, definitions and data collection tools, to facilitate countries in the collection and generation of these indicators. In particular, work is ongoing to develop a common ‘land tenure module’ that is able to generate the data for calculating both indicator 5.a.1 and 1.4.2.

3. Definitions

3.1. Agricultural land

Indicator 5.a.1 focuses on agricultural land which, in compliance with the classification provided by World Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020), includes ‘land under temporary crops’, ‘land under temporary meadows and pastures’, ‘land temporarily fallow’, ‘land under permanent crops’ and ‘land under permanent meadows and pastures’. All the forms of land that are not considered ‘agricultural’ – including land under farm buildings and farmyards, forest and other wooded land, areas used for aquaculture and other areas not elsewhere classified – are excluded from the indicator. However, if farmyards play a crucial role for the agricultural sector of a country, these can be considered in the computation of 5a1.

3.2. Agricultural households

Indicator 5.a.1 uses ‘agricultural population’ as reference population, instead of the total population, because tenure rights over agricultural land are relevant especially for individuals whose livelihood relies on agriculture. More specifically, since agricultural land includes both crop land and meadows and pastures, tenure rights over agricultural land are relevant for households operating land and / or raising or tending livestock. Thus, the reference population (denominator) for indicator 5.a.1 are the **adult individuals living in agricultural households**, *i.e. households that operated land for agricultural purposes and / or raised livestock over the past 12 months, regardless of the final purpose of the production*.

Once a household is classified as ‘agricultural household’, all the adult individuals are eligible to be asked about their tenure right status over agricultural land. The adoption of a household perspective is

particularly important from the gender perspective, because in many agricultural households, women often consider themselves as not being involved in agriculture, whereas they provide substantive support to the household’s agricultural activities. In addition, for households operating land or raising livestock, land is an important assets for all the individuals and protect them in case the household dissolves.

Households who have tenure rights over agricultural land but do not farm the land are excluded from the reference population, because the indicator focuses on households whose livelihood is linked to practicing agriculture.

Finally, households whose member/s is/are engaged in the agricultural sector only as wage laborer/s are excluded from the reference population. Indeed, while it makes sense to classify as ‘agricultural’ a household where someone is operating land / raising livestock on his/her own, the same cannot be said for households where a member works land / raise livestock for someone else because, in this case, agricultural land is not an asset relevant for the household economy.

3.3. Ownership and secure land tenure rights

Based on the recommendations from the seven EDGE field tests, **three proxies** have been identified to measure **ownership or land tenure rights**:

1. Presence of a legally recognized document
2. Right to sell
3. Right to bequeath

Since individuals may have the right to sell or bequeath land even in absence of legal documents, the indicator combines legal documentation with the right to sell or bequeath, in order to render it comparable across countries. Therefore, indicator 5.a.1 considers as owners or holders of land tenure rights over agricultural land the individuals that present at least one of the three proxies. The EDGE pilots show that these three proxies offer the most robust measure of land tenure rights ensuring comparability across countries with diverse prevalence of documentation.

4. Indicator’s mathematical formula

Considering the recommendations above, the two 5.a.1 sub-indicators can be expressed through the following mathematical formulas:

Sub-indicator (a)

$$\frac{\text{Number individuals living in an agricultural household with:} \\ \text{Legally recognized document on agricultural land OR the right to sell it OR the right to bequeath it}}{\text{Number individuals living in an agricultural household}} * 100, \text{ by sex}$$

Sub-indicator (b)

$$\frac{\text{Number of women living in an agricultural household with:} \\ \text{Legally recognized document on agricultural land OR the right to sell it OR the right to bequeath it}}{\text{Number individuals living in an agricultural household with:} \\ \text{Legally recognized document on agricultural land OR the right to sell it OR the right to bequeath it}} * 100$$

5. Minimum Set of Data

Based on the criteria and definitions mentioned above, a minimum set of data is needed to calculate indicator 5.a.1. These are outlined in the following table.

Whether or not the household has operated land for agricultural purposes and / or raised livestock over the past 12 months	To identify individuals living in agricultural households, by sex
Sex of the selected individual	
Age of the selected individual	
Whether or not the selected individual owns or holds any agricultural land	To identify land owners and land rights bearers (3 proxies)
Whether or not any of the land owned or held by the respondent has a legally recognized document that allows protecting his/her ownership / tenure rights over the land	
Whether or not the selected individual is listed as an owner or holder on any of the legally recognized documents, either alone or jointly with someone else	
Whether or not the selected individual has the right to sell any of the agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else	
Whether or not the selected individual has the right to bequeath any of the agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else	

The list can be expanded and questions can be customized. Nevertheless, it is fundamental that the minimum set of data remains stable and consistent worldwide, in order to ensure comparability across time and country.

6. Identifying ‘agricultural households’: recommended questions

As mentioned above, the reference population (denominator) for indicator 5.a.1 are the individuals living in agricultural households. For the purpose of this indicator, an individual is part of the reference population if s/he is adult and belongs to a household that has *operated land for agricultural purposes and / or raised livestock over the past 12 months, regardless of the final purpose of the production.*

The module presented in this section suggests how to identify ‘agricultural households’. Questions below are asked at the household level, to the most knowledgeable individual in the household. They aim to capture household involvement in agriculture over the past 12 months.

Module for capturing the reference population

Question		Function
Q1	Did this household operate any land ⁽¹⁾ for agricultural purposes in the last 12 months? ⁽²⁾ 1. Yes 2. No (→ Q3)	<i>Screening (farming)</i>
Q2	Was farming performed as... <i>(tick all that applies)</i> 1. For use / consumption of the household 2. For profit / trade 3. Wage work for others	<i>Filter out from the denominator households where farming was done only as wage labor</i>
Q3	Did this household raise or tend any livestock (eg., cattle, goats, etc.) in the last 12 months? 1. Yes 2. No (questions end)	<i>Screening (livestock)</i>
Q4	Was raising/tending livestock performed as... <i>(tick all that applies)</i> 1. For use / consumption of the household 2. For profit / trade 3. Wage work for others	<i>Filter out from the denominator households where raising/tending livestock was done only as wage labor</i>

⁽¹⁾ Including orchards and kitchen gardens

⁽²⁾ Alternative phrasings:

- Did this household **farm** any land for agricultural purposes in the last 12 months?
- Did this household **use** any land for agricultural purposes in the last 12 months?
- Did this household operate any land **to produce crops** in the last 12 months?
- Did this household **farm** any land **to produce crops** in the last 12 months?
- Did this household **use** any land **to produce crops** in the last 12 months?

7. Selecting individuals

This next section discusses who to interview in the agricultural households. In particular, it responds to the questions: Who? How many? How to select?

7.1. Who to interview? How many?

For indicator 5.a.1 it is crucial to choose the number of individuals on which the information is to be collected and determine who should report this information. The EDGE pilots have found that data from proxy respondents yield different estimates than self-reported data, with variations by asset, by type of ownership and by the sex of the owner. This mismatch between proxy-reported and self-reported data is very problematic particularly from a gender perspective.

Considering these findings, it is recommended not to collect indicator 5a1 through proxy respondents, rather interview household members about their own status. Due to budget constraints and time limitations, it may be possible to interview only one adult member per household. However, if a country wants to study intra-household dynamics, it may decide to collect information about each household member, using self-reported data.

7.2. How to select?

If a country decides to interview one individual per household, once a household is classified as 'agricultural household', it is necessary to implement a procedure that randomly selects a subject within the household in a way that he/she is representative of the target population. The "Kish" and the "closest birth date" methods are both suitable for this purpose. The comparative advantage of the Kish is that it allows for customizing and controlling the proportion of men and women in the sample.

8. Capturing owners and rights holders over agricultural land: recommended questions

Based on the minimum set of data outlined above, this section discusses the set of questions proposed for the calculation of the 5a1 indicator. In particular, the paragraphs below present the recommended questions to be used in two cases:

1. A minimum set of questions collected at the **individual level** is inserted in the survey
2. A module where data are collected at the **parcel level** is appended to the survey

8.1. Case 1 - Individual level

This approach is recommended if:

1. the survey can collect only a minimum set of questions on the ownership of / or tenure rights over agricultural land
2. the inclusion of a roster of parcels goes beyond the scope of the survey

Under case 1, individual level questions should be asked through an individual questionnaire/module administered to a randomly selected adult household member or all household members. The list of questions is as follows:

Individual-level module on the ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land

List of standard questions	Function
<p>Q1. Do you hold (alternatively 'do you have, use or occupy') any agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else?</p> <p>1 - Yes 2 - No</p>	<p>Reported possession (i.e., self-perception of respondent's possession status)</p> <p>This questions refers to whether the respondent, not the respondent's household, holds any agricultural land. It measures reported possession, which captures the respondent's self-perception of his/her possession status, irrespective of whether the respondent has a formal documentation.</p>
<p>Q2. Is there a formal document for <u>any</u> of the agricultural land you hold (alternatively 'you possess, use, occupy) issued by the Land Registry/Cadastral Agency? (allow for more than one type of document to be listed)</p> <p>1 - Title deed 2 - Certificate of customary tenure 3 - Certificate of occupancy 4 - Registered will or registered certificate of hereditary acquisition 5 - Registered certificate of perpetual / long term lease 6 - Registered rental contract 7 - Other (specify: _____) 9 - No document (skip to Q4) 98 - Don't known (skip to Q4) 99 - refuses to respond (skip to Q4)</p>	<p>This question identifies whether there is a legally recognized document for any of the agricultural land the respondent reports having, and the type of documentation. Documented ownership / tenure rights refers to the existence of any document an individual can use to claim ownership or tenure rights in law over the land.</p> <p>The list of options is indicative and countries are encouraged to adopt country-specific list. However, it is of utmost importance that the list includes only country relevant documents that are enforceable before the law.</p>
<p>Q3. Is your name is listed as an owner or use right holder on any of the legally recognized documents?</p> <p>1 - Yes 2 - No 98 - Don't know 99 - Refuses to respond</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>Because individual names can be listed as witnesses on a document, it is important to ask if the respondent is listed "as an owner" or "holder" on the document. If the respondent says "yes", there is no need for him/her to show the document for ownership / tenure rights to the enumerator.</p>

<p>Q4. Do you have the right to sell any of the parcel you hold (alternatively 'parcel possessed, used or occupied'), alone or jointly with someone else?</p> <p>1 - Yes 2 - No 98 - Don't know 99 - Refuses to respond</p>	<p>Alienation rights</p> <p>This question obtains information on whether the respondent believes that he/she has the right to sell any of the agricultural land s/he reports possessing. When a respondent has the right to sell the land, it means that he or she has the right to permanently transfer the land to another person or entity for cash or in kind benefits.</p>
<p>Q5. Do you have the right to bequeath any of the parcel you hold (alternatively 'parcel possessed, used or occupied'), alone or jointly with someone else?</p> <p>1 - Yes 2 - No 98 - Don't know 99 - Refuses to respond</p>	<p>Alienation rights</p> <p>This question obtains information on whether the respondent believes that he/she has the right to bequeath any of the agricultural land he/she reports possessing. When a respondent has the right to bequeath the land, it means that he/she has the right to give the land by oral or written will to another person(s) upon the death of the respondent.</p>

8.2. Case 2 – Parcel level

Countries may opt to collect information at the parcel level for two reasons:

1. First, the country implements a nationally-representative survey that already collects a roster of parcels (e.g. the LSMS-ISA and many agricultural surveys) to which the questions on ownership or tenure rights can be appended.
2. Second, the country wants to go beyond the data strictly needed for the computation of the indicator and collect a broader set of information in order to carry out a comprehensive analysis of women's and men's ownership, rights and control of agricultural land. Collecting such information, including on the characteristics of agricultural land, should be done at the parcel level.³

When a module on the ownership / tenure rights of agricultural land is appended to an existing survey, the total number and sequence of questions in the module will depend on the general objectives and structure of the survey. Yet, for calculation of SDG Indicator 5.a.1, the following rules should be followed:

- i. **If the main survey questionnaire already captures a roster of parcels belonging to the household**, the respondent randomly selected to complete the module on agricultural land ownership / tenure rights should be asked if she/he holds any agricultural land. If yes, the respondent should report which of the roster of parcels generated at the household level he/she possesses. In addition, the respondent should be given the opportunity to report any additional parcels not included in the household parcel roster. The questions in the module will only be asked for the agricultural parcels held by the respondent (see example below).
- ii. **If all household members are interviewed, a roster of parcel should be created** at the household level and the same procedure described in rule (i) should be followed.

³ A full list of data items, and their rationale, can be found in the draft "UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective" submitted to the UN Statistical Commission in March 2017 and in the technical note submitted to the IAEG-SDG for fast-tracking the 5.a.1 indicator to the Tier II category.

Parcel-level module on the ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land based on household parcel roster (rules (i) and (ii))

Q1. Do you hold (alternatively 'do you have, use or occupy') any agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else? 1 – Yes 2 – No (end of module)							
	Q2	Q3			Q4	Q5	Q6
Parcel ID	Please tell me which agricultural parcels you hold (alternatively 'you have, use or occupy') <i>ENUMERATOR: LIST PARCEL ID CODES FROM THE HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE THAT ARE HELD INDIVIDUALLY OR JOINTLY BY RESPONDENT</i>	Is there a formal document or certificate for this [PARCEL] issued by the Land Registry/Cadastral Agency? (tick all that applies) 1 - Title deed 2 - Certificate of customary tenure 3 - Certificate of occupancy 4 – Registered will or registered certificate of hereditary acquisition 5 – Registered certificate of perpetual / long term lease 6 – Registered rental contract 7 - Other (specify: _____) 9 - No document (skip to Q4) 98 - Don't known (skip to Q4) 99 – refuses to respond (skip to Q4)			Is your name is listed as owner or use right holder on the formal document for this [PARCEL]? 1 - Yes (alone or jointly with someone else) 2 - No 98 - Don't know 99 - Refuses to respond	Do you have the right to sell this [PARCEL], either alone or jointly with someone else? 1 - Yes (alone or jointly with someone else) 2 – No 98 - Don't know 99 - Refuses to respond	Do you have the right to bequeath this [PARCEL], either alone or jointly with someone else? 1 - Yes (alone or jointly with someone else) 2 – No 98 - Don't know 99 - Refuses to respond
1		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

iii. **If the main survey questionnaire does not capture a roster of parcels at the household level and one randomly-selected adult household member will be administered the module on agricultural land ownership /tenure rights, a respondent roster of parcels can be created in the individual questionnaire by asking the respondent to list all of the parcels that s/he holds (see example below).**

Parcel-level module on the ownership / tenure rights of agricultural land based on respondent parcel roster (rule (iii))

Q1. Do you hold (alternatively 'you have, use or occupy') any agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else? 1 – Yes 2 – No (end of module)							
	Q2	Q3			Q4	Q5	Q6
Parcel ID	List all of the agricultural parcels you hold (alternatively 'you have, use or occupy'), either alone or jointly with someone else	Is there a formal document or certificate for this [PARCEL] issued by the Land Registry/Cadastral Agency? (tick all that applies) 1 - Title deed 2 - Certificate of customary tenure 3 - Certificate of occupancy 4 – Registered will or registered certificate of hereditary acquisition 5 – Registered certificate of perpetual / long term lease 6 – Registered rental contract 7 - Other (specify: _____) 9 - No document (skip to Q4) 98 - Don't known (skip to Q4) 99 – refuses to respond (skip to Q4)			Is your name is listed as owner or use right holder on the formal document for this [PARCEL]? 1 - Yes (alone or jointly with someone else) 2 - No 98 - Don't know 99 - Refuses to respond	Do you have the right to sell this [PARCEL], either alone or jointly with someone else? 1 - Yes (alone or jointly with someone else) 2 – No 98 - Don't know 99 - Refuses to respond	Do you have the right to bequeath this [PARCEL], either alone or jointly with someone else? 1 - Yes (alone or jointly with someone else) 2 – No 98 - Don't know 99 - Refuses to respond
1		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Data sources

9.1. Recommended data sources

Indicator 5a1 focuses on adult individuals living in agricultural households – i.e. households that have practiced agriculture over the last 12 months. Thus, it can be collected through Agricultural Surveys or National Household Surveys.

Agricultural Surveys are a recommended data source for two main reasons. First, their unit of analysis are agricultural holdings and, in most countries, a one-to-one relationship exists between the household-sector agricultural holdings and the agricultural households. Therefore, agricultural surveys capture well the reference population of indicator 5.a.1 (i.e. agricultural households) and they do not require any pre-screening and oversampling to generate nationally representative estimates. Second, agricultural surveys can easily accommodate questions on agricultural land tenure rights, since they frequently collect data regarding rights to agricultural land and data on agricultural production.

National Household Surveys (NHS)⁴ are also recommended data sources for indicator 5.a.1 for several reasons. First, they are the most common data source available in both developed and developing countries. Second, NHS tend to be very broad in scope and they are normally used to generate social, demographic and economic statistics. Therefore they: i) can accommodate questions needed for the

⁴ Examples of NHS that could be used to generate the indicator 5.a.1 are: Household Budget Surveys (HBS), Living Standard Measurement Surveys (LSMS), Living Conditions Surveys, Labour Force Surveys (LFS) and Multipurpose Household Surveys. Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) can be also used as data collection vehicle, provided that their individual questionnaires are administered to individuals beyond the age classes typically used in these surveys.

computation of indicator 5.a.1; ii) allow exploring associations between the individual status on indicator 5.a.1 and other individual or household characteristics, such as education, health, income level, etc; iii) can include additional data for a more detailed analysis of the indicator (eg., land size). However, if NHS are used to monitor indicator 5.a.1, it is necessary to identify agricultural households. In addition, especially in countries/regions with a low proportion of households is engaged in agricultural production, a pre-screening and oversampling may be needed, especially in urban and peri-urban areas.

9.2. Alternative data sources

In principle, Population and Housing Censuses (PHCs) and Agricultural Censuses (ACs) can be considered an alternative data source for indicator 5.a.1. However, (i) censuses are usually conducted every 10 years, therefore they do not allow to monitor closely the progress on indicator 5.a.1; (ii) censuses are large scale and costly operations focusing on structural data; and (iii) censuses heavily rely on proxy respondents, an approach which is in contrast with the respondents' selection procedure recommended for indicator 5.a.1.

10. Customization

Customization is one of the most delicate aspects to take into account when dealing with global level indicators. The principles leading customization at country level are mainly two:

1. Ensuring comparability of results across countries
2. Adapting to the characteristics and needs of a specific context

In order to achieve the first objective it is fundamental to strictly comply with the framework described for a given indicator, including all the data items needed and collecting data through the appropriate mean and from the correct respondents. At the same time adaptation is always needed at country level to properly reflect its reality.

The customization phase should be first dedicated to the translation of the questionnaires and all the concepts in the local language, so that they could be understood correctly by enumerators and respondents. Countries should include all the questions as they are and translate them as closely as possible to the concepts presented. At the same time there could be cases for which a more flexible approach could be used. An example of this, which is applying to many contexts is the following: in a Country where land cannot be sold, the question "Do you have the right to sell any of the parcel hold, alone or jointly with someone else?" can be transformed into "Do you have the right to sell or give away any of the parcel hold, alone or jointly with someone else?".

Finally, given that documented possession is highly country specific, the list of legally recognized titles or certificates should be adapted in all the countries. It could be frequent that some type of certificates have a specific name in each country, therefore a mapping between the list proposed and the documents used in a context is needed. In other cases a specific modality is really characteristic of a given country, therefore it has to be created and added to the list.