

## The Travelling Journal Timeline



[www.travellingjournal.asianruralwomen.net](http://www.travellingjournal.asianruralwomen.net)

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Panel Photos by Leonard G. Reyes

### PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

AMIHAN-National Federation of Peasant Women  
EcoWomen

Sarawak Dayak Iban Association (SADIA)

Cambodian Center for Study and  
Development in Agriculture (CEDAC)

Seruni-Indonesian Women's Organisation

Research Centre for Gender, Family and  
Environment in Development (CGFED)

Vikalpani National Women's Federation

Tamil Nadu Women's Forum (TNWF)



# OUR STORIES: ONE JOURNEY EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN IN ASIA



## ASIAN RURAL WOMEN'S TRAVELLING JOURNAL

Every day, rural women in Asia face mounting challenges caused by an increasingly broken system of food and agriculture. High food prices, low income, land grabbing, climate change and decreasing control over seeds mark the experiences of the women farmers who grow much of the region's food.

For six months, eight rural women in eight different Asian countries wrote their daily thoughts about their lives, families, communities, and struggles. They did it through writing, drawing, and composing songs and poems in one travelling journal.

The travelling journal, written in the respective local language of each woman writer, became an empowering space for rural women in asserting their leadership and rights to land, food and resources. It is a powerful medium for rural women's voices to be heard by those who shape national and international policies on land, food and agriculture.



## Philippines

### Margarita Tagapan

Montalban, Rizal

- A Filipina farmer, Margarita Tagapan wrote the first entry in the journal when it kicked off in the Philippines during the International Women's Day in March 2013. She is a member of the National Federation of Peasant Women in the Philippines (AMIHAN) and runs its cooperative grain store.



### Li Zizhen

Yunnan Province

- The journal made its way to the agricultural village of Chenguan in the Yunnan Province of China, where Li Zizhen, an indigenous farmer leader is passionate about preserving the culture of her Bai ethnic people and is active in promoting ecological agricultural practices.
- She wrote the song *Beautiful Chenguan*, as her first entry to the journal, which was reflective of her positive attitude as she goes through a rural life faced with many challenges.



## China

## India

### Shanthi Gangadaran

Tamil Nadu

- In India, Shanthi Gangadaran, a 46-year old Dalit farmer from Tamil Nadu, provided sketches of her life as a woman leader who is trying to change the fate of the landless Dalits. Shanthi is a respected leader of the Rural Women's Liberation Movement and her daily activities involve organising and mobilising Dalit women for land rights, encouraging women to participate in local governance, helping victims of violence and discrimination, and promoting organic agriculture.



## Malaysia

### Tija Anak Mang

Batang Igan Sibu

- The second to the last stop of the journal gave an intimate look into an Iban community facing the threat of land grabbing in Sarawak, Malaysia.
- Farmer Tija Anak Mang wrote about how she and other indigenous peoples struggle to keep their ancestral lands amid aggressive encroachments by palm oil companies.



## Indonesia

### Suryati

Pangalengan, West Java

- Suryati, a 36-year old farmer and a mother of 4, from the agrarian community of Pangalengan, West Java, Indonesia recorded her life as a leader and mother. Pangalengan used to be a fertile and productive land enjoyed by its tillers. Today, however, the majority of the lands are controlled by only a few companies involved in tea production, forestry, mining, and horticulture. Suryati says "Without land we can not produce food. That's why genuine land reform has to be done."



## Cambodia

### Chey Siyat

Kampot Province

- The journal made its fourth stop in Damnak Kantourt commune in the Kampot province of Cambodia. Chey Siyat, a leader of a village-based farmer association shared her thoughts on dealing with the impacts of climate change, raising productivity, and gaining greater access to markets through ecological agriculture.



## Sri Lanka

### Gunawathu "Amara" Hewagallage

Maligavilla

- Amara Hewagallage from the village of Maligavilla in Sri Lanka. Amara, well-known for her commitment to protect her community's resources, encourages people to keep traditional seeds and practice ecological farming.



## Vietnam

### Bui Thi Huong

Nam Dinh Province

- The last stop of the travelling journal was in Hai Van commune in Vietnam.
- The journal ends with Bui Thi Huong, a 53-year old farmer and a mother of two who splits her time taking care of her family, organising women's groups and farming. She expressed her excitement about learning from the stories of other rural women, and about the potential of her own stories to help others, as "the simple and rustic words will travel to other countries all over the world," she said.

