Workshop on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective through Household Surveys

Costa Rica

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Our country is located in Central America, bordered by Nicaragua to the north, Panama to the southeast.

Capital: San José.


Official language: Spanish.

It has been converted from an agricultural country to a service economy. Tourism is one of the main economic sources.
• The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses [Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos INEC] was created under Act 7839 of the National Statistical System [Sistema Estadístico Nacional SEN] as an Autonomous Entity of public law, with legal status and its own assets, as well as functional and administrative autonomy under article 188 of the Costa Rican Constitution.

• The main function of INEC is to promote national statistical activities that produce and disseminate reliable and timely statistics, in order to raise awareness of conditions in Costa Rica and contribute to efficient administrative and private management.
Legal framework regarding property ownership

Programmes and policies related to the ownership of housing and distribution or titling of land

Banco Hipotecario de la Vivienda (BANHVI)

A program called “Bono de vivienda” (Housing bonus) dedicated exclusively to housing financing for the lower income sectors of the country and the middle class.

El Ministerio de Vivienda y Asentamientos Humanos (MIVAH)

Has a credit program that give resources to the Authorized Entities of the National Financial System for Housing, under very favorable conditions so that families affected by emergencies and disasters.
Legal framework regarding property ownership

Programmes and policies related to the ownership of housing and distribution or titling of land

› Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social (IMAS)

Has a policy of individual benefits for segregation and / or transfer of properties of the institution to the adjudicating persons that occupy them, whether a free or onerous title.

› Instituto de Desarrollo Rural (INDER)

Has a Titling Strategy and Land Regularization for some areas of the country that don’t have their deeds who right now are own for INDER. Those properties include agricultural land, houses, cemeteries, communal halls, and others.
Costa Rica has a partial community property regime, assets brought to marriage or inherited during marriage remain individual exclusive property, while all property acquired during marriage is joint property.

In Costa Rica does not exist customary norms for marital regimes.
Legal framework and customary norms that govern inheritance regimes

In Costa Rica, the legal framework on inheritance regimes is the Civil Code. It can be in two types, the first is with a will and the second is without a will that this case is called proceso sucesorio (Potential inheritor must claim in front of a judge the assets of the deceased).
Muchas Gracias