

National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) becomes the Chair of Asian Farmer's Association (AFA)
Mr. Lyam Bahadur Darji, Chairperson of the National Land Rights Forum (NLRF)¹ is now the Chairperson for the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Development (AFA) for two years.



"Our prime focus will be to implement the new strategic document and capacity building of the member nations. I will start with monitoring the on-going programs, identifying the gaps and thus supporting member nations with resources."

AFA is a regional alliance of 20 national federations and organizations with more than 20 million small holder farmers, land poor and producers from 16 countries in Asia. The Seventh General Assembly (GA) was held in Hanoi, Vietnam on August 1-7, 2016.

Merely in his mid-50s, Mr. Darji has been actively campaigning for land rights and rights of small holder farmers for more than two decades now

¹There are 55 different District Land Right Forums (DLRFs) and 2,843 Village Land Rights Forum (VLRf) in the country. NLRF has a total of 98,275 members (35,055 women, 42,237 Dalits, 22,967 Janajatis), reaching to over 600,000 population directly and many more landless, former *haliya*, *kamaiya/kamalari*, marginalized, deprived and small holder farmers indirectly. The forum has been spearheading the struggle for land and agrarian rights in Nepal [See <http://www.nlrfnepal.org/>].

As a chair of AFA, NLRF will represent at different high level forums like the World Rural Forum, Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture, Civil Society Mechanism and Committee on World Food Security. This is also an opportunity for NLRF to strengthen solidarity and knowledge exchange and cooperation among Asian Farmers.

The week-long program was hosted by the Vietnam Farmer Union, one of the founding members of AFA. The GA has endorsed the new Strategic Plan (2016-20) of AFA.