

Land and Agrarian Rights Campaign:

Quarterly Progress Report

Shrawan -Asoj, 2069 (July 16 -October 16, 2012)

Submitted to:

Action Aid Nepal, Care Nepal, DanidaHUGOU, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Oxfam GB, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)

Submitted by:

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1. Introduction

Community Self-reliance Centre (CSRC) is a social movement based organization which works directly with land deprived people, particularly with tenants and landless poor farmers. It has been facilitating the land and agrarian rights campaign in Nepal since 1995, in order to establish a just and equitable society. The primary goal of CSRC and its strategic partners is the continued struggle for land and agrarian reform in the face of injustice, poverty and exploitation with regard to the unequal distribution of land and the powerlessness of those who work it as a result of unempirical management.

This report is a summary of the progress made according to the planned and approved activities carried out by Community Self-Reliance Center (CSRC), national collaborating partner organisations (Abhiyan Nepal, CSDR, CDECF, JDS, RDS and SWAN) together with District Land Rights Forums (DLRFs) and National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) in this quarter which covers the period from 1st Shrawan to 30th Asoj 2069 (16th July 2012 to 16th October 2012). The main purpose of this report is to share information regarding CSRC activities among all of the supporting organisations and concerned stakeholders at all levels.

The existing supporting strategic partners are ActionAid Nepal (AAN), CARE Nepal, DanidaHUGOU, Oxfam GB, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC).

2. Summary of Activities (for this reporting period)

The table below describes CSRC's major activities and corresponding outputs for the reporting period. Numerous smaller and sub-activities were also carried out, but are not included here.

Output and Activity	Plan and Progress			Coverage and Progress					
	Unit	Plan	Progress	Unit	Plan	Progress	Female	Dalit	Janjati
Output 1: Rights holders (land-poor women and men) organized, strengthened and mobilized to claim and exercise their rights									
Overall management and coordination	NC	1	1	Person	20	23	10	9	9
Full-time worker (National Secretariat of NLRF)	Person	4	5	Person	4	5	1	2	2
Accountant cum office secretary (NLRF)	Person	1	1	Person	1	1	1	1	0
Meeting (National)	Time	1	2	Person	21	25	11	7	8

Campaign (Result Oriented), National movement for implementation of the action plan.	Time	-	-	Person	-	-	-	-	-
NLRF Strengthening and Renovation				Person					
Special orientation for all frontline leaders	District	4	3	Person	100	137	98	26	82
Forming and strengthening District Land Rights Forums (32 districts)									
Campaign costs for one visible movement	Districts	32	30	Districts	32	30	-	-	-
Full-time worker (district level)	Person	32	29	Person	32	29	9	10	7
NLRF office secretary (district level)	Person	32	30	Person	32	30	23	9	10
Extension of DLRF	Districts	21	21	Districts	21	21	-	-	-
Capacity building of NLRF and DLRF staff and activists in the areas of advocacy, paralegal skills, and networking and alliance building									
Land encampment	Times	-	23	Person	-	1367	731	668	431
Training and orientation	Times	5	13	Person	150	619	339	173	327
Mainstreaming the action-reflection-action model of popular education in land rights movement									
Activist support	Person	80	78	Person	80	78	37	30	39
Formation of agricultural cooperatives	Cooperative	-	5	Person	-	151	79	22	43
Facilitation of REFLECT circles (Bhumi Sekai Kendra)	Circles	126	73	Person	3150	1647	1343	456	705

Output 2: Clarity and consensus about land reform established, and land reform policy and frameworks suitable to the needs and realities of Nepal developed and implemented									
Policy dialogue at national level (ADS and NA)	Times	1	2	Person	100	84	40	37	47
Develop viable alternative land reform and management models through action research (CLR)	VDC	5	5	HH	5464	5464	-	-	-
Media mobilisation (radio programme and others)	Throughout								
Independent Campaigners and volunteer mobilization	as per need								
Policy dialogue at District and Regional level	Times	-	7	Person	-	476	288	149	224
Public campaign, Demonstrations, rallies & submission of memoranda	Times	3	3	Person	6000	8600	3600	71700	1950
Support to the process of claiming of land rights	Throughout			HH	200	2660	-	-	-
Support to process of claiming economic activities	Community	2	0	HH	100	0	-	-	-
Output 3: Critical engagement established with non-state stakeholders (such as IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and multinational companies) involved in land and agricultural issues									
Study on land policy of non-state actors (WB, ADB, WTO)									
Training, workshop and sharing session									
Output 4: Learning generated from ground level actions and practices, and knowledge disseminated at all levels									

Establishment of resource centers both at national and sub-national levels									
National level resource center	RC	1	1	RC	1	-	-	-	-
Regional & District level resource centres	RO	5	5	RO	5	-	-	-	-
Mobilization of alliances (Resource Organizations) engaged in land rights movement									
Resource Organization Coordinator	Person	3	4	Person	3	4	0	1	1
District Coordinators	Person	15	15	Person	15	15	6	6	4
Assistant finance Officers (RCs & ROs)	Person	7	7	Person	7	7	0	2	1
Study and Findings Sharing	Issues	1	-	studies	1	0	0	0	0
Publications and dissemination of advocacy materials, periodic reports, journals and bulletins Bhumiadhikar, Social audit report and Poster	Issue	2	2	Copies	2000	1500	0	0	0
CSRC institutional strengthening (General assembly, EC meeting, Yearly retreat)	Throughout	1	1	Person	30	26	13	3	7
Social audit National Level	Times	1	1	Person	150	174	43	17	35
Capacity building of RC/ROs staff (Finance training & others)	Times	1	2	Person	32	37	18	10	9
Output 5: New land policies introduced guaranteeing women and men equal rights to own land.									

Dialogue and pressurize to the government to implement policy and program on women access to land.	Times	5	2	Person	300	35	29	1	5
Exposure and learning visits	Times	1	1	Person	-	31	16	3	19
Regional conference of women leader and activist.	Places								
Joint ownership Campaign	Hh	500	47	Person	500	47	-	-	-
					Yearly target				

3. Major Quarterly Achievements (16 July to 16 October 2012)

1. A total of 564 households have received land ownership certificates. Of these 4 have received from tenancy case settlements and another 560 have received for the village block land from district land revenue offices. The area of land received amounts to 7.77 ha. This has secured shelter for these landless families and has enabled them to gain access to government services, social dignity and sense of security. Similarly 47 couple (husband and wife) made joint ownership land certificate.
2. 2660 Guthi land tillers have filed cases at the Land Registration Committee, Sindhupalchok. After six months struggle the commission was formed with the chairpersonship being the Chief District Officer.
3. 619 (339 female, 173 dalit, 327 janjati) land rights activists and front line leaders were provided with training and orientation sessions on land rights and strengthening people's organizations. This training helped in the ability to file cases at the district land reform/land revenue offices. This has enabled facilitation of land-related legal matters in groups at the community level as well.
4. 55 new Village Land Rights Forums (VLRFs) were formed and organized which included 1568 members (792 female, 392 dalit, 696 janjati) and mobilized 2440 people's organization for their rights claim and economic activities. This support has contributed to working independently and strengthening people's organisation and land rights campaigns in their respective areas and issues. Permanent district committees (DLRF) were formed in Ramechhap and Salyan and reformed in Banke.

5. A total of 47 households have acquired Joint Land Ownership covering the area of 8.93 ha of land. The campaign is being undertaken rapidly at various district and community levels with the progress being made. (*Refer to annex for details*)
6. Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) organised its Fifth National Social Audit on 31st August, 2012 with an objective of sharing its plan, budget and program through continued transparency. CSRC gained valuable feedback to strengthen the land and agrarian rights campaign and institutional governance. The Chief Guest and keynote speaker was Honorable Gauri Pradhan, member of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Accordingly the opinion was delivered by Kiran Dongol, Chartered Accountant (Dongol and Associates); Yamuna Ghale, Senior Program Officer of Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC); Dr. Netra Timsina, Chair Person of NGO Federation; Nagendra Jha, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Land Reform and Management; Dipendra Pant, Assistant Director of Social Welfare Council; Madhav Regmi, Secretary of National Vigilance Centre. There were a number of representatives from government officials, NGO/INGOs, political parties, stakeholders, civil society bodies, social activists and academicians who provided their input.
7. The report of the Fifth Annual Social Audit has been published and distributed among various individuals and organizations, primarily those who were in attendance. The Nepali translated version of the research paper '*Land Tenure and Agrarian Reforms in Nepal*' has been published by CSRC. Likewise the video report of the social audit has also been produced. Moreover the poster of Joint Land Ownership Campaign has been published in collaboration with Department of Land Reform and Management and National Women's Commission.
8. 60th Memorial ceremony of the great farmer leader *Bhim Dutta Pant*, who struggled against feudal exploitation and initiated the farmer's movement, was celebrated vivaciously in districts. Bhim Dutta is idolized by farmers and his memory was celebrated in style. The demand letter for the agreement of inclusion of Bhim Dutta Pant as Martyr and to implement the land reform policies addressing the issue raised by him has been signed by leaders from various political parties. With the consent of all, the demand letter has been sent to the Prime Minister through CDO.
9. Three new cooperatives have been formed which has led to the mobilization of a total of 151 women members. These cooperatives have also been directly involved in agricultural activity on fallow and other unused land.
10. 73 land learning centres have been running at community level with 1647 participants. These centres have contributed considerably to strengthening the local land rights campaign and people's organisations. They have addressed such issues as:-use of VDC

resources; membership of CFUG; protection against land rights violations; planning of land rights campaigns and use of fallow land.

11. An annual campaign plan, work plan and budget were finalized by all 30 DLRFs, and the National Land Rights Forum RCs/ROs within the agreed time frame.
12. The cases which had been filed at the Landless Problem Solving Commission for landless identity cards, has been reviewed at the VDC level and interactions were held with VDC Secretary, political parties leaders and members of the Commission. 45,610 cases filed at the Landless Problem Solving Commission on behalf of NLRF. This process contributes towards identifying the real landless at respective VDCs and DLRFs, with VLRF leaders actively facilitating this process at their respective community VDC and DDC. The Motipur Land Rights Forum, Bardiya, succeeded to withdraw the land certificate, which was distributed by the previous Ranabaht Commission.
13. The District Forest Office evicted 44 families from the Kalyanpur community, Surkhet district. For their justice and human rights, the case has been publicized and filed at the Regional Human Rights Commission, Nepalgunj, Banke. Assistance was provided by human rights activists and journalists.
14. The Ministry of Forest implemented the Forest Protection Act. As a result, those people living around the forest area are being evicted. Representatives of NLRF and DLRF visited the Ministry of Forest, Home Affairs and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The Home Affairs and Forest Ministry agreed to stop the eviction for now and NHRC released a press note and asked the government to provide alternatives before an eviction occurs. From this 432 families of Dhadhwar were not evicted.
15. A campaign was carried out on the protection of Churiya and land rights of Churiya area residences. The campaign included wall painting, marching, broadcasting from FM, mass meetings and interactions with different stakeholders. As a result, the government offices especially Land Conservation Department and District Offices agreed to talk on the issue of land rights of the Churiya people.
16. The NLRF annual council meeting was held and included the participation of 104 DFLRF members from 44 districts, consisting of 59 males and 45 females. The council decided to start the framework of land and agrarian reform from 53 VDCs of 53 districts. Also people will be mobilized to utilize public land, livelihood initiatives and strengthen the VLRF in all districts. The council provided a broader understanding of land reform, the social movement and the people's organisation and gave considerable encouragement to all participants to continue to work towards strengthening the land rights movement.

17. 72 members of DLRFs were trained on the issue of legal provision of land rights, human rights perspective of land rights and institutional and leadership development .The training was held in the NLRF central office in Thimura, Chitawan.
18. CSRC and ILO are jointly carrying out a study on Haruwa/Charuwa, (a kinds of semi-bonded system) in Saptari, Siraha and Sarlahi. Since large sections of people are saying there are no Haruwa and Charuwa in Nepal, this study will provide evidence to the contrary.
19. 72 account staff and the Secretary of DLRF have been trained on accounting and management of DLRF. The training was conducted in two slots, one in Itahari, Sunsari and the other in Thimura, Chitawan.
20. CSRC has been implementing the strategic partnership model now in its fourth year. The strategy will be completed by the end of 2013. A critical review is being carried out on the existing strategy and model of resource centers and resource organizations including institutional governance and staff structure.
21. The tenancy issue and its political, legal and social aspect on land were shared with students of Nepal Law Campus. There were 110 students in that orientation programme.
22. Capacity building training in computer skills of land rights activists especially those who are working at the community, village or district level, was held in Kathmandu. In the first slot, three persons were trained and in the second slot six people were trained.
23. In the remote VDC of Rasuwa, Haku's 336 families have been tilling the Guthi land for generations, yet they still have not received their land certificates. They are therefore excluded from government services such as access to electricity, bank loans and other facilities. For this, the DLRF team and community people visited the Ministry of land reform and the Guthi Corporation. Now the Guthi Corporation is studying how they can provide land certificates. This is due to the Guthi owner, Soyambu Gang provide ready to provide the people ownership.
24. With diverse participation, CSRC carried out its annual general assembly and shared the achievements, learnings and future plans. Summarily general assembly decided to formulate a new strategy paper 2014-2018, formed a new auditing committee, and institutional development through the coordination of general members.

4. Challenges

The following major challenges were faced during the previous quarter:

- The Landless Problem Solving Commission could still not identify the real landless people. The problem of fake squatters and real landless people is an issue
- Continuing changes within the Government and of key Government officers at policy level has resulted in limited progress.

5. Priorities (for the coming quarter)

The following major activities have been planned for this quarter:

- Joint ownership Campaign women and men;
- Campaigning on tenant and landless people identification and identity card distribution;
- Lobby and pressurize to bring 7th amendment of Land Reform Act;
- Campaigning on Peoples organisation strengthening and capacity building;
- Develop the land and agrarian plan from the community level (VDC level);
- Formation of women's agricultural cooperatives and linking these with agro economic activities;
- Study on land plotting, fallow land and land grabbing;
- CSO land monitoring;
- Engage in ESCR shadow report writing; and
- Support to formulate the national land policy

6. Staff, Board and Membership

Staff and board members participated in the following training and workshops especially at the national and international levels.

S.no	Nature of Training/Workshop	Date	Place	Participant	Organizer
1.	Workshop on Sustainable Development	3 August	Baneshwor	Mr. Jagat Deuja, Program Manager	Ministry of Environment and Science
2.	"Training on Result Based Report Writing (RBR)"	6-11th August, 2012	Sundarijal, Kathmandu	Ms. Jyoti Baidya, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
3.	Workshop on 'Farmers' Fighting Poverty'	8-11th September, 2012	Bangkok, Thailand	Mr. Jagat Basnet, Executive Director	Asia Dharra and Asain Farmers' Association (AFA)
4.	(ToT) on Conflict Transformation and Human Rights	24th-28th September, 2012	Godavari, Kathmandu	Ms. Kalpana Karki, Regional Program Officer	DanidaHUGOU
5.	Jansatyagraha 2012	26th September -4th October 2012	Delhi, India	Mr. Jagat Basnet, Executive Director	Ektaparishad, India
6.	Asia Land Forum 2012 and Regional Assembly of ILC	2nd-5th October 2012	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Mr. Jagat Deuja, Program Manager	International Land Coalition(ILC)

7. Annexes

Annex: A Case Study

The Changes led through Primary Group

"With the continuous struggle we have been able to bring visible change in our community" says Buddha Maya Basyal, Vice-chair of VLRF. In Dhanusha, Yagyabhumi VDC-8 the community members had been residing since 2004. Back then, the community people were deprived of basic facilities with no concrete means for the development process. Consequently, with a total of 41 members being organized in the group; Thakalghari Village Land Rights Forum (VLRF) was established during August 2009. Being organized in the group the community members acknowledged the various prevailing issues and became aware about claiming their rights.



Through regular discussion, in April 2009 they established the *Well* by taking a loan of NPR 7,000 from the movement fund. During 2009, School Management Committee was also established with the joint initiation of VLRF members. The necessary procedures for registration were followed and approval was received from the VDC and District Education Office. Previously there had been no school facility available for enrollment. "We are happy to see our children going to school with our own effort" expresses VLRF frontline leader. They have been collecting the movement fund NPR 25 (\$0.29) (\$1= 85.09 NPR) from each member on a monthly basis. With the regular savings from the monthly meeting, the total movement fund has been NPR 98, 5012 (\$11,576)



Through the discussion, VLRF members came up with the idea of establishing a community building (*Bhumi Ghar*) taking into consideration the security and permanence of the VLRF. Members utilized the land which has been left fallow in Yagyabhumi VDC. During February 2011, VLRF members worked together continuously for 3 days (*labour donation*) and established the community building (*Bhumi Ghar*) in 10 dhur land. The Vice-chair of VLRF said, "We have now a permanent place to conduct meeting, discussion and plan for the community development". VLRF members are happy with the up-to-date achievement and visible progress being made through joint efforts.

Annex: B

Land Entitlement

Place	HH	Area of land	In Hecatre	Source
Saptari, Madhupatti	1	4 Kattha	0.13	Tenancy Settlement
Padraiya, Siraha	560	10 Bigha	6.7	Village Block land
Sindhupalchok	3	19 Ropani	1.0	Tenancy Settlement
Total	564		7.77	

Joint Land Ownership

Districts	HH	Total Area of Land	In Hectare
Kailali	2	8 Kattha 15 Dhur	0.015
Baitadi	30	4.30 Bigha	2.87
Dang	2	1 Bigha	0.67
Rupandehi	1	1 Kattha	0.03
Sindhupalchok	3	18 Ropani	0.92
Saptari	2	7 Kattha	0.23
Udaypur	2	15 Kathha	0.5
Khotang	2	39 Ropani	2
Okhaldunga	3	33 Ropani	1.69
Total	47		8.93

Annex: C

Program glimpses of this quarter



CSRC's Fifth National Social Audit



Farmers holding a rally on 60th Bhim Dutta Pant Memorial Day



Land Rights Journey Held, Morang district



National Orientation on Land and Agrarian Rights for Frontline Leader

