

About CSRC: Established in 1993, Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC) is a pioneering institute working for land and agrarian rights of the landless and land-poor communities in Nepal. CSRC educates and organizes people deprived of land rights and empowers them to lead free, secure and dignified lives.

Since its establishment, CSRC has been working to transform discriminatory and unjust social relations by organizing landless, land-poor and marginalized communities to claim and exercise their rights. It follows the non-violent ethos of social movements, led by landless and land-poor farmers. In the policy front, CSRC advocates advancing pro-poor land governance and inclusive policies. It collaborates with the National Land Rights Forum (NLR), which has been facilitating land and agrarian rights campaign in more than 60 districts. .

Highlights of October. Activities focused mainly on capacity building of staffs, campaign officers and activists through skill development trainings. Campaigns and assemblies relating to issue of tenant land sharing and Joint Land Ownership were organised in different districts.

Tenant land sharing application. Altogether 86 applications were filed for land separation and tenancy rights transfer in the Land Reform Office of Dang, Banke, Sarlahi and Sindhupalchok.

JLO Camp in Udayapur. JLO camp was organised in Jogidaha of Udayapur participating landholding members of VLRs. The program started with a documentary show relating to JLO. District Coordinator Phurtiman Rai facilitated about the importance of JLO, that it ensures equal stake of men and women over land. Ten couples assured to make JLO certificates for their land, in the program. Altogether 47 people participated in the program.

In October, altogether seven couples acquired JLO certificate.

Capacity building for staffs and activists

Database Management System (DMS) Training. Two days long training on DMS was organised in the fourth week of October in the office of Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) in Kathmandu. There were altogether 17 participants, consisting of Campaign Officers, Campaign/District Coordinators, Manager and PME Coordinator.

The objective of this training was to provide an orientation to the participants about an online database management system designed by CSRC in order to organize the quantitative data obtained from eleven working districts: Banke, Bardiya, Dang, Mahottari, Okhaldhunga, Rautahat, Rasuwa, Sarlahi, Sindhupalchok, Siraha and Udayapur.



The participants were familiarised with the online database management system, its functionality and applications needed to record all quantitative datasets collected in the field. The operation of the system will now make quantitative data from all districts available and accessible online in all DLRFs or resource centres/ offices of CSRC. This is also a part of the monitoring and reporting tool, which will keep updated about the status and impacts of the movements and related activities to the right holders.

Photography and Videography Training. Seven staffs from CSRC, DLRFs and NLRF participated in *Photography and Videography training* organised by Care Nepal in Bhaktapur of Kathmandu. In the training, the participants were facilitated about the techniques of taking photographs for case studies, video graphs as well as on campaigning activities and mechanisms.

Advocacy and Capacity building trainings. Two days training for the frontline leaders was organised in Kapil bastu, facilitated by Lyam Bahadur Darji (Chairperson, NLRF) and Asharam Chaudhary (District Coordinator, ILC) to clarify their roles and responsibilities, the nature of land movement and concepts of Movement Fund. The activists also finalised a district plan, prioritising the issues of JLO, tenant land sharing and village block certificate. Altogether 42 women and 20 men participated in the program.

Training on land rights advocacy was conducted in Siraha, participating 33 frontline leaders and campaign activists (14 women, 24 Dalits, four Janajati, one Madhesi and three from Brahmin/Chhetri). The purpose of this training was to develop and improve advocacy skills of the workers, improve knowledge on progress markers land rights movement and upcoming plans and strategies to strengthen the movement activities. The facilitation was done by Jagat Deuja (Executive Director- CSRC), Kalpana Karki (Campaign Manager- CSRC), Bhola Paswan (Campaign Officer- CSRC) and Lyam Bahadur Darji.

Similar kind of training on capacity building of the frontline leaders was conducted in Dang for two days. The 19 participants were facilitated about the processes of strengthening their organizations (Village Land Rights Forums), mobilization of resources and coordination/collaboration with the local organizations to expand the scope of land movement.

Coordination Activities. The DLRF Banke and Bardiya conducted two interaction programs with the district level stakeholders on the issues of tenant land sharing, with an aim to make the process of land registration and ownership for the tenants easy in the coming days. The DLRF has been disseminating information about the government announcement about tenant land registrations to be done within a year of the publication of tenant land sharing policy in the National Gazette of Nepal in August 2016.



Mohi Campaigns. In Dang one local campaign on tenant land sharing was organised, coordinating with the local level stakeholders, the VDC, community and political representatives and another campaign with the journalists in the premises of the Journalist Federation. This program saw participants from Land Revenue Office, Land Reform Office, political parties and NGOs.

Similar campaign was conducted in Sindhupalchok with landless participants (members and non members of VLRFs) discussing land related issues and more specifically, the process filing application for tenant land sharing and the kinds of documents required for the process.

Campaign for safer habitat through safe land. This campaign was organized in Harkapur VDC of Okhaldhunga. In the beginning, the District Administration Office (DAO) was informed about the organizing and later a local FM station helped in disseminating information about the campaign. In the program, the land registration guidelines were shared and explained to participants as well as collection of their grievances was done regarding missing names in the registration list. In the same program, the sixth amendment of the tenant land sharing and publication in the National Gazette were shared. Altogether 150 people participated in the program, of which 16 were Dalits, 18 were Janajati and 116 were Brahmin/Chhetri.

DLRF Rasuwa helped 63 earthquake affected landless families to file application (according to land registration guideline) at the Land Revenue Office (LRO).

Participation in the International Women's Conference. Six frontline leaders from National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) and CSRC participated in the International Women's Conference on Non Violent Movements and Women Rights organised by the Ekata Parishad in India. Women from 150 countries participated in the program.



The program was divided into three events: conference, community visit and film festival, organised in different cities like Chambal, Gwalior, Bhopal and Delhi. The Conference was organised on the birthday anniversary of Late Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mahatma Gandhi. In the event, influential activists (men and women) were felicitated, adding motivation to persistent involvement in the movement.

Apart from its core program of Land Movement, CSRC undertakes responsibilities of post earthquake recovery related activities through many projects implemented by partners like Action Aid Nepal (AAN), CARE Nepal and UNDP. Some major updates for October were:

Thirty-one *reflect classes* conducted in Women Friendly Spaces in four VDCs of Sindhupalchok.



Nepal Earthquake Recovery Program II (NERP II). Health and nutrition awareness activities to Older People's Association (OPA), discussing causes, symptoms, types and preventive measures of non-contagious disease cancer were conducted. These discussions were done in the regular meeting of VDC level OPAs. Six beneficiaries from Mahankal, Ichok and Nawalpur VDCs of

Sindhupalchok VDCs, screened during the Health Camp in July 2016, were assisted to have their eyes tested to provide them with the power glasses.

Orientation sessions on psychosocial counselling were organized to Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), Mother Group and Older Peoples in Ratemate and Gorshyang of Sindhupalchok. The objective of these orientation sessions were to help find out the cases of psychosocial disorders among the elderly in the working VDCs, after the earthquake.

The sessions were facilitated by a trained resource person, Renu Shakya from KOSIS Nepal.

International Day of Older Persons was celebrated on October 1, 2016 in Nuwakot. A program was organized in the Senior Citizen Welfare Institute of Nuwakot providing free health checkup to 206 elderly people. The institute started the service of residential old-age care service in its premises from the very day.

Livelihood Recovery Project. The livelihood recover project supports vegetable farmers in Rasuwa through trainings (farming techniques), providing vegetable seeds, farming equipments, and monitoring the progress of their production and marketing. Farmers producing tomato, cauliflower, and onion were supported with seed distribution, field monitoring and impact study.



This impact study (of the project) helped not only in monitoring the field and production status and independent farmers till now, but also tracing the additional beneficiaries and sharing the learning and reflections of the successful farmers to the rest. The study showed that the farmers involved in the livelihood recovery project spent 58% in food, 30 % in education, 12% in paying debt amount, 39 % in savings and 24% in housing reconstruction, from their income through selling of vegetables.

Planning Snapshot | November 2016

Land Rights: Movements and Campaigns

- Formation of new VLRFs and strengthening of the existing through re-orientation of the policy changes
- Joint Land Ownership (JLO) Camps
- Land Awareness Campaigns (Policy Discussions, Women's right to land and JLO)
- Tenancy camps, assemblies and support to filing of applications at the LROs
- Capacity Building of the frontline leaders and campaign activists

Recovery related

- Support the vegetable farmers through seed distribution and monitoring of their fields
- Trainings on agro based enterprises