About CSRC: Established in 1993, Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC) is a pioneering organization 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 (NLRF), which has been facilitating land and agrarian rights campaign in more than 60 districts.

In November, CSRC and Land Rights Forums (LRFs) have leaped on land related activities, awareness and assuring equal stake of women over land through Joint Land Ownership (JLO). Many more applications are being filed for tenancy land separation and land registration. Capacity building of frontline leaders and LFRs has been forwarded importantly. CSRC and the LRFs are actively involving in activism, campaigning for Violence against Women since November 25 for 16 days ahead.
JOINT LAND OWNERSHIP

Altogether 147 couples made Joint Land Ownership (JLO) in November for 41.95 hectare area land, with help of DLRFs and CSRC.

In the picture are amongst the 38 couples who made JLO certificate in Rasuwa, being photographed in Bhumighar of Rasuwa.

Five JLO camps and an Interaction and Review Meet was organised in six districts- Bardiya, Sindupalchok, Sarlahi, Rasuwa, Rautahat and Udayapur. The JLO camps last for a day, discussing the concept of JLO, its importance in promoting equal rights of men and women overland, the process involved and documents required. Before the camps, activists from DLRF visit different communities and aware the land holder couples about the event, seeking participation and conduct a round of discussion regarding JLO. The events are divided in facilitation sessions done by District Coordinators and fulltime workers of DLRFs and documentary, video clips shows regarding JLO, to spread the message of equality effectively.

The role of DLRFs in making JLO for landholder couples is the collection of necessary documents (identification proofs and land ownership certificates), writing of application and filling up forms. With help of them activists, the couples pay NPR 100 only and acquire the certificate.

APPLICATIONS FOR TENANT LAND SEPARATION AND REGISTRATION

Legal Background: The guidelines and regulations for the 6th Amendment of the 1964 Land Reform Act were finally passed 3rd week of July 2016. The amendment was made last October 2015, and aims to secure the land rights of registered tenants. This marks a victory for tenants, who can now claim half of the land that they till as their own; landowners, meanwhile, will retain half. According to government data, there are 119,685 registered tenants, many of whom have been tilling their land for generations. These tenants can now apply to acquire legal rights over their land, granting them tenure security and freedom from fear of evictions from their landlords. This is a major
accomplishment for the land rights movement, which has struggled hard for the said amendment and regulations.

Several DLRFs organised tenant land camps (Mohi sibir) the districts. The camps are organised by DLRFs for two to three days. Prior to the organization, activists and campaign officers disseminate information in the VLRFs and communities about the events to ensure participation of tenants.

The purpose of these events is to aware tenants about claiming their rights, policy level changes and the process of filing application at the land Revenue Office (LRO). In the Mohi sivir that are being organized after July (publication of notice in National Gazette), activists have been involving in collecting required documents, facilitating on ways to write application and writing applications for participating tenants to file application at the LROs. They distribute Information, Education, Communication (IEC) materials having overall information of requires steps for the process. In addition to making communities aware, these camps have been importantly increasing the number of tenants who have been filing application at the LROs.

The DLRFs in Sarlahi and Rautahat have collaborated with local FM stations to air messages about the policy level amendments and processes of filing application for the same.

VILLAGE LAND RIGHT FORUMS (VLRF). Altogether 12 new VLRFs have been formed, adding 369 new members in the Land Movement.

COORDINATION, COLLABORATIONS AND MEETINGS

A delegation of six members from DLRF Mahottari and CSRC collaboratively met the Land Reform Officer, Ram Chandra Raut in the respective office at Jaleshwar, Mahottari. In the meeting, teams discussed current issues of tenant land separation and registration, of applications that are being filed in Mahottari. The DLRF team forwarded a proposal to the Official about setting up a satellite office for a day in VDCs having high concentration of applications from tenant families. Since the process of filing applications require them to travel to the Land Reform Office in the district headquarter, a satellite office set in their VDC would make the process less costly by curtailing travel and other costs and repeated travels in case the documents do not meet requirements.

However because of less number of staffs in the office at present, Raut could not pledge about setting up satellite office but instead agreed to make community visit once with the DLRF team in areas where maximum number of tenant applications are being collected. This will be done within December. The officials will discuss in the visit to the communities about the process of filing application and the necessary documents pertaining to different circumstances. This visit is expected to raise the issue of tenant land separation/registration more importantly and strengthen the community’s trust over the works being done by DLRF.

Centralising he issue of tenants land separation and registration and village block division and certifications, the DLRF Udayapur met with the officials from Land Revenue Office, Land Survey Department, different political parties, village block residents and frontline leaders. This was a coordinated meeting, led by the DLRF. The DLRF pressurised the government for distribution of the village block residency certificate.
A (new) Land Revenue Official, Keshav Prasad Acharya met the team and gave his words to support all tenants that come to the office for registration, from his capacity. "With continuous advocacy and involvement of DLRF, the issue of land tenancy has reached many communities. Our department will be ready for all support that is needed", he added.

The DLRF Rasuwa collaborated with Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC) to conduct a stakeholders' interaction regarding Guthi land (of Haku VDC) in the premises of District Development Committee (DDC). Altogether 152 people participated in the program which included the Chief District Officer (CDO) and other important officers, local NGOs and media personnel and Haku settlers.

Since the mega earthquake of 2015, people of Haku have been forced to leave the place and live in scattered settlements around the VDC. Communities from six VDCs have been settling in Guthi land, without any ownership certification since generations. They are not able to claim for government grant support. This program is expected to grab attention of the stakeholders, seeking their support in providing land ownership certificate to the Guthi settlers, so that they can claim government grant support.
PUBLICATIONS

The landless communities of Judibela VDC of Rautahat, have published a booklet of success stories, compiling real time differences and impacts in their lives after the utilization of the fallow land in the community forest. The process was led by the chairperson of NLRF, Lyam Bahadur Darji and journalist Raghu Lamichhane.

The booklet includes stories of people who have been reaping benefits from the unused land of community forests through agriculture, as support to their livelihoods. This publication is taken as being strong evidence in showing the inevitable relations between forest and agriculture, and livelihoods.

CSRC and NLRF co-published a book on tenancy, entitled Mohiyani, written by Chandra Prakash Giri, on November.

Looking at the urgency of spreading information regarding tenancy land separation and registration, this timely publication contents- tenancy related regulations- separation and registration, processes of application, criteria and different formats of registration.

Apart from content explanations, the formats that are needed in land separation and registration application are included in the annex, clearly.

ACTIVISM FOR WOMEN, AGAINST VIOLENCE ON THEM

Gender equality is an internalised belief at CSRC. Advocating equality and women empowerment are amongst our major works. As integral to being part of the 16 days activism against violence on women, CSRC is promoting JLO as providing equal stake of women and men over land, thus ensuring her with ownership, decision making power and security.

In all working districts different activities are being conducted such as awareness rallies, street drama, slogan writing, documentary shows and interaction programs. CSRC has been publishing intensively as well as using the online networking to promote empowerment of women through land ownership.
Livelihood recovery programs are being implemented by CSRC and different implementation partners in Sindhupalchok and Rasuwa. In November, the major activities carried out by them have been the distribution of vegetable seeds to the earthquake affected, landless and small holder communities. The support has been towards commercial production and marketing of vegetables.

The Junior Technical Assistants (JTA) from CSRC provides monitoring/technical support to the farmers in their vegetable fields.

Sixty-year-old Bhawa Nath Poudel of Dhaibung, Rasuwa received CSRC’s support for cauliflower farming (seeds, fertilisers and training on farming techniques) for 0.1 hectare area land. In three months now, Poudel has produced 150 kilos of cauliflower worth NPR 22500 and is expecting to sell some more. His house was destroyed by the earthquake and so is living with his family in a temporary house. He is looking forward to start constructing a new house soon, from his savings from the vegetable farming.

Additionally in Helambu, Kiul, Mahankal, Ichok and Nawalpur of Sindhupalchok the elderly people (60+ years of age) were provided livelihoods training on bee keeping, goat farming and shelter management.
Health camps for the elderly in Chautara of Sindhupalchok, organised collaboratively by CSRC and Tilganga eye hospital benefitted nine elderly with free eye check-up and five of them were provided power glasses.

### Planning Snapshot | December 2016

- JLO camps, at least thrice in all working districts
- Continuation of registrations for JLO, tenancy land separation and transfer
- Continuation of 16 days activism against Violence of Women
- Conduct district level Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) and Social Audit in all districts
- National level PRRP in the forth week of December being organised in Thimura (DLRF Bhumighar) in Chitwan