

Monthly Update

Community Self-reliance Centre (CSRC)

April, 2017



Established in 1993, CSRC has been organizing and empowering poor and landless farmers to ensure their right in land. In a scenario where unequal distribution of land is the root cause of poverty and injustice leading to cases of human right violation, CSRC is working relentlessly to institute land distribution justifiable.

In April, CSRC and Land Right Forum (LRFs) prioritized on tenant awareness campaigns, events to mark Earth Day and capacity building of their staffs.



© CSRC Participants in the program organized by DLRD Dang, marking the Earth Day 2017

Land Right Movement: Activities and Achievements

Joint land ownership

Altogether nine couples acquired JLO certificate for 1.73 hectare of land, ensuring equal stake of women and men over land.

Campaign for awareness on JLO was organized in Barbardiya Municipality of Bhadaiya which was attended by 187 people, being informed on JLO Policy, processes involved and the importance of gaining it to ensure gender equality and reduce violence relating women. Seventeen couples who had participated in the program made a verbal commitment to make JLO in the future.

Tenant Land Distribution Campaign

Altogether 55 applications have been filed for tenancy land sharing in Siraha, 32 in Mahottari, 113 in Sarlahi and six in Sindhupalchok through advocacies and awareness campaigns organized by DLRF.

New VLRf and memberships

Four new VLRf have been formed distributing 175 new memberships in Dang, Okhaldhunga and Sindhupalchok. Altogether 743 members from VLRf in Bardiya and Sindhupalchok renewed their membership.

Use of Local Resources

For the construction of *Bhumighar*, District Development Office Mohattari allocated NPR 1,00,000 to Nayatol VLRf. Similarly, DLRf Udaypur contributed to the making of *Bhumighar* for three VLRf with cash support of NPR 18,750 each.

Agro-enterprise and Construction of *Bhumighar*

Thirteen VLRf in Udaypur were supported in agro enterprise by the DLRf, with an objective to bolster the agriculture based livelihood of its members. The DLRf distributed goats, pigs, water

pumps and tunnels to 13 VLRf. DLRf Sarlahi distributed 500 chicks to its seven members (two male and five female) of *Janasafal* VLRf.

Donation to *Bhumighar*



Ganga Bahadur Dhakal and his wife Homkumari donated 0.01271 hectare of their land to District Land Right Forum Okhaldhunga for the construction of *Bhumighar*. The couple had made JLO for this land. The couple donated the land in the remembrance of their deceased father. DLRf Okhaldhunga has already started to build *Bhumighar* in it. Initiative like this bolsters sustainability to people led organizations.

Capacity Building

DLRF Sarlahi organized an orientation program to its front line leaders from Karmaiya, Raajghat, Dhugre khola, Janakinagar, Sasapur, Pidari, Faradwa and Chandra Nagar. The sessions discussed forum's past, present and future, qualities needed to be a front line leader, identification of local issues and successful and unsuccessful campaign. The program was facilitated by DLRf Secretary Bhawani Ghimire, Campaign Officer Asha Ghatani, Frontline activist Ambika Adhikari and DLRf Chairperson Jit Bahadur Gole. The program was attended by 42 people.

Similarly for the capacity development of its front line leaders and full time activists, DLRf Mohattari organized three-day training comprising interaction sessions on VLRf mobilization, women's rights, legal provisions, stakeholder analyses, frontline activism and local campaigns. Altogether 47 people participated in the program. The sessions were followed by group works and development of follow up actions.

Tenants Awareness Campaign



© CSRC Tenant awareness campaign, Sarlahi

With an objective of informing tenants about the Sixth Amendment in the Land Reform Act 1964, tenant awareness campaigns were organized in Mahottari, Rautahat and Sarlahi.

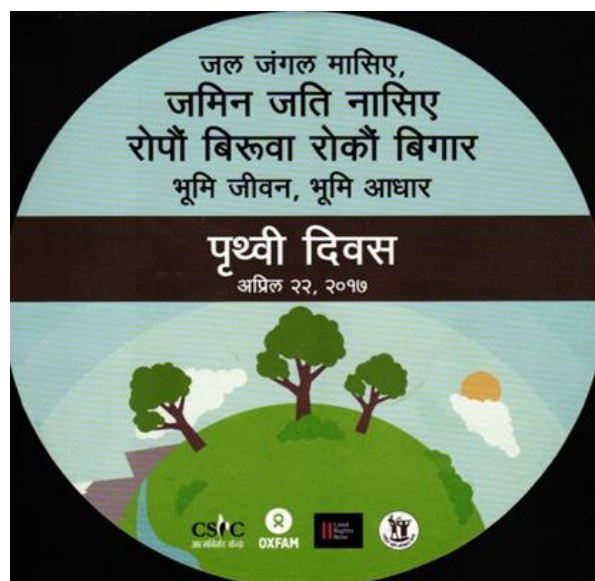
The participants of the campaign were D/VLRF members, tenant farmers, political representatives, social worker and communities deprived from land rights. Altogether 496 (281 women, 186 Dalit, 203 Janajati, 69 Madheshi and 16 Muslim) people

participated in the program. Through the awareness campaigns, approximately 2000 people are informed about the notice and application processes, deadlines.

DLRF Rautahat coordinated with political representatives, social workers, head of local bodies and front line leader's interaction program to organize campaigns and rally in areas having no VLRF. Through this more than 2000 people were informed about the application filing notice. Altogether 451 (207 female, 244 male) participated in the campaign.

Earth Day Celebration

CSRC collaborated with Oxfam to celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and the week thereafter. The campaign was led by CSRC and National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) through District and Village Land Rights Forum (D/VLRF) in the Dang and Siraha districts of Nepal. As a contribution to the global mobilization, the DLRF organized rally, afforestation and vegetable plantation program and an Interaction program on the theme.



© CSRC Poster of Earth Day

Objectives of the program were to crease awareness to landless and small holder farmers through-

1. Slogan "*Secure Land Rights for Indigenous Communities*" on land ownership of indigenous communities.
2. To influence policy makers, political parties and government to adhere the issues of land and climate change.

UCPVA Training

CSRC organized a four day residential training in Siraha on UCPVA (Underlying Cause of Poverty and Vulnerability Assessment). Altogether 26 participants from five different DLRF (Okhaldhunga, Udaypur, Siraha, Saptari, Mohattari) and CSRC attended the training of which 10 were female participants (9 Dalit, 8 Janajati and 9 Brahmin). This training was facilitated by Kalpana Karki, the Campaign Manager of CSRC.

The purpose of the training was to-

1. Develop the analytical skill of participants to understand linkages between poverty, social justice and vulnerability and disseminate the complexity it brings upon them.

2. Identify people, families and communities who are victims of poverty, exclusion and vulnerability and develop plan and strategies to address their interdependency.



©CSRC A still from UCPVA training

The participants were divided into four different groups and deployed to most poor and vulnerable communities identified on bases of resource mapping of the municipality. The resource mapping was done with help of the community, political representatives, teachers and social leaders. Through application of different tools, the participants identified *untouchability* as being an innate part of the communities, limiting certain communities from accessing even public properties and resources such as wells and taps. Similarly, almost 50 per cent of the youth population from each community was away as migrant labor, families which had taken loans from moneylenders at interest rate as higher as 60 per cent. As a result, the youths who earn comparatively very less abroad are bound to stay away from families from long, are not able to earn as much and the vicious poverty cycle regains its pace with repeated loans.

Interaction Program

Interaction program on *Vulnerable Settlement Relocation and Rehabilitation Guideline 2073* was organized in Dhunche of Rasuwa, jointly by NRA and CSRC. Altogether 54 participants (six

women) participated in the training from different government and non-government offices, political parties, media and front line leaders of displaced communities.

The major outcomes of the program are-

1. NRA's pledge to allocate technician for surveying those household who are left behind by the previous survey team.
2. A central level discussion will be carried out on the issue of those who have taken the first installment of the grant but have not started to build the house.
3. The Ward Secretary shall facilitate for agreement process to be carried out for those whose name are in grievance hearing mechanism and have not received the first installment of the grant agreement process.
4. Geological survey of Haku and Langtang will be started, based on which the rehabilitation will be initiated.



©CSRC A still from the Interaction program

Training on Market management and development

Three day training on market management and development was organized in *Bhumighar* of Rasuwa. The program was attended by different actors of active market (collection enters, input suppliers and famers), officials from Agriculture Development Office (ADO) and representatives from different like-minded organization. The program was attended by total 34 participants (one Dalit, seven Janajati, 25 Brahmin/Chhetri and one other).

Farmers benefit from bee keeping

By coordinating with District Agriculture Development Office (DADO), beehives were distributed to 18 farmers in Rasuwa. Among them, 10 had previously tried bee keeping but were not successful despite which farmers had shown interest. By coordinating with DADO, support with 50 per cent subsidy was granted to farmers.

Tentative Plan | May, 2017

1. Increase awareness n tenancy through awareness rallies, campaigns and home visits
2. Formation of at least 80 JLO couples
3. Organize the second session of Dialog Series on Inclusive Reconstruction
4. Formation of new VLRG and practice Progress Marker exercise

