

# 2013



# Reflections

LAND AND  
AGRARIAN RIGHTS  
MOVEMENT IN  
NEPAL

**CS/C**  
आत्मनिर्भर केन्द्र

Community Self-reliance Centre

**Community Self-reliance Centre (CSRC)**

*Bhumi Ghar*, Dhapasi-8, Kathmandu, Nepal

P.O. Box 19790, Kathmandu

Tel: +977-1-4360486; 4357005

Fax +977-1-4357033

Email: [landrights@csrcnepal.org](mailto:landrights@csrcnepal.org)

Website: [www.csrcnepal.org](http://www.csrcnepal.org)

**Reflections 2013****©2013 Community Self-reliance Centre (CSRC)**

Community Self-reliance Centre reserves all rights of ownership to the original material in this report. No part of this document can be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of Community Self-reliance Centre. Readers are, however, free to use the material for noncommercial purposes in course of development work. Community Self-reliance Centre does request to properly acknowledge such use.

**Disclaimer**

The material and the geographical designations in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Community Self-reliance Centre concerning the legal status of the country, zones, districts, municipalities, village development committees or areas, or concerning the delimitation of Nepal's boundaries.

**Design**

Bikram Chandra Majumdar

[bmajumdar33@gmail.com](mailto:bmajumdar33@gmail.com)



## Acknowledgements

Community Self-reliance Centre (CSRC) is enormously grateful to all land-poor and landless farmers and tenants, *ex-Haliyas, Haruwa/Charuwas, ex-Kamaiyas, ex-Kamalaris* who have become the backbone of the land rights movement through their precious time and energy. Their unprecedented leadership with a high degree of enthusiasm is instrumental in driving the movement for claiming legitimate rights over land, secure livelihoods, expanding freedom and living with self-dignity. CSRC is indebted to all land rights activists (defenders) for their tireless efforts, commitment and dedication to keep the movement vibrant and results-oriented at all levels. We are grateful to the National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) and its ground level organization District Land Rights Forums (DLRFs) and Village Land Rights Forums (VLRFs) for their trust and collaboration with CSRC towards the struggle for justice. We are proud and equally thankful to our collaborating partners-Abhiyan Nepal Sunsari, Janachetana Dalit Sangam Saptari, Centre for Social Development and Research (CSDR) Banke, Society Welfare Action Nepal (SWAN) Dang, Rural Development Society (RDS) Sindhupalchowk and Community Development and Environment Conservation Forum (CDECF) Sindhupalchok for their enthusiasm, patience, determination and for invaluable facilitating the movement with their respective constituencies.

Many individuals and organizations especially rights holder groups, activists (defenders), collaborating partners, and supportive government agencies especially the Ministry of Land Reform and Management and its departments and district offices deserve special credit for the successes accomplished by the land rights movement during 2013. CSRC is also thankful to the media (print and electronic) who have greatly contributed bringing the land rights agenda in the public discourse. This is a great help for the land-poor and landless farmers in their struggle for seeking justice.

We take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to strategic partners especially ActionAid International Nepal, CARE Nepal, DanidaHUGOU, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal, Oxfam Nepal. Similarly International Land Coalition (ILC), Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), Asian Farmers Association (AFA) and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) for their true partnerships with CSRC and the entire land rights movement. We have valued your partnership as solidarity for the cause of rights and justice for voiceless and powerless people. We have been highly benefitted from your professional assistance and in-kind and financial contribution towards accomplishing our mission of enabling land-poor and landless farmers in exercising their human rights.

The Executive Committee, general members and staff of CSRC deserve special appreciation for being highly motivated, committed and dedicated, particularly their visionary leadership and facilitating role which greatly increased the profile of the land rights movement to new heights this year. Of particular mention are individuals who have put in time and effort for the entire movement work and bringing this Reflection report to its shape. We are grateful to Mr. Jagat Deuja, Program Manager (CSRC) for his extraordinary effort and dedication towards the land rights movement throughout the year. We appreciate the work of Ms. Jyoti Baidya, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of CSRC for producing this report and following the work throughout. We would also like to thank Mr. Michael Rosenkrantz from Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), Mr. John Callaway, former VSO volunteer and Mr. Biswash Nepali, Assistant Resource Centre and Publication Officer of CSRC for support and contribution to prepare this report.

Finally, we sincerely hope to receive constructive feedback about various aspects of the land rights movement.

Shasikala Dahal  
Chairperson

Jagat Basnet  
Executive Director

## Executive Summary

2013 was the year to assess the results achieved by Community Self reliance Centre (CSRC) in light of the organisation's strategic plan for the land rights movement (2009-2013). The land rights movement has been successful in effectively organizing and mobilizing rights holders from the grassroots to national level and creating a powerful constituency for transformation and change. The securing of equitable access to land is crucial to ensure the basic rights of land-poor women and men.

Data shows that during the course of the past year, 447 households received land entitlement covering a total area of 101.01 hectares. There has been progress in Village block land surveys, *Ukhada* land, *Guthi Raitani*, and registration of *Birta* land in the name of farmers by landless people. A total of 3135 households received provisional settlement certificates from local authorities. The certificate has provided incontrovertible proof of their entitlement to settle on the land they reside in. There is growing evidence through 'Joint Land Ownership' that land title provides stability and security to women. This has ultimately led to increased women stake in family and their dignity in society. During the year, a total of 739 families have acquired Joint Land Ownership Certificates, covering an area of 256.73 ha of land.

Currently, the total number of Village Land Rights Forum (VLRFs) has reached 2741, with a total membership of 92,335. These VLRFs have provided members with social recognition in their VDCs and created opportunities to empower the poor and landless farmers through the transformation of unequal and inequitable power relationships in the traditional social structure. The land rights campaign has been expanded across 53 districts. An initiative across 684 VDCs and 19 municipalities has begun which seeks to educate and organize land-deprived people.

Establishment of movement fund and organizational culture of establishing *Bhumi Ghar* (Community Homes) at the community and district level is leading towards the sustainability of movement. VLRFs have generated NPR 19,42,183 (\$19,818) worth (1US\$=98 NPR) of movement funds in order to strengthen the land rights movement at community level. The generation of resources at a local level has ensured that land-poor people are better equipped to access their basic rights.

The process of organizing, mobilizing and educating land-poor women and men has resulted in both individual and community level empowerment. A total of 1797 front-line leaders and 81 activists have been mobilized. They are facilitating land rights campaigns at different levels. NLRF has been considerably strengthened and is moving towards the process of institutional expansion. In order to ensure its sustainability the NLRF has established a Land Rights Resource Center (*Bhumi Adhyaan Ghar*) at Thimoor, Chitwan.

CSRC is playing the role of secretariat of the National Land Policy Formulation Process led by the Ministry of Land Reform and Management and drafted a National Land Policy with input received from concerned stakeholders. CSRC and NLRF have also increased their national and international alliances as they continue to promote their distinctive identities as organisations working for people-led agrarian reform for the rights of the land-poor.

The NLRF in co-ordination with various DLRFs has campaigned nationwide with participation of thousands of land-poor women and men in different parts of the

country. Among which *Hairani Abhiyan* (a form of campaign creating obstacles to the government) pressed for the timely distribution of 'Landless Identity Cards'. (VLRFs did follow-up on daily basis at landless commissions for 83 consecutive days). This campaign was an awakening process as a result of which 38,399 cases were filed and 15,451 settled.

CSRC has finalized a report of study on 'Women's Access to Land and Land Grabbing' and a study on 'Converting Agricultural Land to Non Agriculture Use'. These studies have been instrumental in providing clarity on the issue of land and providing advocacy material for the land rights movement. The Alternative Report on International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) has been prepared and submitted to 52 Session on UN Treat Body Working Committee.

Political instability and frequent changes of the government has had major ramifications for the land rights movement. The land reform agenda is not seen as a priority in the current political climate, which has hampered CSRC in achieving their mission. The Constitutional Assembly was dissolved in May 2012. This caused a setback to the reformist agenda (including land reform) contained within the Comprehensive Peace Accord and the Interim Constitution. The dissolution of the Landless Commission was unanticipated and this government action has been a major hindrance for the distribution of identity cards.

CSRC's total budget for 2013 was NPR 60,740,098 (\$607,401). The total expenditure for the period was NPR 55,478,939 (\$554,789), of which program costs accounted for 84% and management costs 16%. In addition, the movement mobilized NPR 5,049,182 (\$50,492) from local contributions (both cash and kind). CSRC has an in-built monitoring mechanism comprising 'Social Audit', and 'Review and Reflection' programmes which are regularly held at district, regional and national level.

After reviewing the learning and achievements of the previous Strategic and Operational Plan (StOP), a new StOP (2014-18) will be implemented in coming year. CSRC's progress in the macro-level policy initiatives, and legal initiatives will have benefits for the landless and land poor women and men through the equitable access to land, reduction of poverty, gender equity, social justice and empowerment of local land poor, ultimately leading towards sustainability of land rights movement.

## Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Context Overview	1
<b>2. Reflections from the Ground</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 Major Achievements	3
2.1.1 Educating, Empowering, Mobilizing and Strengthening People's Organisations	3
2.1.2 Effective Community-led Land Reform Practice	18
2.1.3 Generating Learning and Sharing Knowledge	19
2.1.4 Ensuring Women's Land Rights (Joint Land Ownership Campaign)	19
2.1.5 Policy Advocacy	20
<b>3. Organization Development</b>	<b>22</b>
3.1 Human Resource and Knowledge Building	22
3.2 Institutional Development	23
3.3 Monitoring and Evaluation	23
<b>4. Learning and Challenges</b>	<b>25</b>
4.1 Learning	25
4.2 Major Challenges Encountered	25
<b>5. Income and Expenditures</b>	<b>26</b>
5.1 Financial Performance	26
<b>6. Way Forward</b>	<b>27</b>
Annexes	28
A. Financial performance from 1 January to 31 December 2013	28
B. Cumulative Performance of Land Rights Movement from 2008-2013	31
C. Key events from 1 January to 31 December, 2013	32
Voices of the People	34
Abbreviations	35
Glossary	36
Map of Program Coverage District Network	37

# 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Context Overview

As expected the Constitutional Assembly (CA), which didn't bear any fruit, was dissolved in May 2012. This intensified conflict amongst the political parties, leading to the formation of a caretaker government under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice and a council of ministers comprised of former civil servants. This government was mandated to conduct an election for a Constituency Assembly for the second time, which was completed in November in a fair and transparent manner. The government introduced an annual budget and programme through ordinance which largely continued on-going initiatives and prior commitments. This caused a setback to the reformist agenda (including land reform) contained within the Comprehensive Peace Accord and the Interim Constitution.

During the November election, the major political parties agreed in principle to land reform through their election manifestos and through dialogue between land-poor and landless farmers and leaders of the political parties. The commitments vary from agrarian to scientific and revolutionary land reform depending upon the ideological political base of the political parties. In the past, there had also been repeated commitments made regarding land and



Haruwa/Charuwa waiting in front of Prime ministers office, for submission of demand letter

agrarian reforms but little was implemented due to lack of political will. Civil society and land-poor and landless farmers are closely watching the actions/inactions of political parties in making their commitments into reality. During the election process land-poor and landless farmers held significant discussions with political leaders.

During 2013, landless and tenant farmers organized over 30 major demonstrations across the country, demanding a comprehensive articulation of land reform/rights issues within political parties' manifestos, commitments to have a land rights focus in the new Constitution and a cessation of forceful evictions. The year witnessed large numbers of landless farmers evicted by forest authorities through the use of force despite protests from these farmers.

With pressure from tenants, the government extended tenure of settlement of tenancy cases, which had been held over from last year. As a consequence the land rights movement sought to extend the tenure further, and to expedite the decision making process. Progress however has been slow. Since 2009 over 40,000 tenant farmers who

have filed cases have been waiting to receive their rights and justice. These tenants are entitled to receive 50% of the land which they have been tilling. However, some landlords are putting pressure on tenants to settle their case informally by giving only 20-30% of the land.

The Ministry of Land Reform and Management has introduced a land use policy and is drafting a 'National Land Policy' (Umbrella policy for all land related acts and regulations) with the collaboration of civil society organisations.

Based upon the reports of high-level commissions on providing recommendations on scientific land reform, the Ministry of Land Reform and Management has developed a 13-point action plan to implement those recommendations. This action plan has yet to be implemented. The political parties who represented the commissions are also silent in this regard.

A Landless Problem Solving Commission was formed in January 2012 to identify landless people and provide land in 25 districts. After a year-long effort, the Commission was unable to provide identity cards for landless people and it was dissolved without desired progress. This has caused dissatisfaction among landless people.

A team of consultants has submitted the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) 2015-2025 to the government of Nepal, which is yet to be approved. There has been disappointment expressed by farmers and civil society organisations as to its content and strategies.

Land grabbing by elites is growing and agricultural land is being converted for non-agricultural uses, which has been a concern for the land rights movement. CSRC has undertaken research in a few selected pockets about trends and implications of land grabbing and converting agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.



# 2

## Reflections from the Ground

### 2.1 Major Achievements

#### 2.1.1 Educating, Empowering, Mobilizing and Strengthening People's Organisations Village/District/National Land Rights Forum



VLRf members  
having weekly  
meeting, Saptari

Since 2004 the National Land Rights Forum (NLRf), has been campaigning for the strengthening of Village and District Land Rights Forums (V/DLRFs) and linking local campaigns to policy dialogue, leading the national campaign and lobbying for policy change.

Trained leaders and activists of the NLRf are actively involved in the process of organizing, strengthening and mobilizing in order to claim and exercise their land rights at village, district and national level. The NLRf has been closely working with DLRF members and is critically engaged with government bodies and political parties in issues such as eviction, resettlement and rehabilitation. The specific issues (tenancy rights, land tenure and landlessness) encountered in the field to provide empirical evidence for policy change which in turn can have an impact at community level.

With the organizing support of the NLRf, DLRFs have already organized huge land rights gatherings with participation by thousands of land-poor women and men in different parts of the country. Different DLRFs have also started to lead the campaign independently. DLRFs are collaborating with district level agencies and advocating for the sharing of resources with land poor people. VLRFs are the primary grass roots level bodies, implementing their own community plans, educating their members and raising land rights issues strongly throughout Nepal. During the year 200 new VLRFs were formed. The total number of VLRFs has now reached 2,741 with a total membership of 92,335 (22,347 females, 40,186 dalits) throughout 53 districts. Regular sensitization through expansion of popular education centres has enabled them to organize, mobilize and motivate rights holders to own and actively participate in mass movements and campaigns at district and national levels. As a consequence, tenant and landless families have been successful in warding off eviction, persuading and pressurizing the government and political parties to implement the land reform action plan on behalf of land deprived people; and enabling rights holders to obtain land entitlement.

Leadership of the VLRF/DLRF by the rights holders themselves for the land rights campaign, movement fund, institutional culture of maintaining micro-macro linkage, beginning of the construction of community and district level *Bhumi Ghar* (community homes) institutionalization of evidence-based advocacy and its immediate influence on the government policy directive have been the major triggers for the commendation of land rights movement in Nepal.

On the whole, the process of institutionalization is positive. Both the NLRF and its district chapters have embraced the idea of organizing social audit. In order to ensure its sustainability the NLRF has established a Land Rights Resource Center (*Bhumi Adhyaan Ghar*) at Thimoor, Chitwan. This *Bhumi Ghar* (land home) is being renovated and expanded as a result of significant financial support (NPR 1.9 million) by the strategic partners. Similarly gaining international recognition through membership such as in Asian Farmers Association (AFA), and International Land Coalition (ILC) is ultimately supporting in the process of internationalization of land rights issues.

NLRF has organised large land conferences in 10 different parts of the country in order to put forward their land agenda during the second CA election and strongly raised the following 13 point demands.

### 13 declarations made by NLRF (Land Rights Gathering)

- i. no support to political parties which are inherently opposed to land reform
- ii. constitutional guarantee of land rights in favor of tiller women and men and clear mention of land rights in the election manifestos of political parties
- iii. immediate implementation of land reform action plan
- iv. ensuring fundamental human right to secure housing and food by stopping eviction from settlements and tilling land
- v. immediate distribution of land to landless farmers through landless commission
- vi. initiation of debates to implement land reform through local governments and communities by handing over technical responsibilities only to the concerned government offices
- vii. initiation of alternative community-led land reform (due to the failure of past centralized land reform effort)
- viii. no agrarian reform without land reform and no increase of agricultural yield without agrarian reform
- viii. intensification of campaign in each settlement for joint land ownership certificates
- ix. no eviction of tillers from the land.
- x. strong protest against the nominal benefit being given to the certified tenants in the guise of reconciliation between landlords and tenants under the auspices of land reform offices
- xi. strong protest against the nominal benefit being given to the certified tenants in the guise of reconciliation between landlords and tenants under the auspices of land reform offices
- xii. no use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, and
- xiii. immediate suspension of corrupt officials working at the land-related offices (otherwise crusade would be waged against them)



## Lyam Darji, NLRG- General Secretary

I have been involved in the land rights movement for 7 years. The mobilization and development of the people's organization is my major responsibility. I have facilitated various training and orientation programmes. Through the land rights movement, I have acquired a great deal of knowledge. I have come to realize that an organization of landless people had to be established based upon our own leadership. "We are all deprived from our rights but we must not get divided among ourselves. Unity ensures us our rights and together we can more easily acquire them. I realise that knowledge, mobilisation and moral support are very important to strengthen the people's movement",

## The spirit of NLRG Renovation Campaign- Nanda Joshi, Kanchanpur



My involvement for 20 days in the NLRG renovation campaign was a great learning experience for me. I stayed for 8 days at members' home of Dadeldhura and 12 days at Baitadi. Starting with the Bishalpur VDC of Baitadi district, there I visited three VLRFs. Through the discussion I found that most of the VLRF of Bishalpur VDC were dormant. I organised a village gathering and reformed the VLRF by forming a new committee. The journey was a mixed feeling with many ups and downs but a strong commitment to bring some positive change in the community, gave me a new rays of hope. I also visited another seven VLRFs of Baitadi district following the reformation and strengthening process. In some places, I also clarified

the main idea of our land movement which helped to organize more people within the group. I am happy that I have been able to see the value of the renovation campaign. I have learnt that identifying the problem alone does not provide the solution, but that concrete action is what matters most.

**In the Chhinmasta VDC of Saptari, 30 hh** have been residing there. In this particular place there is a big pond which can provide a good income. One of the ponds was being utilized by an Indian citizen. Apparently when the VLRF was formed there, all of the members raised their voices to have an access over this



public pond. After sending delegations to the Village Development Committee (VDC) and District Administration Office (DAO) and media campaigning they have received access rights over the pond. They have also been able to receive the tilling certificate. As a result of active engagement, VLRF members have collected NPR 120,000 (\$1,224) from fish farming. This money has been added to the movement fund and has contributed towards the sustainability of the VLRF.

## Learning through the unpredicted change



I am **Debu Sada**, Chair of Hariyali VLRf which was established in 2009 and consists of 87 hh. The occurrence of massive floods resulted in loss of property, shelter and lives in our community. Struggling for shelter and land, we identified the unused land of Tikapur municipality. Initially, it was very dangerous place; while arranging for settlement, we lost our three community members. After working and making the place suitable to reside, we asked the Municipality for approval. We convinced them that all were flood victims. However, the process of demolition is ongoing. When the situation was extreme, all VLRf members padlocked the municipality for several days. Then the municipality agreed and confirmed that nobody would create an obstruction from then onwards. Then we built a *Bhumi Ghar* by movement fund, labor donation, etc by making 16,000 bricks by ourselves. We also managed other materials including window, door, bamboo, etc. The total expenses incurred were NPR 42,000 (\$ 428). We all participate in regular meetings and discussions. We have also mapped our resources and the social context of our community. All of us have submitted applications for the right to use the land. We are advocating against leaving the land fallow. As a result we started a campaign of capturing the land and utilizing it for production. We have planted brinjal, and maize, and have also undertaken fish farming. We now have a total of NPR 9,400(\$ 96) in our movement fund. In addition we have distributed 0.26 ha land for use by members.

## Land Learning Centres (LLCs)



Social Mapping  
being practiced  
by Thakalghari  
VLRf members,  
Dhanusha

The learning process is very important for all members of the movement and emotional attachment alone is not sufficient. To this end land learning centres have been effective in identifying local issues for advocacy as a result of extensive discussions and developing the strategies for resolving them in the community and beyond. Participatory processes using different tools have enabled VLRf members to identify local issues and to develop action plans. There are currently 66 LLCs operating at the community level, with the participation of 3,782 members (2,365 female, 690 dalit, 1,431 dalit) Participants are involved in weekly discussions regarding specific local issues such as local resource utilization, use of public land, the process of acquiring land certificates, movement funds and the forceful eviction of tillers.

**In Jarbuta VDC of Surkhet, Bastipur land learning centre** a total of 25 members (20 female, 1 dalit, 10 janjati) are engaged in regular discussion. As a result of these discussions, members have submitted applications for tilling certificates and landless identity cards. In April 2013 they also formed Bastipur Agriculture Cooperative. A total of 25 members (14 female, 11 janjati) are organized within the cooperative. With the active mobilization of all members, they have been able to use fallow land from community forestry in order to plant turmeric. They have obtained funds from the VDC for this purpose.



## Land Encampments and Training

Developing the capacity of frontline leaders and activists has provided a strong foundation upon which they have been able to strengthen their own organisations and claim land rights. The land encampment, training, learning exchange visits, national and international exposure are the primary vehicles for sensitizing, mobilizing, and motivating rights holders to actively participate in the land rights movement. A total of 66 land encampments have been held, leading to the education and empowerment of 3,782 landless and tenant farmers, including 2,365 females, 690 *dalits* and 1,431 *janajatis*. The capacity-building process has enabled land right holders to analyse local conditions and context, identify local resources, enhance advocacy and campaigning skills and formulate plans and execute them for their benefit.



Training on NRM related Conflict Transformation, Thimoor, Chitwan

**The training on “Right Based Approach” delivered a message that ‘Rights are to be claimed rather than requested’.**

After the training, there was a sit-in protest conducted in Palpa on 5th, 6th May 2013 demanding a



survey of unregistered land, conversion of *guthi* land into *raikar* and its ownership to be handed over to the tillers. There was a written agreement to take delegation to the policy level among the political parties, revenue office and land right forum regarding the resolution of land disputes in Palpa. On the basis of this agreement, political parties and a team from the District Land Right Forum had a meeting

with Mr. Khilraj Regmi, Chairman of Council of Ministers and Ms. Riddhi Baba Pradhan, Minister of Land Reform and Management. They had committed to move ahead on registering the unregistered land. The training has further encouraged land deprived people to fight for their rights.



**Gamita Rai**, frontline leader is a resident of Durkhim VDC, Khotang. She has been associated with the Land Right Forum for 2 years and have participated in various training and discussions in the areas of land rights and women's rights. She has been sharing received knowledge and confidently advocating for the prevailing issues in the community. She has developed a good understanding of land rights and has developed key skills in facilitating discussions and meetings, at various levels within the community.

## Land Rights Campaign

### Regional Land Assembly



Regional Land Assembly held in various districts - Bardiya, Siraha, Mahottari & Morang

Regional Land Assembly were carried out at 10 different locations throughout Nepal under the leadership of the NLRF. More than 44,000 landless, small farmers, squatters, *haliyas* and flood victims from adjoining districts participated. The ultimate aim was to gain consensus regarding the building of a people's constitution, ensuring land rights within the constitution and implementation of the Land Commission Report.



**Krishna Prasad Gautam**, Mrigaulia 2 (Arjuntole) Belbari Gramdev Village Land Rights Forum

The land rights conference was great and I realized, that there are many farmers like me who are being deprived of land. I also learnt that we can get united when we are in trouble. This huge participation of farmers has inspired me and provided courage to be in the land rights campaign for a long time. Now, I believe that the political parties will also listen to our voices and will be ready to help us, knowing our problems. If we put forward our agenda strongly then our voices will be heard.



## Other Campaigns Organized

- Organized rally by *Haruwa/Charuwa* rights forums of Siraha and Saptari districts for their rehabilitation process;
- Organized the campaign for visiting the offices of major political parties for alerting them to include land rights issues in the election manifesto of political parties.
- Organized *Biswash Yatra* (March for raising confidence of the movement for rights) by *Haliya* of Dadeldhura and Baitadi districts;
- Organized *Hairani Abhiyan* (a form of continuous campaign creating obstacles to the government) which was carried out nationwide, and pressurised for the timely distribution of 'Landless Identity Card' (VLRs followed this up at landless commissions for 83 consecutive days), and
- Organized campaign for the protection of *Churiya* and land rights of *Churiya* area inhabitants.

All of these campaigns succeeded in pressurizing the government to take heed of the voices and demands of the land-poor.

## Haliya Campaign

Although "freed" through legislation, all of these groups continue to be involved in semi-bonded labour, much of this lasting for generations. Demanding rehabilitation along with the provision of land, more than 500 *haliyas* from Baitadi organized a rally and held dialogue with concerned stakeholders at Sahilek, headquarter of Baitadi. The *haliyas* complained that although they have been freed they are compelled to work as



Haliya Gathering,  
Baitadi

*haliya*, due to the lack of rehabilitation provided by the government and the lack of land. The program was organized by DLRf, Baitadi in collaboration with the National Dalit Network, INSEC, *Haliya Mukti Samaj Mahasangh*, *Dalit Bhumihiin Kisan Sangh* and Dalit NGO Federation.

## We want freedom - Conversation with Darsan Mandal, Chair, *Haruwa/Charuwa* Rights Forum, Saptari

A *Haruwa* (ploughman), Darsan Mandal, a 45 years old resident of Haripur-6 Basanpatti, has been leading the campaign to free thousands of *Haruwa/Charuwas* from this bonded labor system. "I was kept as a *Charuwa* when I was just 8 years old. After 10 years, I started to work as a ploughman that I have continued to date. I have worked for four different landlords. I have been staying at landlords homes since the



Panchayat regime.” “Landlords used to treat me very badly. In the past, landlords used to believe in the untouchable system and exploit us a lot. But, when they knew that I was part of the *Haruwa/Charuwa* movement, their behaviour changed. Consequently, the daily wage provided by the landlords was increased from 10 kg. to 14 kg. of rice. A kilo of rice costs NPR 20 (\$0.20), from which we are sustaining our lives. “I live in a hut built on 118 square meters of government land located in a Village Block. We don’t want our children to face the same problems we are facing today. So we have managed to send our children to school. Possibly, they won’t have to remain as bonded labourers as we had been forced to. After the formation of *Haruwa/*

*Charuwa* Rights Forum in 2005 we became more organized and began to raise our voices collectively against exploitation. Through the various campaigns organized on the issues of *Haruwa/Charuwa* we were able to put our case to political leaders right up to the Prime minister. The movements now have created political pressure on the government.”

### Demands made by *Haruwa/Charuwa*

1. The government must collect data of *Haruwa/Charuwa* with the involvement of representatives of the *Haruwa/Charuwa* Forum;
2. Land must be made available for secure shelter and provision of adequate food as per total number of family members. While providing land, the process of campaigning through landowners might be one alternative while another possibility is exploring fallow and barren land;
3. Conduct skills development programs contributing to the livelihood of *Haruwa/Charuwa* and maintaining a proper wage.

### Landless Identity Cards



Acquisition of  
Landless Identity  
Card, Rautahat

The NLRF in co-ordination with various DLRFs has campaigned nationwide for the timely distribution of Landless Identity Cards. This campaign was an awakening process as a result of which 38,399 cases were filed and 15,451 settled. The campaign demonstrated the opposition which existed to the Landless Problem Solving Commission’s plans with regard to the distribution of these cards. Delegates staged rallies, sit-ins and processions to create constant pressure, demanding speedy action and implementation.



## Received Landless Identity Card by Land Rights Campaign - Parbati Chaudhari



"I became a member of Dinabhadri VLRF, Saptari which consists of 35 families. I have been fighting for land rights since a long time. As we are landless squatters, we don't have any land for farming and thus have been facing difficulties to sustain our lives.

The government has been compelled to form a landless commission because of our regular protests for at the very least having a landless identity card. Though we submitted all of the documents necessary to be identified as landless squatters, the commission hadn't provided us with our identity cards. Then we took part in a protest and pressure campaign along with the DLRF. Finally the commission was forced to provide us with landless identity cards.

## Movement Fund



Jwala VLRF members collecting the movement fund (collection of handful of rice), Simrabhawanipur VDC of Rautahat

The establishment and continuation of movement funds by right holders organized in VLRF, DLRF reflects the sustainability of land rights campaign. Landless people are collecting funds for land rights movement by selling seasonal crops. They also collect pulses, rice, oil, spices and leaf bowls and plates. They frequently visit district and capital headquarters in order to protest and attend rallies. The movement has become quite expensive because of the cost of bus fare to go to the protests, preparing banners, buying food and for accommodation. Labor camps, *Deusi* and *Vailo* are also major sources for collecting money. Once rights holders have begun mobilizing their own resources, there is a higher level of cost effectiveness in executing the activities in supporting the land rights campaign by covering transportation, foods and stationery costs. During 2013, VLRFs generated NPR 1,942,183 (\$19,818) as movement funds in order to strengthen the land rights movement at the community level. The total spent was NPR 1,118,280 (\$11,411) for strengthening the campaign and management of VLRF's.

The members of DLRF in Dang District have been able to save NPR 33,500 (\$341) in their fund. A meeting of the VLRP is organized on a specific date each month where they collect NPR 5 to 50 (\$0.05-0.51) for their movement fund. The 37 members of Gharti Gaon Land Rights Forum at Ghorahi municipality- 4 have recently collected NPR 3,000 by running a labor camp. Similarly, the members of Nandra-5 Hekuli and Salaura Land Rights Forum have also conducted a labor camp to collect money for movement funds and farmers have started collective farming to raise money

## Land Received and Value

The most tangible outcome of the land rights movement was that under Tenancy Rights, *Village Block*, and *Ukhada* land a total of 447 hh have received land certificates covering a total area of 101.01 hectares. Land entitlement is a proof of identity and thus enables access to services and security of tenure. Those holding land certificates claim to have gained a 'sense of security' encouraging them to more productive land use.



**Yasodha Rakhal Magar of Ramchhe, Sindhupalchowk an active frontline leader of land rights movement.** With her involvement in land rights movement, she has been able to receive the land entitlement of *Guthi* land. It was a great success for her when the *Guthi* land was transferred into *Raikar*. She is a leading light in the community and advocates for land rights. Through vegetable farming alone she has been able to earn NPR 1,50,000 (\$1,530) annually which has been a good source of income for her livelihood. Through the active engagement in land rights campaign, she has also obtained a Joint Land Ownership Certificate.



## 29 years' struggle to receive his own land. Buddhi Bahadur Moktan, Bhorle, Rasuwa

I am Buddhi Bahadur Moktan resident of Bhorlebesi, Rasuwa. I, along with 17 other families received our lost land after 29 years. In 1983, Rana family, a resident of Kathmandu registered the land in his name and mortgaged it to the bank but never paid back the loan. As a consequence the bank transferred the ownership of the land into its own name. Now we have received support from DLRP, Rasuwa, CSRC and Nepal Agroforestry Foundation (NAF), to pay back the loan and return our lost land.



Land Entitlement,  
Bhorle VDC of  
Rasuwa

Community people receiving Land Entitlement Certificate of Village Block Land, Siraha



## Land Entitlement after land rights campaign

“We never believed we could be owners of land. Today the land right movement has made us landowners.” *Sada (Dalits)* people living in village block land in Padariya.

A total of 19 families of the Sada community had not received ownership of land even though they had been living there for generations. After getting involved in the land rights movement, they received land ownership certificates. “I had never imagined that I could receive a land ownership certificate of the place where I have been living for so long. Now, I am so happy that I received land entitlement certificate.” said Panodevi Sada, chair of the Sita VLRF.

## Tiller Becomes an Owner

Sonkali Chamar is an inhabitant of Pratappur 4, Nawalparasi and has been tilling *Ukhada* land since 1977. The DLRF, Nawalparasi had conducted a sit-in at the premises of the Land Revenue Office, Nawalpasari during 2011 which *Chamar* participated in. The government had published a notice in a local gazette to transfer *Ukhada* land in the name of tillers in 2012. He had also filed case to register *Ukhada* land. He had to visit the land revenue office several times in order to receive a final decision. Only then did he receive the land entitlement. Now, he is planning to start professional farming of this land.

## Tenants Received Compensation

The tenancy land of 22 families of the Gati VLRF lay below the Mid - Bhotekoshi Hydropower Project. The forum is demanding that the tenants should also receive half of the compensation given to the landlords. Many tripartite meetings were held which did not solve the problem.

Later in 2013, tenants were called to the homes of the landlords and given NPR 40,000 (\$408)/ per ropani as their tenancy share compensation. Thirteen (13) of 22 tenants have received NPR 2,100,000 (\$21,428) as tenancy compensation. According to the agreement, Singha Bahadur Tamang is to receive 0.25 ha land and NPR 120,000 (\$1,224) as his compensation.



## *Bhumi Ghar* (Community Home)



Establishment  
of *Bhumi Ghar*  
- Okhaldhunga,  
Jhapa and Sarlahi

The continuous construction of the *Bhumi Ghar* (Community Home) of the VLRFs and DLRFs by mobilizing their own resources, contributing their own labor and taking support from the local government offices (VDCs/DDCs) and other agencies has been a good practice. A total of 96 village level *Bhumi Ghar* and 9 DLRF have been constructed at district level. The construction of *Bhumi Ghar*, permanent structures at both district and village levels, is a tangible indicator of the progress of the land rights movement towards greater levels of sustainability.

### *Bhumi Ghar* (Community Home) our common home

In Gangaparaspur VDC-8 Banki, the VLRF succeeded in building their own *Bhumi Ghar*, which members were delighted with. The VLRF Chairperson, Premdaiya Chaudhary stated that members had discussed establishing a *Bhumi Ghar* during weekly meetings. Through discussions 0.03 ha of public land were identified. With land arranged, VLRF members collected the materials needed to build the “home”. This request was submitted to the Local Community Forestry User Group (CFUG), the application stating the specific resources required for construction. The CFUG agreed to provide the wood and timber costing NPR 30,000 (\$306) as an in-kind support. For the arrangement of other resources, 25 VLRF members provided five days in-kind labour and NPR 110,000 (\$1,122). Regular meetings are now being held at the *Bhumi Ghar*. VLRF members now have more of a feeling of permanence and security.

### Access and utilization of public land (fallow land)

VLRFs have been able to engage in dialogue with local government bodies and convince them to utilization of public land for collective farming by VLRFs members. Consequently, local agriculture offices have also provided improved seeds and trainings which have helped them to increase productivity. The growing intensification of linking land with livelihood issues and provision of public land for housing of landless agricultural laborers is itself a benefit that will be sustained. During 2013, a total of 1,394 households have succeeded in obtaining 68.48 hectares of public land.





**Kaluram Chaudhary** a member of Machheli VLRF, Krishnapur VDC of Kanchanpur district does not own a single piece of land. He started to farm public land on the bank of river. He farms approximately 0.5 hectares which feeds himself and his family from the yields produced. He sells the produce to fulfil his family's basic needs. His children go to boarding schools. He owns a pig and two

Ox. 31 freed *Kamaiyas* of Machheli, associated with Land Rights Forum (including Kaluram Chaudhary), have been tilling 8 ha public land.

## Grow sufficient food by using fallow land

In Gangaparaspur VDC-3 Prasa, the river bank land was being used for cattle herding. With the commencement of the community led land reform program in 2009, landless people utilized this land in a productive manner.



Utilization of fallow land in Gangaparaspur VDC, Dang

With the expansion of the land rights campaign in 2009, Prasa VLRF was formed comprising 30 members. The VLRF collected NPR 45,000 (\$459). On 18 May 2012, available fallow land, i.e. covering the area of 11.2 ha was distributed amongst 84 households, with 0.13 shares for each. The VLRF formed a committee of nine members for ensuring the effective utilization of land. The committee has also managed to bring sewage and receive good profits from paddy, lentils and vegetable farming. Production received from fallow land has enabled the providing of basic needs for about 12 months.

## VLRF Success in Utilizing Community Forestry Land

Since 1979, In Daunedevi-2 Kerabari 72 households have been living on public land. In February 2008 a VLRF was formed with a total of 47 members (9 female, 38 male). Regular monthly meetings are held and NPR 12,050 (\$123) is collected for movement funds. Near Kerabari VDC, there was a fallow land left from Daunnedevi Community Forestry. VLRF members decided to plant fodder, do vegetable and turmeric farming, along with goat and buffalo rearing. Following their plan, in April 2013, the VLRF submitted an application to the CFUG. It was decided to allow community members to utilize 10 ha of land for 10 years. With the support received from the local forestry office the community members have planted fodder.

## Mobilization of Front Line Leaders and Activists

Land rights-related issues are solved effectively with collaborative efforts made by well-trained and committed frontline leaders among local political parties, civil societies and land rights forum at VDC, district and national level. A total of 1,797 front line leaders (886 women, 621 *dalit*, 764 *janjati*) are engaged in strengthening their own organisation and facilitating the land rights movement.



I am **Anju Kumal**, a resident of Nayabehalani-5, Nawalparasi. I have settled on Arunkhola public land. I have been involved in the land rights movement since 2007. I participated in the women's walk from Kanchanpur to Tikapur conducted in 2010. I got inspired by other friends commitment towards the association and movement. I also participated in a sit-in protest conducted in Kathmandu. I have been continuously participating in district campaign and rallies. These participations have enabled me to express and share my thoughts with others.



I am **Raj Kumar Harijan**, a resident of Bhagwanpur-2, Rupandehi. I have settled on khungai village block land. Landlords let their cows and buffalos graze on the public land and I have been tilling and farming. I struggled a lot with these landlords for my rights. Since 2003, I have been struggling in the land right movements. Initially I was an activist of a political party and now I am a frontline leader of land right campaign. I am sometimes threatened by some people to leave the association but I can face any challenge to provide justice to people.

## Utilization of Local Resources

The local initiatives of VLRF and DLRF have supported in strengthening the land rights movement through the mobilization of local economic resources. VLRFs, with the facilitation support of DLRFs, have begun to approach different line agencies like District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) and VDCs to access the community resources (seeds, technical support, training to the farmers, and VDC grant for vulnerable and socially excluded people and agricultural development in their area). At the community level, 16,151 households have utilized NPR 5,950,510 (\$60,719) local resources and other agencies for their economic livelihood and small infrastructure development.

Community Led  
Land Reform  
Practice - Rasuwa  
& Mahottari



**Community led land reform is being practiced in Ramchhe VDC of Sindhupalchowk.** Along with this, farmers are practicing the organic farming. The land rights activists are facilitating the six land learning centers. On March 2013 VDC dispatched the letter to gather the farmer. During the gathering, the

members of VLRFs requested to announce guidelines of VDC Budget process and got to know that there is 15% provision in agriculture. Then VLRFs members formed Ramche Agriculture Forum in the chair of activist Sita Bhujel. Then they submitted the proposal to VDC for provision of seeds and irrigation plants. Later on 2012/13 the members received NPR 2, 53,400 (\$2,585) from VDC. VDC level monitoring found a good outcome and impact in this particular VDC. So it has been planned to continue in future.

## Agricultural Cooperatives



Meeting  
of Women's  
Agricultural  
Co-operative  
Charpane VDC,  
Jhapa

Agriculture cooperatives have become a key for promoting the economic self sufficiency of its members. Through the investment of capital in agro-based entrepreneurship activities, co-operatives have been successful in initiating the agro-based entrepreneurship and marketization of agricultural products. These cooperatives have become a key for mobilizing women and generating funds. During the year, 24 new cooperatives with 948 members (502 female, 13 *dalit*, 733 *janjati*) members have been organized into agricultural co-operatives. There are currently a total of 67 co-operatives with 4,044 members women, 3,607 *dalits*, 2,030 *janjatis* operating in various communities.

In 2006, the Mauraniya Village Land Rights Forum (VLRF) was established in Tikapur Municipality of Kailali. After the movement fund was well managed everybody planned to establish co-operatives. Then the members came up with the idea to keep a shop of only edible foods. The earnings made from the collective farming are also being kept in co-operatives. The total savings in the movement fund is now NPR 9,337 (\$109) and savings in co-operatives is NPR 181,730 (\$2,130) respectively. Accordingly, woman was employed in the shop.

## Collective Farming by Members of a Women's Cooperative

Fifteen female farmers reside at Dhaibung – 6 Gairaghar, are part of the Women's Land Rights Agriculture Cooperative initiated by the DLRf- Rasuwa. The women have started collective farming in order to sustain land rights campaigns and to support their economic condition. They earned NPR 22,500 (\$229) from this. Seasonal vegetables such as cabbage and potatoes have been planted in the second phase. The women have their own routine to work in the field.

Ms. Chitra Kumari Neupane, one of the women farmers said, "everyone is doing communal farming and are taking personal as well as collective benefit. So we have become the inspiration for other people too. Now we are more united for this farming".



## Campaign against Eviction

► Community people being evicted from residing place, Surkhet.  
►► A campaign for the rehabilitation of landless people, Surkhet.



The commitment and enhanced consciousness among the right holders (landless people) have helped to ward off the impending evictions of landless farmers from the occupied public land and settlement.



### Petition filed at National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

The NLRF has filed a petition at the NHRC to punish abusers of land rights and to give justice to the landless as the cases of eviction, burning and/or destroying houses are on the increase. 55 cases have been filed at the NHRC demanding justice to tenants who have been tilling landlord's land but not getting tenancy rights.

## 2.1.2 Effective Community-led Land Reform Practice

Community-led land reform practice has been carried out in three Village Development Committees (VDCs) within three Districts as follows:- Gangaparaspur (Dang), Laxminiya (Mahottari), and Ramche (Sindhupalchowk). In 2013 community led land reform was also undertaken in Sahare of Surkhet, Paduka of Dailekh, and Jogbuda of Dadeldhura.



In 2009, 723 members of VLRFs of Gangaparaspur VDC, Dang made an application demanding tilling paper to the VDC office. Among them, 204 families have received this basic paper among which 25 are women, 13 *Dalit*, 186 Indigenous, one *Brahman*, three *Kshetris* and one community person. The members of the VLRF will be receiving their permanent documents for the land and now the people who used to threaten them come to get advice to register government land.



### 2.1.3 Generating Learning and Sharing Knowledge

The CSRC supported evidence based advocacy in favor of rights holders through research and studies, which are published and shared with stakeholders to inform them about the land rights movement and enhance their knowledge base. A series of publications and research documents have been published within this year including, updates, Quarterly/Annual reports, research, video/documentary, posters and booklets. Examples of published documents include 'Women's Access to Land and Land Grabbing' and 'Converting Agricultural Land to Non-Agriculture Use'. In addition Stories of Displacement, Social Audits, Land Use Booklets and Joint Land Ownership Booklet have been published. These published materials have been an advocacy tool in the land rights movement. It has also contributed to the knowledge building of activist, frontline leaders and VLRF members. Good practice is being shared and exchanged through the means of various published material while the VLRF discussion is also live with the use of visual tools.

The regular updates and publications have also been effective tools for national and international networking along with rapport building with government and political parties. Advocacy materials, periodic report, journal, bulletin on land rights (i.e *Bhumi Adhikar*), social audit report and posters have been published and disseminated exceeding the targets. Further to enhance institutional memory, learning of the land rights movement and trainings/workshops are documented and widely disseminated to rights holders' organizations and to relevant development agencies.

### 2.1.4 Ensuring Women's Land Rights (Joint Land Ownership Campaign)



A couple receiving Joint Land Ownership Certificate - Mahottari, Surkhet and Sindhupalchowk

CSRC has continued to give priority to women's access and control over land as an important agenda in the land and agrarian rights movement. Each DLRf and VLRF has now formulated a campaign plan for raising awareness among local people on women's rights to land ensuring their greater empowerment and livelihood security. In addition the issue of joint land ownership has been included in the ToR of the Landless Problem Solving Commission with the objective of getting it implemented on a wider scale. During the year, a total of 739 families have acquired Joint Land Ownership Certificates covering an area of 257 ha of land.

The Second National Conference of Women Farmers was held in Thimura, Chitwan from March 3-5 with participation of 162 women from 48 districts. The focus was on "Women's Land Ownership and Identity." This conference provided the following to those in attendance:

- Increased confidence and commitment in claiming for Landrights and other natural resources;
- Enhanced the debate on women and land rights and preparation of an action plan for the substantial expansion of the joint land ownership campaign;
- Provided encouragement in preparing Joint Land Ownership Certificates;
- Increased understanding on legal aspects of women's issues and building capacity of Rural Women Farmer Leaders;
- Provided a strong basis in taking the land rights movement forward linking it with human rights;
- Provided a platform for landless women farmers to express their feelings, build power and exchange knowledge and learning.



### Sesh Kumari Hayu

Sesh Kumari, the mother of ten children, was born in a simple family in 1951 in Sukajor, Ramechhap district. She has become one of the active frontline leaders of Sarbahara VLRF. She has only 0.2 ha of agricultural land. She actively took part in a training program for front line leaders/land rights activists where she deepened her knowledge about land rights campaign as well as her own rights to land. After she attended the program, she made joint land entitlement certificate. She also encouraged others for the same initiative. She has shared that the joint land entitlement has become support in her old age.

## 2.1.5 Policy Advocacy

### Drafting of the National Land Policy

Multi-stakeholder policy dialogue at district and national level for the policy reform or enactment of new policies and ensuring the democratic governance in land administration and management were emphasized by the CSRC in its strategy and plan and it acted accordingly. CSRC and NLRF including its district chapters and collaborating partners are actively involved in National land policy formulation process. Finally, the government of Nepal has drafted a National Land Policy and shared it among key stakeholders and experts for their inputs.



National Consultation Workshop on formulation of land policy.

The goal of the policy is the equitable distribution of land, optimum utilization of land, good governance for economic prosperity and a qualitative change in the living standard of the people. Of the five objectives, three are directly related to the land rights movement facilitated by CSRC. These comprise: (a) to ensure the land tenure, land ownership and land right; (b) to ensure the equitable access of the citizens to land, and (c) to ensure good governance in land administration and management. This has been one of the significant changes induced by CSRC.

## Addressing the Issue of Land Reform in the Newly Crafted Agriculture Development Strategy

Despite the initial reluctance of the government to include CSRC in the formulation of a new Agriculture Development Strategy, it was later granted a place in the land thematic group for furnishing feedback/input—a result of the regular pressure/lobbying with the concerned Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives. Finally, the land reform issue has been found to be included partially in the document—a function of constant pressure. CSRC's view was that any agriculture development strategy that did not contain measures for land reform would be seen as hypocrisy for the development of agriculture.



Discussion with Chairperson of UCPN Maoist, on the issue of land rights

## International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) Engagement

Although a comprehensive framework law concerning the full recognition and implementation of ESCR guaranteed by the Interim Constitution of Nepal as a fundamental right is still needed, a number of existing laws and programmes related to food, health, education, housing and employment implicitly or explicitly substantiate the recognition of ESCR in Nepal. ESCR is the prime concern for the state. As a consequence ESCR progress determines the level of progress towards the principles and values of a democratic republic. Assessing the government report and providing judicial comments by CSOs is crucial to making the government accountable to commitments made under international conventions. To achieve this, CSRC and Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Centre (HRTMCC) proposed to review the following areas of ESCR for a shadow report to the government's official report submitted to the UN's ESCR committee on June 2011, focusing on articles in the Covenant that are congruent with ESCR enshrined in Nepal's interim constitution, interim plans, and government policy papers. This Parallel report has been prepared on behalf of the HRTMCC, a coalition of 63 Nepali human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs), previously known as Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee. A wide range of stakeholders, including grassroots peoples and policy makers were consulted through intensive regional and national level workshops and meetings. Five regional workshops were held in the Eastern, Mid, Western, Far-western and Mid-western regions. The Alternate Report on International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) has been prepared and submitted to 52 Session on UN Treat Body Working Committee. Committee on International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) well received the civil society alternative report on ESCR on 52 sessions. The alternative report and lobby note on ESCR clearly advocated the land rights of marginalized farmers of Nepal, which CSRC presented at the committee. As per which the issue of eviction cases of Landless, Raji, Badi, and Tenants has also been included with it. CSRC is lobbying the ESCR rights on behalf of landless and tenant farmers including women's access to land to ensure their rights.



# 3

## Organisational Development

### 3.1 Human Resource and Knowledge Building

- CSRC has used its financial and human resources for capacity building of land rights holders from community, district to national level. The continuous engagement and promotion of exposure visit, training/workshop programs and learning exchange visits are the key capacity building measures. Ultimately, they feel more knowledgeable and hence are empowered with skills capacitated on ideological orientation of advocacy, land related legal issues, leadership and management.
- CSRC staff, field staff, members of the executive committee and senior management agreed that the participation in national and international events/training/workshops helped to develop their capacity. The national and international participation focused on the following:
  - International: a) Regional Assembly of ILC (Mongolia), b) International Workshop on Community Land Rights and Land Rights Movement (Interlaken, Switzerland), c) 3rd Leadership Institute of Program on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (PWESCR), Colombo, Srilanka, d) Sharing on Land Rights Movement (Islamaba, Pakistan), e) Land and Agrarian Learning visit (Bangladesh), f) Asian Farmer Association (AFA's) 29th Executive Committee Meeting and Workshop on IYFF (International Year of Family farming) Plan (Phnom Penh, Cambodia), g) Lobbying for ESCR alternative report (Geneva, Switzerland), h) Global platform (Initiatives International) meeting and sharing of non-violence movement (Dakar, Senegal), i) International Land Coalition (ILC) Global Land Forum (Antigua, Guatemala), j) AFA 10th Annual Meeting and Regional Level Workshop (Asian Farmers Association), k) Regional Training Program on Enhancing Civil Society Land Monitoring Effectiveness (Bangkok)
  - National : a) ToT on Conflict Transformation and Human rights (DanidaHUGOU), b) Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop (Care Nepal), c) PWESCR 3rd Leadership Training (PWESCR (The Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights))
- Dr. Robert Chambers, visited to Ramche, Kiul and Helambu, Sindhupalchowk and interacted with the VLRF members and documented the learning of land rights movement. This has contributed for the goodwill of CSRC and internationalized the land rights movement.

## 3.2 Institutional Development

### CSRC's New Strategic and Operational Plan (StOP) (2014 - 2018)

Building on the learning and achievements of the previous Strategic and Operational Plan (StOP), New Five Years StOP (2014-2018) have been prepared for the implementation. The new strategic plan will further enable the movement through setting strategic pathways for future direction with management of risks and challenges. The strategic plan was developed through different levels of consultation in all levels followed by field visits, focused group discussion, group work respectively, and hence promoting participatory and inclusive process. The StOP encompasses the following four key strategic objectives:

**Objective 1:** To organize, mobilize and strengthen rights holders to secure their land and agrarian rights

**Objective 2:** To promote agrarian and land policies that addresses the concerns of rights holders

**Objective 3:** To significantly reduce gender inequalities on land ownership by strengthening women rights to land

**Objective 4:** To establish CSRC as a transparent and accountable institution and as a leading knowledge and resource base on land rights in Nepal.

## 3.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

### Social Audit:

Social Audit is a key to ensure accountability and transparency, which the organization has been practicing from the community, district to the national levels. The main objectives of the social audit are: **i)** to make transparent CSRC's income and expenditure information, achievements and programme results. **ii)** strengthen organisational systems on accountability, transparency, governance and institutional growth; and **iii)** strengthen the land and agrarian rights campaign in Nepal. Organising a Social Audit does enrich organizational learning through reflection and



feedback. Social Auditing process has been enabling people's right to information, stimulating the right holders to take part in social actions and social mobilizations.

**Participatory Review and Reflection Program (PRRP):** CSRC has in-built institutional mechanism of conducting Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP). The PRRP is undertaken quarterly, half yearly and yearly to review programme implementation, to determine the performance and impacts of the programmes, key challenges or constraints encountered, as well as lessons learnt with formation of collective plan for the future. The reflection process aims to provide the space for sufficient interaction for deeper reflections on programme performance and its impact on the right holders. This process has led to greater participation and self-criticism, more reporting on impact, increased accountability, transparency, and reflections that are influencing practice.

### Evaluation of CSRC's Performance and Strategic Partnership (2009-2013)

The land rights movement of land-poor facilitated and supported by CSRC during the period of 2009-2013 was launched under the 'strategic partnership framework'. A final evaluation was conducted at the end of the program. The evaluation of CSRC's performance and strategic partnerships shows that the constituency of the land rights movement, with the leadership of NLRF and facilitation and institutional resources, as well as technical support of CSRC, has phenomenally grown during the program period from 34 to 53 districts making a total of 2,741 VLRFs with a total membership of 93,325. CSRC results-based monitoring and evaluation framework data have clearly shown that the land rights movement has the potential of promoting the "security of land tenure" among land-poor women and men (outcomes/objectives) and "securing equitable access to land for ensuring better livelihood of the land-poor" (impact/goal). The evaluation has also shown that CSRC has ownership of setting its own strategies, objectives, priorities and intervention processes under the strategic partnership. CSRC views total support from all strategic partners for this ownership process.



# 4

## Learning and Challenges

### 4.1 Learning:

- Land rights violation cases can be settled effectively if there is mutual collaboration and dialogue between local organizations, leaders and rights holders during the intervention process.
- The process of collaborating with DLRFs must be preceded by properly analyzing the capacity of organisations their culture, accountability and improving areas of need. There must be proper balance between conducting programs and management support for enhancing their effective outcome.
- DLRFs must be provided with the financial support for the campaign which cannot be managed by their own resources so that they can manage their time for intensive discussion on advocacy issues and on planning as necessary (otherwise, they would just spend time to utilize financial resources given by CSRC with no serious deliberation).

### 4.2 Major Challenges Encountered:

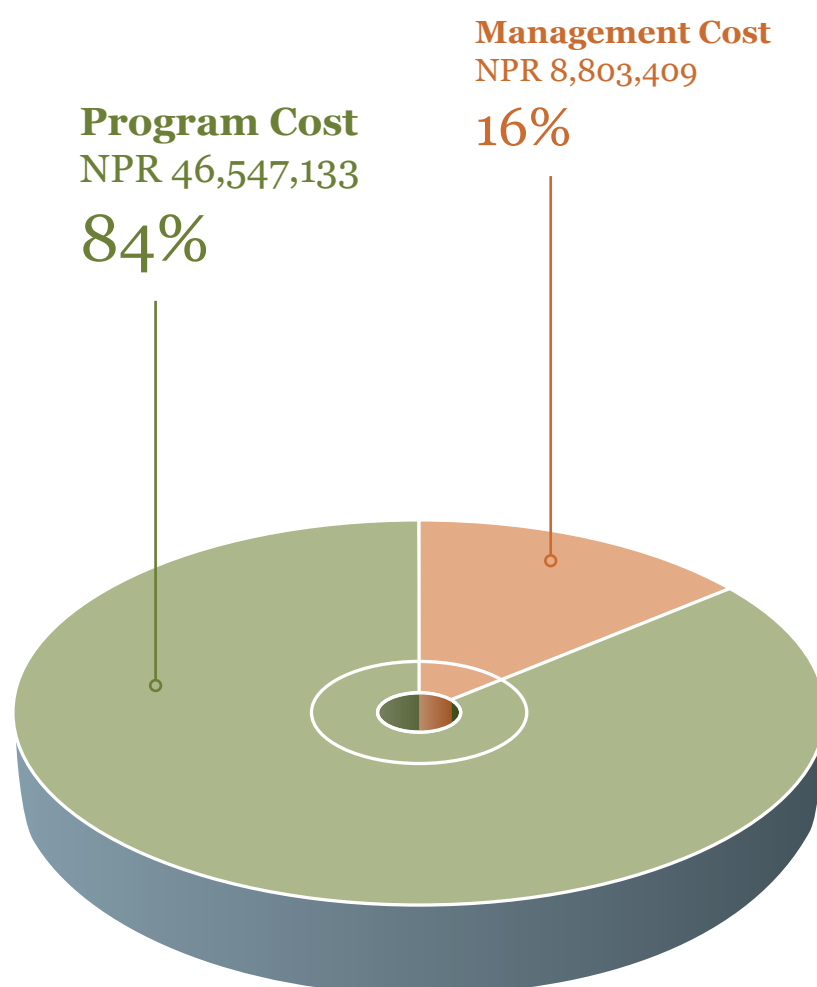
- occasional forced eviction of *Sukumbasis* (landless squatters) by community forests, community-managed schools, district forest offices, local *Zamindars* (landlords), and National Wildlife Management offices;
- pervasiveness of land grabbers/speculators and consequent grabbing of the public/waste lands, establishing settlement on them and alienation through plotting;
- wrong impression in communities about launching the campaign for joint land ownership while there is no land (i.e. why this campaign when there is no land in the community);
- inadequate knowledge among activists for making the land-poor understand about the ways of acquiring and owning land legally;
- orientation of donors towards the objective of land rights movement (i.e. securing the tenure of land) and possibility of other institutions for joining this movement (the challenge is how to capitalize this situation);
- issues of land reform gradually being left by political parties and possibility of unstable political context;
- aggressiveness vented towards the government by the rights holders and their allies including CSRC due to the failure of making anticipated achievements happen and consequent tiredness;
- less understanding on the issues of land rights by landless settlers and small farmers, less effective leadership and escape from the campaign (occasional), and
- potential danger of high-jacking the benefits by fake landless settlers who have surreptitiously infiltrated in the association of 'genuine landless settlers.'

# 5

## Income and Expenditures

### 5.1 Financial Performance

CSRC's total budget for the year 2013 was NPR 60,740,098 (\$619,797). The total expenditure during the period was 55,478,939 (\$566,111) which is 91% of the total approved budget for the same period. Of the total expenditure, program cost accounted for 84% of NPR 46,547,133 (\$474,970) and management costs 16% of NPR 8,803,409 (\$89,830). In addition, the movement mobilized the equivalent of NPR 5,049,182 (\$51,522) worth of local contributions including cash and kind (grain, vegetable, labour cost etc.) which was contributed by the tenants and landless farmers themselves. The movement emphasized the importance of locally generated resources to ensure its long term sustainability and to provide a greater sense of ownership amongst the tenants and the landless farmers. During 2013, the strategic partners (SPs) who committed financial support in line with CSRC's five year StOP as per the MoU included DanidaHUGOU, ActionAid International Nepal (AAIN), Care Nepal, Oxfam Nepal, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal and International Land Coalition (ILC).



# 6

## Way Forward

- Focus to strengthen the peoples organisation through the expansion of membership and deepening of dialogue leading to a widening of members understanding of land reform, people organisations and the meaning of struggle.
- The land rights movement is expanding and growing gradually and naturally. So it is prepared for the way forward to 2014 and beyond. The land rights movement completed the 5 years strategic period (2009-2013) and will implement new strategy (2014-2018). The new strategy will promote land issues including tenancy, *Churiya* hill rehabilitation and conservation, land reform benefits to Terai, *Dalits* and excluded Madheshi groups, women's land rights, trust land and devise advocacy and mobilization strategy accordingly. CSRC will promote policies of advocacy and support, demand for rights and governance through ground mobilization and economic reforms through agriculture and marketing cooperatives and agro-based initiatives. It will also undertake partnerships working with People's Organizations.
- CSRC is a learning organization and thus it will continue building knowledge from the ground mobilization and policy works. It will strengthen its knowledge resource centres across the country. It will also redesign organization in the light of new strategy.
- It is expected that a new Constitution will be formulated during 2014. Civil society organizations and the land rights movement will make utmost effort to ensure the embedding of the land rights agenda in the new Constitution. It will do this through the appropriate level of advocacy, ground mobilization, supporting constitution drafting process with successful experiences of land reforms and alternatives.
- There is a need for a legal and procedural knowledge building process to be put in place for the movement in order to bring about expected changes. Activists must have a clear legal understanding for their regions while being much more proficient regarding specific issues.
- Concentrated institutional efforts are further to strengthen by CSRC/NLRF, to increase the number of the women recipients of joint land ownership certificates for enhancing the gender equity in the regime of land.
- Popular education programs which provide an overall picture of the land and agricultural rights movement and of the people's organization are essential. Sustainable change is possible only with the strengthening of each member of the movement. This requires knowledge building to be included at each stage of the movement's activities.
- The community-led land reform is important and is delivering practical alternative on land and agrarian reform at VDC level. So the community-led land reform will be expanded in other VDCs and districts.



# Annexes

## Annex – A

### Financial performance from 1 January to 31 December 2013

A	Source of Fund	Budget Contribution
1	ActionAid Nepal	5,525,000
2	Care Nepal	3,740,760
3	DanidaHUGOU	36,450,000
4	International Land Coalition (ILC)	135,444
5	Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	1,778,000
6	Oxfam	4,635,252
7	Swiss Development Cooperation	2,255,259
8	Income from Bank Interest	220,564
9	Income from Overhead of Project	356,740
10	Income from Personal Support	55,000
11	Donation in kind	264,255
12	Income from Resource Center	892,750
13	Membership Fees	7,500
14	Book selling	77,522
	<b>Total, Sources of Fund (A)</b>	<b>56,394,046</b>

B	Application of Fund	Budget	Expenditure
<b>a</b>	<b>Programme Cost</b>		
<b>Output 1</b>	<b>Organizing, strengthening and mobilizing right holders</b>	<b>25,931,755</b>	<b>24,003,976</b>
1.1	Building, strengthening and expanding National and District Land Rights Forums as people's organizations	2,100,872	2,064,409
1.2	Forming and strengthening District Land Rights Forums (25 districts)	14,244,043	12,313,981
1.3	Capacity building of NLRF and DLRF staff and activists in the areas of advocacy, paralegal skills, and networking and alliance building	2,567,200	2,231,420
1.4	Mainstreaming the action-reflection-action model of popular education in land rights movement	7,019,640	7,394,166
<b>Output 2</b>	<b>Clarifying land reform, policy change and implementation</b>	<b>5,080,000</b>	<b>5,028,130</b>
2.1	Policy dialogue at National level / Political party leaders, government officials, CA members, civil society leaders and experts	360,000	355,620

2.2	Community land and agrarian reform / Development of viable alternative land reform and management models through action research	1,350,000	1,218,563
2.3	Media mobilisation (radio programme and others)	500,000	636,790
2.4	Independent Campaign Mobilisers (to prepare grounds in new districts)	100,000	116,071
2.5	Policy dialogue at District and Regional level	155,800	542,967
2.6	Issue wise campaign / Public campaigns, demonstrations, rallies and submission of memoranda	1,809,725	1,095,529
2.7	Support to process of claiming economic activities	804,475	1,062,590
Output 3	Learning generated from ground level actions and practices, and disseminated the knowledge at all levels	11,655,130	11,882,509
3.1	Establishment of resource centres both at national and sub-national levels	1,670,118.00	2,415,798.00
3.2	Mobilisation of alliances (Resource Organisations) engaged in land rights movement	4,415,012.00	5,112,787.00
3.3	Study & finding sharing	660,000.00	111,795.00
3.4	Publications and dissemination of advocacy materials, periodic reports, journals and bulletins	1,050,000.00	895,915.00
3.5	CSRC institutional strengthening including strengthening of financial tools and systems	1,150,000.00	953,574.00
3.6	Capacity building of CSRC board, staff and Resource Organisations	200,000.00	17,960.00
3.7	Network / Alliance building & Program review meeting	90,000.00	58,807.00
3.8	Social audit National Level	450,000.00	313,907.00
3.9	Social audit District level	210,000.00	171,302.00
3.1	Half Yearly Review & Reflection	450,000.00	548,753.00
3.11	Quarterly Review & Reflection	360,000.00	623,680.00
3.12	Internal Evaluation (Yearly)	700,000.00	389,307.00
3.13	External Evaluation (Yearly) Joint Annual Review	250,000	268,924
Output 4	Ensuring women's rights to land.	996,700	889,624
4.1	Joint ownership campaign	550,000.00	585,052.00
4.2	Regional conference of women leader and activist	46,700.00	200,000
4.3	Ws and Orientation on Joint ownership issues / Dialogue and pressurize to the government to implement policy and program on women access to land.	400,000.00	104,572
5	ILC	2,623,360	2,175,607
5.1	Community mobilisation and campaign	1,440,000	783,206
5.2	Consultation & Shadow Report Writing / Sharing	298,080	380,554
5.3	Contingency / Overhead (NES 1213)	49,280	326,613
5.4	CSO land monitoring & land watch campaign	0	109,727
5.5	Geneva lobbying & Hearing	588,000	269,027
5.6	Workshops with women's group and media mobilization, case collection	248,000	306,480
6	Preparation of a Draft National Land Policy	5,150,000	2,567,287
6.1	Learning exchange visits	2,200,000	1,035,215.00
6.2	Preparation of Draft Policy document	925,000	1,053,609.00

6.3	Review of international practices	625,000	250,000.00
6.4	Review of National policies, priorities and previous reports	625,000	117,834.00
6.5	Review of sectoral policies, laws and regulations like agriculture, forest, irrigation	375,000	900
6.6	District level consultation (For Draft Sharing)	400,000	109729
	<b>Total, Program Cost (a)</b>	<b>51,436,945</b>	<b>46,547,133</b>
<b>b</b>	<b>Management Cost</b>		
b.1	Staff Costs	6,916,103.00	6,621,261.00
1	Staff Benefits	1,246,459.00	1,293,045.00
2	Staff Salary	4,724,644.00	4,636,637.00
3	Travel Cost	945,000.00	691,579.00
b.2	Monitoring, evaluation and audit	250,000	201,311
1	External audit (annual)	150,000	101,311.00
2	Internal audit (periodic)	100,000	100,000
3	Periodic monitoring visits (including visits by executive members)		
b.3	Office running cost	2,137,050	1,980,837
1	Annual Tax (Building & Vehicle)	60,000.00	81,472.00
2	Insurance	147,000.00	91,268.88
3	Office Building/Space related Costs	575,000	625,000
4	Other office expenses	182000	127,715.00
5	Repair and maintenance	480,000.00	535,126.00
6	Utilities and communication	230,550.00	189,322.00
7	Coordination & Overhead Cost		
8	Depreciation Charges	100,000	69,931
9	Organization Renewal Expenses	0	1,800
10	Networking and membership fees	100,000	31,722
11	Security Fee (Residential Area)	7,500	19,832
12	Write-Off	255,000	207,648
13	Staff Support Expenses	0	0
<b>b</b>	<b>Management cost (b.1+b.2+b.3)</b>	<b>9,303,153</b>	<b>8,803,409</b>
<b>c</b>	<b>Capital cost (including equipment and furniture)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>128,397</b>
1	Furniture and furnishing	0	128,397
	<b>Total, application of funds (a+b+c) = B</b>	<b>60,740,098</b>	<b>55,478,939</b>
	<b>Fund balance (A-B) = C</b>		<b>915,107</b>



## Annex – B

### Cumulative Performance of Land Rights Movement from 2008-2013

Particulars	Unit	Till 2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
<b>People's organization</b>								
People's organization at community level	Organization	1,328	325	271	174	443	2,741	5,282
People's Organization at district level	Organization	34	5	4	7	3	0	53
People organized into people's organizations	People/Hhs	51,035	6,594	14,327	4,832	10,106	5,441	92,335
	Women	2,032	3,562	6,905	2,630	4,726	2,492	22,347
	Dalits	24,873	1,723	4,333	2,186	4,661	2,410	40,186
People's participation in land rights discourse	Hhs	228,372	64,948	109,642	80,214	22,166	134,415	639,757
Tenants and landless farmers made aware/sensitized	People	1,975,534	168,582	209,403	145,814	130,931	168,501	2,798,765
<b>Leadership</b>								
Activists trained and mobilized	People	1,088	153	164	145	81	58	1,689
	Women	420	78	74	72	38	28	710
	Dalits	423	71	54	50	31	15	644
Community leaders trained and mobilised	People	2,103	1,183	1,303	2,225	2,370	1,797	10,981
	Women	862	468	1,088	1,243	1,194	886	5,741
	Dalits	844	479	159	640	925	621	3,668
	Janjati				858	880	764	2,502
<b>Civil society alliance</b>								
Total districts covered	Districts	42	47	50	50	53	53	53
Total VDCs covered	VDCs	257	315	504	504	626	684	684
<b>Achievements</b>								
Petitions filed by the tenants	Petitions	28,489	3,216	22	0	0	0	31,727
Petitions settlement	Petitions	14,423	440	0	336	86	22	15,307
	Women	1032	88	0				
	Dalits	3,514	59	0				
Areas of land transferred to the tenants	Hectares	3,303	305	24.07	87.69	14.23	101.01	3,834.91
	Women	234	61	0	0			
	Dalits	831	40	0	0			
	Market price Rs (m)	954	73	0	108			
Retention of public land	Hectare	345	0	140.35	38.63	104.53	68.48	696.99
	Market price Rs (m)	99	0	42	31			
	Families benefitted	402	0	188	776	1,488	1,394	4,248
Petitions filed by landless people	Petitions	53,096	7,356	20,768	0	45,610	38,399	165,229
Total petitions settled	Petitions	66	0	5,818	1941	584	15,451	23,860
Areas of land distributed to the landless	Hectare			765	377	8.29	0	1,150
Joint Land Ownership Certificate	Families					339	739	1,078
	Area Covered (In Hectare)					106	256.73	362.73

## Annex – C

### Key events from 1 January to 31 December, 2013

Month	Key Events
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19 day long sit-in program was concluded in consensus made with District Administration Office. The campaign was organized in front of Land Revenue Office, District Forest Office, District Landless Problem Solving Committee on issuance of Ukhada notice, distribution of landless identity card</li> <li>National Level Semi-annual Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) held in Thimura Chitwan</li> <li>Around 50 landless people from Sataghani-7 Rupse of Surkhet organized 'sit in' in front of CDO Office of Surkhet demanding proper rehabilitation against eviction.</li> <li>A book 'Stories of Displacements' was published; and the code of conduct of NLRF was also designed and published.</li> <li>A study report on Haruwa was prepared. And the report named, Land is Life was also translated into Nepali.</li> <li>DLRF Baitadi organized a Rally followed by Regional Conference in front of the district headquarter, Shahilekh. They pressurized the government regarding the rehabilitation of Haliyas. There was presence of 500 participants.</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Right Based Approach (RBA) training organised by CSRC-4 in Chitwan in which 26 participants participated from Myagdi, Baglung, Parbat, Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Rupandehi and Palpa district.</li> <li>Tenant conference held in Itahari, Sunsari with the participation of 5000 people.</li> <li>Submitted 9 points demand letter of tenant farmers at land reform offices in Dang.</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Banke district, Naubasta VDC Bajureli ward 18 landless people's house were burnt down by Janaasrit Community Forest Group. DLRF organized sit-in campaign and pressurized District Administration Office (DAO) for resettlement of landless victim. Consequently through the agreement made with DAO, the landless people were resettled.</li> <li>The Second National Conference of Women Farmer was held from 3-5 March, at Thimoor, with the participation of 162 women from 48 districts.</li> <li>Regional Land Rights Conference (Mass Meeting) was held in different ten places in the leadership of NLRF. More than 50 Thousands of landless, small farmers, squatters, haliya and flood victim participated at the programme with the ultimate aim of building people's constitution, ensuring land rights within constitution and implementation of the report of Land Commission.</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Danish Evaluation team visited Shreekot, Baitadi and Sehari of Kailai.</li> <li>Regional Land Rights Conference held by NLRF in Parbat, Khotang, Rautahat, Siraha and Morang districts.</li> <li>20 land rights activists participated in Fellowship Programme organized by Action Aid International Nepal (AAIN).</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NLRF team met with the various political parties with written position paper to request the implementation of scientific land reform on behalf of landless and tenant farmers and include the land and agrarian issue in their election manifesto.</li> <li>A team of tenant farmer from Sunsari, Morang, Jhapa, Dang, Banke and Bardiya districts met with Mr. Tejraj Pandey Director General and Hon. Minister Riddhi Baba Pradhan of MoLRM. Consequently they committed to bring new policy soon to address tenant farmers' problems after having meeting and interaction with them.</li> <li>Tenant farmers and Haruwas shared their human rights violation issues and stories with the member of NHRC in their office. NHRC agreed to write concerning bodies of government to address the issues</li> <li>The group of <i>Haruwa/Charuwa</i> of Siraha and Saptari districts met with Dr. Chiranjivi Nepal, Chief Economic Advisor of Ministry of Finance and Riddhibaba Pradhan, Minister of Land Reform and Management Ministry. They took the <i>Haruwa/Charuwas</i> issues positively and gave the word to address Haruwas demands in coming budget and policy.</li> <li>NLRF submitted letter to Mr. Rambaran Yadav, President of Nepal for conservation of Chure land area.</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Had meeting at MoLRM about the ideas of piloting land use policy in Lele VDC of Lalitpur. Consequently land use policy is being discussed in community with concrete action plan.</li> <li>Finalized the draft of Anti-Corruption policy.</li> <li>Regional Consultation Workshop on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) conducted in Pokhara, Nepalgunj and in Dhangadhi.</li> <li>Conflict Management Training held at Thimura, Chitwan enhanced the knowledge and skills of frontline leaders in advocating the women's land rights and carrying out the joint land ownership campaign.</li> </ul>

July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Level Annual Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) held in Thimura, Chitwan.</li> <li>National Consultation Workshop on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) held in Kathmandu.</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DLRF Siraha received a letter from the VDC with approval to use 0.06 public land to build a <i>Bhumi Ghar</i>.</li> <li>Submitted Project Completion Report of StOP Period (2009-2013) to DanidaHUGOU.</li> <li>Conflict Transformation Training was held in Sundarilal for capacity building of activist and frontline leaders.</li> <li>NLRF submitted complaint report to NHRC for securing the rights of Haruwa-Charuwa and human rights of landless people.</li> <li>Five Years Strategic Evaluation (2009-2013) of land rights movement in Sindhupalchowk, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Siraha, Saptari, Sinasari and Morang district by Independent Consultant Prof. Dr. Laya Prasad Upreti.</li> <li>Held CSRC's 6th National Social Audit and Annual General Assembly.</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request letter was submitted to the Director General of Land Reform and Management Department to address the issues arose during the implementation of Joint land-ownership campaign.</li> <li>CSRC's participation in 'Community Land and Resource Rights' International Workshop established the relationship with NAMATI and Landesa, USA based organisations.</li> <li>A critical discussion was held with the strategic partners; Actionaid Nepal, CARE Nepal, DanidaHUGOU, Oxfam GB on the 5 years' performance of CSRC and strategic partnership.</li> <li>CSRC's participation in the Asia Regional Conference of International Land Coalition (ILC) held in Mongolia.</li> <li>Meetings with major political parties with regard to participation of representation of landless people in 2nd Constituent Assembly Election.</li> <li>Booklet published on land-use, Leaflet of joint land-ownership, Posters and Social Audit report.</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted a two day discussion program on the first draft of the National Land Policy at Kapilvastu; two community level and one district level. Similarly conducted discussion programme at Kalikasthan and Dhunchhe of Rasuwa.</li> <li>A promoter of Participatory Approaches Dr. Robert Chambers visited to Ramche, Kiul and Helambu, Sindhupalchok and interacted with the VLRFs members and documented the learning of land rights movement.</li> <li>CSRC and NLRF representation in Asian Farmers Association (AFA) Program on "Defending and Promoting Small Scale Agriculture in Asia and 29th AFA Execom Meeting held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia</li> <li>Held interaction programme on 'Sustainable agriculture for Food' in collaboration with Federation of National Farmers</li> <li>An alternative report on ICESCR was finalized and forwarded to UN OHCHR and UN recognized it effectively.</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy Skill Training was organized with a presence of 23 participants in Thimura Chitwan. A campaign strategy in the area of Haruwa, Tenancy, Joint land ownership certificate, and implementation of land reform action plan was produced through the training.</li> <li>Made an agreement with 'Forum for Agrarian Concern and Studies in Nepal' (FACT- Nepal) for a series of Inter-Party Forum and Dialogue on Land and Agrarian Reform</li> <li>A lobby note on International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) was prepared for the 52 Session on UN Treat Body Working Committee.</li> </ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobbying on Joint Land Ownership certificate with the Secretary of MoLRM with a request to simplify the process of joint land ownership.</li> <li>Conducted a consultation programme on the first draft of National Land Policy in Dadeldhura district</li> <li>The Fourth National Council of the NLRF was held at Thimura, Chitwan.</li> <li>Organised a findings sharing workshop of study conducted by CSRC and WOREC on behalf of NCFW on "Converting agricultural land to non agricultural uses and women friendly agriculture tools".</li> <li>Five-year strategy paper (2014-2018) was finalized</li> <li>National Level Semi-annual Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) held in Thimura, Chitwan.</li> </ul>

## Voices of the People

We have planted paddy, corn in 2-3 kattha land. We have been able to settle properly. VLRG have organized us in one common place.

- **Dulara Harijan**, Bardiya

Landless Commission has been formed with our own effort. And through the struggle of 7 years, landless identity card has been received.

- **Ramkala Jawarel**, Kanchanpur

Farmers have been energized after receiving the land. They are engaged in agricultural enterprises. In Ramchhe the frontline leaders have now earned NPR 4 lakh from Goat Rearing and NPR 2 Lakh from Vegetable.

- **Ramesh Poudel**, Sindhupalchowk

We 29 hh together collectively utilized barren land. For this NLRG supported us. The productions received suffice for 7 months.

- **Chhukan Chaudhary**, Gangaparaspur

If we were not organized in NLRG then we would have been working in India doing stone quarrying. Now we can speak for our rights and have also received some land.

- **Devi Gharti**, Bardiya

We are much delighted to receive land. Land is biggest thing. We are sustaining through the production received from farming.

- **Durgabhadur Bhul**, Baitadi



## Abbreviations

ADS	Agriculture Development Strategy
AFA	Asian Farmers Association
ANGOC	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
CA	Constituent Assembly
CDECF	Community Development and Environment Conservation Forum
CSDR	Centre for Social Development and Research
CSRC	Community Self-reliance Centre
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CPN(M)	Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
DAO	District Administration Office
DDC	District Development Committee
DLRF	District Land Rights Forum
ESCR	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forest Users in Nepal
FY	Fiscal Year
Ha	Hectare
HH	Household
HLSLRC	High Level Scientific Land Reform Commission
HRTMCC	Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Centre
HUGOU	Human Rights and Good Governance Advisory Unit (Danida)
ICESCR	International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
ILC	International Land Coalition
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INGO	International Non-governmental Organisation
JDS	Janachetana Dalit Sangam
LPSC	Landless Problem Solving Commission
LLC	Land Learning Centerxx
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MOLRM	Ministry of Land Reform and Management
NC	Nepali Congress
NLRF	National Land Rights Forum
NPR	Nepali Rupees
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
NPR	Nepali Rupees
RBA	Right Based Approach
RDS	Rural Development Society
StOP	Strategic and Operational Plan
SWAN	Society Welfare Action Nepal
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
VDC	Village Development Committee
VLRF	Village Land Rights Forum

## Glossary

Adhiya	Share cropping, usually on a 50-50 basis
Birta	Land grants made by the state to individuals usually on an inheritable and Tax-exempt basis; abolished in 1959
Bigha	Unit of measurement of land in the Terai. One bigha is equal to 72,900square feet.
DDC	A committee of members elected to serve (in accordance with the District Development Committee Act, 1992) as the executive body of authority in each of the 75 districts of Nepal. Candidates for election to a DDC represent the Village Development Committees (VDCs) within that district.
Haliya/Haruwa	A System of hiring ploughmen (haliya in hills, haruwa in terai); usually bonded arrangements with ploughman working for free to pay off debts
Kut	Rent in cash or kind paid by sharecroppers/tenant to landlord or directly to State in past Raikar arrangements
Ukhada	A form of Jimidari land ownership in only three districts in Terai: Rupandehi, Kapilvastu and Nawalparasi; abolished 1964
Kattha	Unit of measurement of land in Terai. One kattha is equal to 3,625 square feet.
Kamaiya	Bonded labourer of Tharu origin in five mid-western Terai districts
Kamlari	Female Kamaiya (mostly unmarried adolescent and youth), often daughters of Kamaiya – mostly the Tharus - who used to work for landlords. Though it is abolished after the promulgation of Kamaiya Labour (Prohibition) Act, 2002, it is still in practice in different forms of domestic workers and seasonal agriculture labourers particularly in the districts of Mid- and Far-western Development Regions of Nepal
Raikar	Lands on which taxes are collected from individual landowners, traditionally regarded as state owned land by 1964 recognized as private property
VDC	A committee of members elected to govern a village development area (in accordance with the VDC Act, 1992). Candidates for election to a VDC represent the wards into which village development committee area is divided.

# Map of Program Coverage District Network

## Land and Agrarian Rights Campaign



### Collaborating Partners

- Abhiyan Nepal, Sunsari
- Centre for Society Development and Research (CSDR), Banke
- Community Development and Environment Conservation Forum (CDECF), Sindhupalchowk
- Janachetana Dalit Sangam (JDS), Saptari
- National Land Rights Forum (NLR), including District Chapters
- Rural Development Society (RDS), Sindhupalchowk
- Society Welfare Action Nepal (SWAN), Dang

### Strategic Partners Organisations

- Action Aid International Nepal
- Care Nepal
- DanidaHUGOU
- Oxfam
- Lutheran World Federation Nepal (LWF)
- International Land Coalition (ILC)
- Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO)

### Network and Alliances

- Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC)
- Asian Farmers Association (AFA)
- International Land Coalition (ILC)
- Forum Asia



### **Community Self-reliance Centre (CSRC)**

**Vision:** A Nepali society where everyone enjoys a secure, free and dignified life.

**Mission:** To empower land-poor women and men enabling them to claim and exercise their basic rights, including right to land resources, contributing to eradicating poverty and injustice.

**Goal:** To secure equitable access to land for poor women and men, ensuring their freedom and right to a dignified life.

### **Strategic Objectives:**

**Objective 1:** Organize, strengthen and mobilize rights holders (land-poor women and men) to claim and exercise their rights.

**Objective 2:** Establish clarity and consensus regarding land and agrarian reform, and develop and implement land reform policy and frameworks suitable to the needs and realities of Nepal.

**Objective 3:** Disseminate learning, generated from ground level actions and practices, throughout all levels of society.

**Objective 4:** Recommend new land policies guaranteeing women and men equal rights to own land