

Land Rights

Campaigns and Assemblies. Activities related to tenancy saw a rise in September, since the guidelines and regulations for the 6th Amendment of 1964 were passed July and published in the National Gazette in August. Four camps (*Mohi bhela*) were organized in Sindhupalchok participating 338 tenants to aware about tenant sharing and registration and guidelines for housing reconstruction for landless. The major issues raised and discussed in each of the camps were collection of identification certificates for tenancy registration, ways to write application, process of tenant sharing and legal and policy orientation/ knowledge sharing (National Gazette).



In *Dang*, *Banke* and *Bardiya*, three assemblies were held to discuss about the new amendment on tenant sharing in National Gazette. Altogether 63 tenants participated in the events of *Dang* and *Bardiya*. In *Dang*, identification proofs (citizenship certificates) have been collected from 15 tenants and in *Bardiya* of 36, to file an application in the Land Revenue Office. In *Bardiya*, awareness movement was organized participating around hundred tenants. A delegation of tenants from the same program was coordinated by the DLRF went to DLRO and submitted a copy of the National Gazette.

In *Sarlahi*, seven tenant families have filed application in DLRO for tenant sharing and land ownership certificate.

Movement and campaigns

Forming VLRs. Seven new VLRs were formed in *Okhaldhunga*, *Sarlahi* and *Udayapur*. Of the seven, four are in *Okhaldhunga*, two are in *Udayapur* and one is in *Sarlahi*.

Joint Land Ownership (JLO). Altogether 12 couples acquired JLO certificate from *Banke*, *Bardiya* *Dang* and *Sarlahi*, for approximately five hectare area land.

The DLRF *Dang* also organized program for JLO advocacy through documentary show and discussion on the same, in two VDCs and one municipality, participating 77 people.

In *Sindhupalchok*, a team of three members from DLRF made home visits at 70 households of which 35 couples are willing to make JLO certificate. Of these 35, the team has collected citizenship

certificate, land certificate and payment receipt for 25 couples. Based on the documents collected, application letters have been prepared which after *Dashami*, will be verified and deposited in the Land Revenue Office for further processes.

In *Rasuwa*, with support from CordAid Nepal, the DLRF and CSRC together released a radio drama explaining the meaning JLO entailed, its importance and benefits, the process pertaining to make JLO certificate and necessary documents. In addition, the DLRF facilitated a session on campaign management and planning, in a separate orientation program organized by Agro Forestry Foundation for Women Rights Forum. The Women Rights Forum has thus prioritized JLO to ensure women's rights over land as one of the prime concerns in their upcoming activities.

Leaflets having information about JLO were published in Tamang language and distributed in the communities.

Two day camp for JLO was organized in *Chandranagar* of *Sarlahi* participating 107 people (92 women and 17 men). Women's rights to land, equal stake over property, long term impact of JLO and steps and necessary documentation were JLO were the major contents that were discussed in the program.

A 'fund box' has been established in DLRF *Rasuwa*. They collect NPR 1 daily to contribute in activities relating to land rights campaigns and movement.

Land Awareness camp. In *Chandrapur* municipality and *Chisapani Chure* area of *Rautahat*, two awareness camps were organized participating 166 people (53 women and 113 men), discussing land related policies and major issues facilitated by legal personnel Indra Chaudhary. Also, a rally of 135 was organized against forced eviction.

While organizing local level campaign in *Chyanam* and *Katunje*, a quiz contest was organized between the frontline leaders. This has helped them self evaluate on their knowledge base and promoted a constructive, competitive environment between the leaders. They were able to navigate to upcoming issues needing discussion and attention during monthly meetings. This has also increased interaction and sharing of knowledge between them.

Community Led Agricultural Reform

Use of fallow land in river bank. The *Srijana* VLRF which was formed in August 2016 in *Sisnahiya* VDC of Dang has started making use of fallow river bank of *Rapti* river. The members constitute of 32 members, nine women and 23 men. They formed the VLRF with an aim of institutionalizing their concerns and demand of registering public land which they have been settling in for ten years now and access on local resources. Since two years now, the 51 families that have been settling around the river bank have identified 3.38 hectare area land and started farming rice, maize and potato. In the beginning, the production was not less because the soil wasn't fertile and had more sand and stone particles. With regular farming, the quality of soil has begun improving and now the field is getting better. In the first year, the production was less because it was a river bank, and there were

more sand and stones in the fields. However slowly, with regular farming and fertilizers, production has started increasing.

The VLRF members are not only using the land but have acquired basic paper document of tilling proof for the same from the DLRO with help of DLRF *Dang*. The DLRF supported them in organizing movement and sit in mobilization for tilling and residing proof. With continuous advocacy of the DLRF regarding right to land and lobbying with political parties, the VLRF was capable of filing an application at the VDC and creating pressure, thus later receiving a basic paper document of tilling proof to making use of the fallow land.

Being accountable, maintaining transparency

Social Audit

CSRC conducted its **Ninth Annual Social Audit** in September 26, 2016 in Kathmandu. Campaign activists and frontline leaders were amongst the important participants in the program. The program saw a participation of 206 stakeholders from government and non-government organizations and civil society representatives. In the program, CSRC presented its accomplishments (program and finance), receiving reviews and constructive criticisms from representatives from all participating institutions. Frontline leaders and members from different districts and VLRFs spoke about their experiences, expressing testimonials of their attachment with LRFs and CSRC.



Some major suggestions and issues raised by the participants and speakers were:

- The need to rejuvenate land movement related exercises, transitioning from the need to cater relief and recovery activities and revive the strategies of land related movement
- Expand the scope and coverage of the Land Right Forums in all 75 districts
- To raise the issues related to land, rights of landless, tenants and women thorough medium of international laws to increase pressure at the national level
- The need to separate land related movements conducted by the LRFs from those occasional political accusations, as some people may have understood as a political activity, which is completely misunderstood then. (Find the detailed report in www.csrcnepal.org).

Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Meal Day celebration

The 21st AGM of CSRC was conducted on September 24, 2016 participating 32 general members, of which 14 were female members.



In the event, CSRC's progress and financial reports were presented to elaborate on program level achievements as well as financial transactions. In the program, the upcoming annual plan (program and finance, both) were discussed. And finally, the members together endorsed the HR Management System 2016, Financial Regulations and Management System 2016, Vehicle Mobilization policy and guidelines for sharing common cost.

Meal Day Celebration: Symbolic solidarity with peasant farmers. CSRC celebrated Meal Day on September 24, followed by the AGM. To mark solidarity with peasant economy, their sustainability and promote organic farming, CSRC has been celebrating Meal Day every year.

Capacity building and development

Training on meeting conduction and documentation was conducted in Kuntadarshan Primary School of Kuntadevi VDC of Okhaldhunga. This training was organised improve the meeting conduction and documentation skills of the frontline leaders and activists. The contents focused on- meeting management, minute/record keeping and collection of case studies and beneficiary testimonials. A session in the training was dedicated on the orientation of outcome mapping documentation in DLRFs and VLRFs. This training has benefitted 17 participating leaders in understanding the ways to make monthly meetings effective and undertake as well as make the work division clear. One session in the training also covered the importance of disintegrated data systems in making fair analysis.



Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) training. Four day long training on HRBA was organized in Kathmandu in the last week of September. Campaign activists, frontline leaders from the Land Rights Forums (LRFs) and district coordinators were amongst the participants. The main objective of the training was to to make the participant understand about human rights, poverty and development and its implications

and importance in their works. CSRC felt that it was necessary to reinforce the conceptual understanding to improve in the advocacy and networking activities being done at the communities. The training was facilitated by Nanda Kandawa, Raj Rajak and Dayasagar Shrestha. Of the 32 participants, 14 were women; six from the Dalit community and 15 from Janajati community.

The major contents of the training were: different components, understandings and approaches of development, focusing on human rights based approach; power, empowerment and social change and on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

Land Registration in the reconstruction process: a campaign. An awareness program on reconstruction and the guidelines on land registration were discussed with 23 displaced Dalit families. Through the discussion session, it was found that 17 of the households belonged to the landless. A team of DLRF representatives then conducted meeting with the VDC Secretary to have conducted an assessment of damage of the affected households through a technical team and recommend to the NRA for their resettlement. In the follow up meeting between both parties (VDC and DLRF), it was decided that the DLRF will be responsible in collecting all necessary documents from the affected families, proof of damage assessment from the technical team and an application requesting resettlement and land registration to be submitted at the VDC.

Additionally, with help of Radio Sunkoshi, the DLRF compiled an announcement message regarding Land Registration Guidelines for the earthquake affected which is set to be aired ten times daily for 15 days between September and October.

Fifty three households out of 70 were found to be of tenants in a Baseline Survey done for 70 households in Baaskharka of Sindhupalchok.

In Rasuwa, a district level interaction program was organized between the DLRF members and district level stakeholders (CDO- Krishna Prasad Adhikari, LDO Rajendra Dev Pandey, DLRO Phanindra Bhattarai, DFO Uma Paudel, DSO Krishna Prasad Neupane, DADO Ramesh Humagain) among others. Altogether 65 people (26 women and 39 men) participated in the program. The participants also had landless tenants and those residing on Guthi or Birta land and representatives from other non government agencies. The discussion was conducted with an aim to create pressure on the district level agencies in the policy formations, focusing on issue of land registration and resettlement of the landless residing in public, Guthi and Birta land.

Leaflets in local languages. In *Banke*, *Bardiya* and *Dang*, leaflets having information about the tenant sharing (mohibaadfaatparcha) were distributed in the VLRFs in local languages: *Tharu*, *Maithali* and Nepali. Along with it, a collection of 19 answered FAQs were distributed.

Recovery Updates

Livelihoods. In Rasuwa, some major activities conducted in continuation of the Livelihood Recovery Project were:

- Cash Support (NPR 50000) to construct and use the Community Building for Women as Collection Centre in Laharepauwa and donated white boards to collection centres in Dhaibung and Jibjibe (to enlist and update vegetable prices regularly)
- One day follow up trainings for tomato farming, which briefly re oriented about the diseases, techniques to get rid of it and appropriate harvesting.



- Two days training on commercial onion farming for four groups with altogether 99 participants (70 women and 29 men)

Some more Trainings. In Sindhupalchok, well being ranking was completed in the three VDCs(Talamarang, Mahankal and Kiul) through the Nepal Earthquake Recovery Program (NERP). The beneficiaries for Cash Support (Livelihoods) will be finalized based on the same list. Altogether 90 beneficiaries were provided with Livelihood Cash Support in three VDCs of Nuwakot.

A two day follow-up training for cardamom farmers was conducted in Helambu for 27 participants (16 men and 11 women). Similarly, in Bidur of Nuwakot, vegetable farming training was conducted for 22 people (7 women and 15 men).

Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) has been started in Sindhupalchok (done jointly by NERP and CLRP) and Nuwakot. Orientation to the volunteers and primary information dissemination regarding household and ward levels has been completed. The information thus collected is being updated in Ms- Excel.

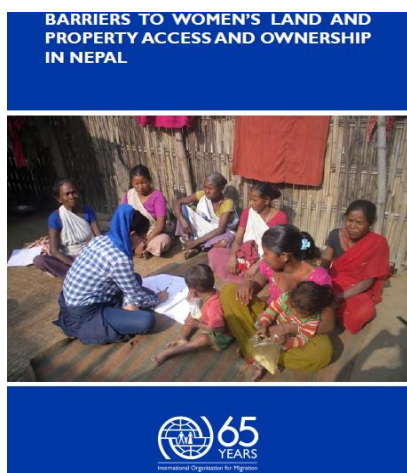
Reconstruction. Seven REFLECT classes (discussing the government provisions for reconstruction and the land registration guidelines, JLO, technical education/commercial training and knowledge and sustainable agricultural practices). Altogether 158 women participated in the class of 15 have

collected necessary documents to make JLO certificates. In the same program, bags carrying printed message *Women Friendly Reconstruction* were distributed.

CSRC, MANK and Child Nepal coordinated together in organizing a program to celebrate the 10th *World Day against Human Trafficking*. Around 500 people participated in the program from Kiul, Mahankal and Ichok, which was a modest stage to discuss and aware communities against human trafficking, especially the vulnerable groups like women and children.

Publications

CSRC has published a research report entitled *Barriers to Women's Land and Property Access and Ownership in Nepal*, jointly with IOM and a booklet on *Tenant land sharing and registration*. Other major publications are: Land Rights Bulletin, Leaflets and FAQs having information on tenant land sharing and registration, By-laws (Community Land Rights), Social Audit Report among others. All of the publications can be accessed through www.csrcnepal.org



Planning Snapshot | October 2016

Highlights of activities for the month of October are:

Land Rights: Movements and Campaigns

- Land Awareness Campaigns (Policy Discussions, Women's right to land and JLO)
- JLO and Tenancy camps
- Coordination with the village and district level stakeholders for reconstruction and land registration related issues
- Support in Agro enterprise and Cooperative Development trainings
- Quarterly Review and Reflection

Recovery related

- VCA and plan formulation at the community level
- Technical Knowledge Development Training
- Farming Support (vegetable seed distribution, monitoring and technical assistance)