

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

Since its establishment, CSRC has been working to transform discriminatory and unjust social relations by organizing landless, land-poor and marginalized communities to claim and exercise their rights. It follows the non-violent ethos of social movements, led by landless and land-poor farmers. In the policy front, CSRC advocates advancing pro-poor land governance and inclusive policies. It collaborates with the National Land Rights Forum (NLRF), which has been facilitating land and agrarian rights campaign in more than 55 districts.

In January, CSRC and Land Rights Forums (LRFs) engaged mostly in Annual Planning and organizational development activities, to feed into the Land Movement Activities for this year. Regular activities include creating awareness and advocacy on land issues and Joint Land Ownership (JLO) and regional issues of resettlement of communities in Sarlahi. The number of tenants filing applications for land separation and registration in the District Land Reform Offices (DLRO) has been increasing.



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A glimpse from the District Council in Okhaldhunga



JOINT LAND OWNERSHIP: equal stake of women and men over land

Altogether 14 couples acquired Joint Land ownership (JLO) for 3.58 hectare area of land. JLO establishes equal rights of women and men over land. Of these 14, two are Brahman couples, one Dalit couple and 11 Janajati couples.

Land Ownership to the landless

In Sarlahi, 17 registered tenant households received ownership certificate for 0.34 hectare area land through mediation of District Land Rights Forum (DLRF) between them and the landlord households. Initially, the landholders were reluctant in giving any recognition or their share of land to the tenants. DLRF Sarlahi lobbied continuously, taking both the sides together, through policy level awareness and support in documentations to tenants.

Applications for tenancy land sharing and separation

Altogether 345 applications for tenancy land separation and sharing have been filed from Banke, Bardiya, Dang, Mahottari and Sarlahi in respective District Land Reform Offices. In Banke, 13 tenants have claimed their rights over land.

District chapters of CSRC, the DLRFs work with the Village Land Rights Forums (VLRf), people's organizations that form the pillar of this entire Land and Agrarian Movement. In January, altogether 3309 members from five districts renewed their memberships.

Claiming Resources

Kerabaari VLRf of Chyanam in Okhaldhunga claimed NPR 79000 from the Village Council for Drinking Water Supply and 32 households of Radha Krishna VLRf of Kuntadevi similarly claimed NPR 25000 to construct Bhumighar. Similarly, in Dang three VLRFs claimed NPR 180000 for constructing cooperative building, Bhumighar and toilets.

The DLRFs provide orientations to the VLRFs on the 14 steps planning at the local level through their campaign activists and frontline leaders. This year, the VLRFs made their annual plans and presented at the Village Council thus claiming such resources.

With the completion of Village Council in Mahottari, Lakshmi VLR of Mahottari presented their plan in the Village Council, successfully claiming NPR 50000 for ownership certificate for Village Block and public land settlers.

Yearly Planning Workshops at regional levels



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Village level planning in Sarlahi

Ten districts have finalised their Program and Financial Annual Plans for the year 2017. DLRFs initially conduct planning workshops in certain VLRs of their respective districts, the plans which are assembled in the DLRF plans, supported by CSRC in execution.

Similarly, CSRC and NLRF have moved towards a new year's partnership after finalization of Annual Plan of 2017.

Coordination and Interaction Programs

Sagarnath Forest Development Project: Sarlahi

Three different interaction programs were organised in Sarlahi regarding Sagarnath Forest Development Project in Sarlahi. Different political representatives, stakeholders and residents of the area were present in the programs raising issues of relocation before eviction of the landless residents. The participants emphasized on the need of recognition of the actual landless communities; the political representatives present in the program thus pledged support to the communities in creating pressure to the government for alternative settlement before eviction.



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Speaker Binita Dahal, Sagarnath Forest Development Project

Livelihood recovery programs are being implemented by CSRC and different implementation partners in Sindhupalchok and Rasuwa. In January, the major activities carried out by them have been of organizing agriculture fair and capacity building trainings for landless and small holder farmers in the earthquake affected areas. The support has been towards commercial production and marketing of vegetables.



Small holder farmers of Rasuwa have been benefitting from commercial cauliflower farming. On January only, 116 farmer households sold 33601 kilos of cauliflower earning NPR 128777. On an average, one farmer household used 40 kilos of cauliflower for their own households and soled 281 kilos (NPR 36 per kilo), earning NPR 10158.

Capacity building training was organised by the Livelihood Recovery Program of Rasuwa for frontline farmers in Kalikasthan. The training contents discussed value chain, quality

production, farmer groups and leaders' role, role of distributors and the relation between farmers and market system. Participants included those farmers who are actively involved in vegetable farming, goat rearing and bee keeping and collectors, distributors and vegetable sellers in order to be informed to about the necessary coordination between farmers and market actors. In the concluding session of the program, farmers involved in mapping of possible concentrated production of three to four vegetable types. The District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) will provide the seeds. Ramesh Humagain, head of DADO Rasuwa, Takesh Ikeda, Program Manager of World Jewish Relief (WJR) and Bishwash Nepali of CSRC. Altogether 47 participants (22 women and 25 men) participated in the program.

Fruits of agricultural entrepreneurship

Three members (Chairperson DeVman Pariyar, Secretary Tila Thapa and Advisor Jhuma Gurung) from Danfe VLRF of Ghorahi 09 Dang have started group farming of vegetables in 0.37 hectare area of land, after receiving training on agro enterprise. In the past month, they earned a profit of NPR 30000 from selling of vegetables.

District Agriculture Fair in Sindhupalchok

On January 20, Organic Vegetable Fair was organized in Melamchi of Sindhupalchok in coordination with District Agriculture Alliance with an objective to promote marketing of local produced vegetables and food crops.

Altogether 230 farmers participated from different geographical belts of Sindhupalchok to exhibit their organic products. The event saw around 2500 visitors and 81 farmers were awarded with 20 different categorical titles.



Krishna Kumari Basnet is a 55-year-old farmer of Melamchi. From the past 42 years her family has involved in subsistence farming (in 0.61 hectare area land) and cattle rearing with no other alternative source of income.

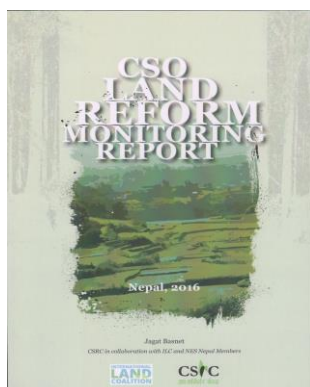


In the past one year, she and 22 other women from her village formed a Women's Farmers Group which has been registered in DADO with support from CSRC. Since then

the group has received trainings on seasonal and off season vegetables. Krishna Kumari was selected to participate in nursery making and planting seeds, making organic manure and using of modern agricultural appliances for vegetable farming. The training was facilitated by an official from District Agriculture Service Centre. Post the training, she started a nursery of her own sowing onion seeds. From the first lot, she sold seeds worth NPR 30,000 in this year. Since then, she and her family have actively involved in vegetable farming (cauliflower, tomatoes). Her husband takes the produces to local market in Melamchi; in December alone, the family earned NPR 17000.

With a grin on her face, Basnet said, *"We have planned to extend vegetable farming and we are hoping to receive support from CSRC"*.

Publication



In collaboration with International Land Coalition (ILC) and National Engagement Strategy (NES) Nepal members (Abhiyan Nepal, CDS/Mode, COLARP and NLRP) CSRC published the report of Civil Society Organization (CSO) Land Reform Monitoring in Nepal for the fiscal year of 2014/15 and 2015/16.

The main objective of the study was to review land related plans, programs and policy amendments as well as to the access to land for marginalized communities in Nepal.

