



A Strategy for the
Land and Agrarian Movement
2020-2025

LAND REFORM
FOR EQUITABLE
PROSPERITY

Our Vision

The creation of a prosperous, democratic, and equitable Nepal where land management is just and agrarian practices are sustainable.

Our Mission

By establishing the rights of the landless, peasants, and working farmers, we will contribute to the establishment of a justice-based land system and sustainable agrarian practice.

Contents

Innovative Steps for a Changing Path – The Continuing Journey of the Land Struggle3

Our Core Values4

The Current Context Opportunities and Challenges6

An Understanding of Development and Prosperity8

Theory of Social Change10

Strategic Priority 113
Strengthening and Continuing the Land and Agrarian Movement

Strategic Priority 214
Contributing to Knowledge Production

Strategic Priority 315
Generating Policy Discussion and Good Governance

Strategic Priority 416
Promoting Sustainable Farming, Collaborative Agriculture, and Systems for Secure Livelihoods

Strategic Priority 517
Taking the Movement to the World

Generating and Managing Resources18

Organizational Identity and Development20

Commitment and Accountability22

Community Self-Reliance Centre24

Innovative Steps for a Changing Path

The Continuing Journey of the Land Struggle

Against the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting condition of seemingly endless lockdown being experienced in Nepal and globally, there have been discussions and debates happening all over the world about public health, food security, the management of land and agriculture, environmentally sustainable development, and democratic governance.

The urgency around these topics is being newly appreciated by many, but the efforts to raise consciousness about the gaps and weaknesses of the current world order stretch back well past the pandemic. Certain voices in the global community have long criticized the aims and concepts of the dominant development paradigms, and stressed the need to adopt a path of sustainable development that combines ecological and social justice. In the Nepali context, CSRC has supported this approach through more than two decades of the land rights struggle, advocating an equitable development that brings justice for tillers and farmers, and also justice for the environment.

It is in a rapidly changing context that CSRC presents a new five-year strategy for the period of 2020-2025. In formulating this strategy, we have attempted to incorporate an objective analysis of the emerging context, including the identification of challenges and opportunities, and an assessment of potential risks. We have taken into account experiences from over two decades of campaigning, and drawn lessons from a deep and critical assessment of our previous strategies. On this basis, we have designed new initiatives for our institutional development, and refined our working approaches and methods.

The issues most important to CSRC in this changing context are the rights and the work of tillers and farmers directly involved in agriculture. The question of how to strengthen these rights and make sustainable this work forms the basis of our strategic priorities.

In this strategy, certain old but still relevant initiatives have been given continuity; other initiatives have been modified as per the needs of the time; some that are no longer relevant have been jettisoned entirely, and some completely new initiatives have been added as well.

Our strategy has been formed through a

comprehensively participatory process. CSRC reached out to communities in various districts of Nepal to consult with farmers and tillers, families still deprived of land rights, small-farming cooperatives, leaders of people's organizations, and many land rights activists, about what needs to be included in our strategic priorities. Helpful opinions and insights have also come from local organizations, researchers, and state representatives ranging from the Ministry-level to local government officials.

Within CSRC, the members, staff, and the executive board have all been consistently involved in the formulation of this strategy since the beginning of the process. They have put forward their own ideas and analysis, and have also diligently collected insights from various stakeholders. Their contributions are invaluable, and on behalf of the organization, we would like to express our thanks to each and every one of them.

CSRC believes in holistic empowerment at the community level, continuous learning at the institutional level, engaged knowledge production leading to transformative action, and progressive collaboration at both local and global levels. As always, for the successful implementation of this strategy in the days to come, we will hope for and rely upon the meaningful support and creative involvement of local communities, people's organizations, social justice organizations, the intellectual community, local and federal governments, and our international allies. In the campaign for equitable and sustainable development, CSRC remains determined and committed.



Gopal Thapamagar

Gopal Thapamagar
Chairperson



Jagat Deuja

Jagat Deuja
Executive Director



Our Core Values

Each and every CSRC initiative, task, and campaign is inspired and directed by core values of social and ecological justice. These core principles form the basis for the rules and norms followed by the executive board, and CSRC believes it is also important that they are reflected in the behavior and everyday practice of its members, staff, and campaigners.

Social Justice and Environmental Justice

We are committed to the belief that just relations must exist amongst both individuals and communities. We strongly oppose negative discrimination on the basis of any identity, be it class, caste, age, gender, ethnicity, religion, nationality, beliefs, or any other criteria: everyone deserves justice. Furthermore, we strongly believe that the relations between people and the land, between humans and nature, also require justice. We oppose the depletion, pollution, and exploitation of nature in the name of ‘development’.

Non-violence

We strongly believe that constructive and sustainable social change can be achieved through non-violent campaigns and social movements.

Simplicity and Mutual Respect

We call upon our members, partners, and employees to strive in their personal and professional lives towards a simple and modest lifestyle, marked by respect for all. At the same time, we believe that respect must go both ways, and that those denied respect must be fought for. We believe that mutual respect is an essential part of democratic relations.

Empathy and Solidarity

We believe that the creation of a just society necessarily requires taking the side of individuals, families, and communities that have been subject to injustice. What is required is not sympathy for victims, but solidarity and a commitment to justice borne of empathy towards those who have hitherto been excluded from it.

Self-reliance and Interreliance

Interreliance is a driving force of social progress. Families, communities, nations, and global society can only progress towards prosperity through cooperative action. Unequal dependencies only make individuals and communities vulnerable.

Hence, CSRC believes that individuals, families and communities need to move away from unequal dependencies and towards a state of positive interreliance.

A Focus on Value-driven Results

We firmly believe that an alternative to the status quo is possible. To achieve such an alternative, we will go forward with the belief that each and every task we face can be completed with excellence and quality.

Opportunities and Challenges

The Current Context

The worldwide discourse on sustainable development has expanded in recent times. Issues of justice in land and agrarian systems, food sovereignty, eco-friendly farming, and the rights, freedoms, and dignity of small farmers have been afforded more space, and the debates around them are seen on prominent platforms. In Nepal, too, following the promulgation of the new constitution and the establishment of three levels of government, there have been important public discussions about issues of land rights, land use, and just land systems, as well as around topics of agricultural development, problems in the agricultural sector, and the general upliftment of farmers. Research into the facts, figures, analysis, and alternatives of the current context is now underway.

Opportunities

1. A key aspect of sustainable development is developing a land management system which, in addition to natural and ecological conservation, prioritizes just and progressive social relations. As both public and policy discussions around sustainable development come to gain prominence, an opportunity opens up to push for land rights struggle and the creation of just land and agrarian systems.
2. In the context of the emerging crisis of climate change, questions and criticisms of industrial agriculture and corporate farming have gained in importance, and social movements seeking alternatives to mainstream development paths and paradigms have sprung up even in the industrialized nations where they originated. A number of people working at the intersection of agrarian studies and climate science have argued that improving food sovereignty and small farming is essential, and that organic farming is key to this. For a country like Nepal, which is developing a strategy for sustainable development and sustainable agriculture, this is an important opportunity.
3. Nepal's current constitution is clear in its endorsement of progressive change in the land and agrarian sector. Since the constitution itself calls for scientific land reform that prioritizes the upliftment of farmers' rights and status, the land rights movement has a significant opportunity to influence law and policy.
4. Those involved in agriculture have, in recent times, become increasingly literate, critically aware, and organized in their advocacy and non-violent activism to secure land and agrarian rights. This, too, represents a significant opportunity for the movement.
5. Another major opportunity is found in the provisions of the newly federalized and devolved government, which give provincial and local governments greater power to shape local land and agrarian systems.

6. The rising levels of interest in land and agrarian issues amongst academics, public intellectuals, and the mass media also provides an opportunity to develop the discourse around these issues.

Key Challenges

1. **Ambiguous and Inconsistent Laws:** In its rhetoric, the current constitution clearly takes the side of labouring farmers who have been denied land justice, and seems to open up the way towards substantial land reform. However, the concrete land laws remain unclear, and the positions of the main political parties who are tasked with implementing those laws are inconsistent. This is arguably the main challenge facing land justice in Nepal today, and has enabled the mismanagement of land in a way that is contrary to the spirit of the constitution.

The ambiguity leaves unsettled the direction we as a society will take: will we move to alleviate the situation of historically marginalized farming communities and establish a truly democratic agrarian economy? Or will we, in the pursuit of ever-more industrialized, commercialized, and corporatized farming, submit our agrarian policies to the interests of domestic and foreign capital? While the policy debate in Nepal remains unclear, the mainstream political actors often seem unified in backing the second path.

2. **The Grabbing of Rural Land:** Like in many other countries, Nepal's rural land is at an increased risk of being seized by those without popular interests in mind. Such land-grabbing is typically done in the name of 'development', and often involves the cooperation of local authority with the corporate sector. The land is taken and transformed in the name of various projects, whether it's the building of roads, railways, airports and industrial irrigation channels, or the establishment of tourist areas, conservation parks, and special economic zones. Even though such projects use public interest as justification, they leave the farmers and peasants who work the land without livelihoods, without alternative, and compelled to place themselves at the mercy of the markets.

3. **The Erosion of Food Sovereignty:** The current constitution clearly provisions food sovereignty as a fundamental right of all citizens. Despite this, there is a lack of clear policies regarding the land where the food is produced, which has enabled reactionary resistance to efforts to make food production sustainable. Instead, the food market has been allowed to slide into unfettered liberalization, which has harmed local production and left people reliant on foreign imports for even basic foodstuffs. Such a state of affairs leaves farmers' livelihoods at risk, and weakens the national economy as a whole.

4. **The Role of the State:** Despite promises to represent the interests of labourers, the funding and investment of the state so far has not reflected a commitment to improving the conditions of small farmers and labouring peasants.

5. **The Incompetence of Land Administration:** Many sites of local authority are not farmer-friendly, and have been subject to various reports of widespread corruption at important institutions, such as land registration offices. This is a major impediment for small farmers trying to secure their rights.

6. **The Apathy of the Political Establishment:** It is an inescapable fact that progressive land reform simply does not seem to be a priority for the political establishment. The voices and concerns of labouring peasants continue to disappear from the agenda of the ruling parties, but also from the claims of the opposition. The major players of the international community too seem not to be on the side of small farmers, but rather in favour of corporatization. Many traditional farmers, squeezed out of their livelihoods, have had to give up the profession altogether to seek low-income arrangements elsewhere. Given such a situation, the free resistance of labouring farmers has been weakened and pushed into a state of unclarity.

An Understanding of Development and Prosperity

On the basis of more than a quarter-of-a-century's worth of experience in the land rights struggle, and in accordance with the learnings from the current global discourse on land and agriculture, CSRC recognizes that it is imperative to establish a new way of understanding 'development'.

Underdevelopment

Underdevelopment is the condition where basic development and progress are possible, and yet the processes that underlie them are halted, restrained, or made limited. To be stranded in desolate poverty, such that not even basic material necessities like food, clothing, and shelter are accessible, is to be caught in a state of underdevelopment. To be denied facilities towards self-improvement and upliftment, such as education, health, and security, is to be caught in a state of underdevelopment. Individuals, families, communities, states, and human societies strive to move from states of underdevelopment into development. The causes of underdevelopment in any one of these may be internal, external, or both. Development is impossible when people are trapped in oppressive conditions, such as in the cases of *harawa-charawa*, *kamaiya*, and *kamhalari* systems. Similarly, when someone has land, wealth, and tools, but lacks the knowledge, skills, or determination to use them, development is unlikely.

In order to preserve the language, knowledge, and cultural identity of indigenous communities, it is important to establish the rights of indigenous communities over the land, commons, and water bodies that they have used and tended to for generations.





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Maldevelopment

In addition to underdevelopment, the contemporary world is also increasingly burdened by the problem of maldevelopment. Maldevelopment is the condition where activities in the name of development actually produce suffering in the social sphere and destruction in the natural world. Maldevelopment is when the overuse of chemical fertilizers renders our soil barren, leaves our rivers polluted, and throws vulnerable ecosystems of flora and fauna into disarray - all in the name of agrarian development. Maldevelopment is when the overuse of pesticides and insecticides poisons our vegetable greens, fish, and meat, leaving communities at the mercy of disease - all in the name of more efficient production. Maldevelopment is the current crisis of climate change, brought about by the incessant exploitation of nature in the name of some development or another.

Sustainable Development

Development should be sustainable. It should provide justice to individuals, families, society, global humanity, and nature. The distinctiveness of sustainable development is precisely its emphasis on social and ecological justice. Sustainable development is not possible while oppressive social relations remain intact. Sustainable development cannot rely on economic growth that is not inclusive and equitable. In our times, equitable land reform and ecological agriculture that recognizes the importance of biodiversity are central to sustainable development.

Social Change

Theory of



The hidden strength of the global community is precisely the key to progressive social change.

The needs of human society and the workings of its social relations have given rise, through history, to states and governmental bodies, markets and profit-making private firms, and non-profit or community-led forms of social organizing. These different sectors affect the working of any major social process, and therefore, any attempt to change social processes must take them all into account. In the realm of land and agriculture, too, including in its rules, regulations, and reforms, we must pay attention to the important roles that the state, the private sector, and social organizations have to play.



In CSRC's experience of working with Dalit communities, which have been held under oppressive power relations for centuries in both the Hills and the Terai, it is imperative for their empowerment to guarantee housing and shelter for all Dalits and land rights for all Dalit farmers.

In this historical moment, and in accordance with CSRC's goal of social change, we hold strong expectations from each sector:

1. **Democratic Governance from the State Sector:** Wherever state intervention is needed, it should involve: justice-oriented norms regarding land management; people-oriented norms regarding governance and strategies; participatory methods for planning and mapping, and; accountability at each level of government.
2. **Effectiveness and Responsibility from the Private Sector:** Wherever private participation is inevitable, the investments, businesses, and industries run by the private sector in the agrarian sphere must be: in line with the state's rules, regulations, and policies; run in a way that does not impinge upon anybody's right to livelihood, and; oriented towards providing significant social value.
3. **Social Movements and Active Civil Society :** Our people's organizations, social organizations, and civil society needs to be well-informed, critically conscious, capable of action, and, when needed, militant, so as to keep both the state and the private sector accountable, responsible, and in control.

To achieve our goals, we currently aim to prioritize the following methods:

1. Raising the critical consciousness of all sectors of society regarding matters of land and agriculture, and the injustices related to them.
2. Raising the class condition of farmers through a combination of critical discourse, the building of strong people's organizations, and non-violent pressure, protests, and campaigns.
3. Raising voices speaking at various levels in favour of justice-based land management through organizing pressure groups, building networks, and facilitating creative dialogue.
4. Carrying out policy advocacy to ensure that state actors, from the local to the national level, are always aware of our analysis and demands.
5. Contributing to knowledge production, knowledge establishment, and knowledge dispersal in the land and agrarian discourse.
6. Facilitating the connection of progressive land reform initiatives through local, regional, and global networks.

Land rights for working women farmers are the foundations for the empowerment of all rural women.



Strategic Priority 1

Strengthening and Continuing the Land and Agrarian Movement

1. The Social Discourse Concerning Land and Agriculture

- We aim to raise awareness about the importance of land, agriculture, and the policies regarding them to human society and people's lives.
- We want to spark discussions about what models of agrarian economics, lifestyle, and practice work best for moving towards democracy, social justice, and sustainable development.
- We intend to create an environment conducive to raising the critical consciousness of the farming community and all agrarian stakeholders, from the local to the national level.

2. Participatory Context-mapping of the Land and Agrarian Situation

- We need to develop and apply participatory methods of understanding and mapping the current context of land and agriculture in Nepal, and to prepare practitioners of these methods at various levels.
- The practice of participatory mapping at the community and municipal level should be established as a movement and connected to the broader land rights struggle.

3. Creating, Developing, and Strengthening People's Organizations

- We aim to create strong, autonomous, and free people's organizations of labouring farmers, which will link up and operate across the community, municipal, regional, and national levels.
- It will be necessary to institute a strong and sustainable organizational strategy at both the local and national level, as well as to develop participatory leadership across those levels.

4. The Establishment of Community-level Learning Centres

- We propose, under the leadership of the people's organizations and incorporating the cooperation of local governments, to build and establish bhumighars: community centers that will be for discussions, meetings, and educational programmes related to land and agriculture.
- Educators will be developed and trained from amongst local leaders of the people's organizations, and will be integral to the activity in the bhumighars.

Strategic Priority 2

Contributing to Knowledge Production

1. Learning from Action, and Generating Theories and Knowledge

- We will need to establish participatory learning methods that are suitable for use at all levels, and which lead to critical discussion and analysis of the land and agrarian context by the stakeholders themselves.
- Will will produce write-ups of the key points from these discussions, facilitate further critical examination and refinement of such new insights, and work to disseminate the new learnings that are thus produced.

2. Bringing People's Organizations into Centres of Learning

- With and within people's organizations, we will facilitate critical reflections on the land and agrarian situation, what kind of changes it needs, what sort of movement would work best for it, and how to strengthen such a movement and make it effective.
- We will aim to connect action to discourse by connecting people's organizations and their insights to both the popular and the academic circles of conversation.

3. Publishing to Maximize Learning

- We will prepare and publish compilations of the learnings and insights gained from the various discussion programmes of people's organizations around the country, and help to share and disseminate such compilations amongst farmers' groups, state actors, and other stakeholders .
- We will also publish and seek to widely disseminate the insights gained from context-mapping efforts, so as to make the situation and needs of land and agriculture clear to the public.
- With the needs of the movement and the capacity-building of leaders in mind, we should also facilitate publishing and sharing various perspectives on land and agriculture produced outside of the movement.
- At the bhumighars, we will organize collections of group context maps reports, constitutional documents, laws, policies, and policy commentaries related to land and agriculture.

4. Publishing to Raise Awareness and Consolidate Financial Security

- We should also aim to publish books, periodical journals, and other collections that might contribute to the international discourse on land and agriculture, thereby raising awareness of the movement on a global scale, and also providing an extra source of financial security.

Strategic Priority 3

Generating Policy Discussion and Good Governance

1. Facilitating Debates and Discussions regarding Land and Agriculture Policy

- With attention to the political context and the possibilities it offers, we will facilitate policy discussion on land and agriculture at the municipal, regional, and national levels.
- Within people's organizations, we will hold discussions where existing land and agriculture policies are clarified, critically examined, and carefully evaluated, such that any necessary changes and the paths to further action are clear to all.
- We will facilitate constructive dialogues, partnerships, or agreements with other stakeholders to make clear what the needs and policy positions of the movement are, and how to move forward with them.

2. Building the Capacity of Leaders to Engage in Policy Debate

- We aim to facilitate capacity-building for leaders at each level, such that they are able to clearly explain and advocate for land and agriculture policies.
- Having equipped leaders to engage in policy debates, we will facilitate bringing them into discussion with the various stakeholders at different levels of policy-making.

3. Developing and Presenting Alternatives

- We will present critiques of state actions and policies when required, and work with people's organizations and stakeholders to develop better alternatives.
- We are committed to result-based action, and will work to make sure that progressive policies are delivered in behaviour, not only on paper.

4. Working Critically and Creatively with Governments

- Apart from our focus on strengthening popular movements and presenting criticisms of existing policies and practices, we are also open to creative cooperation with municipal, regional, and national governments when the appropriate circumstances and necessary commitments are secured.

5. Mobilizing Leaders Against Corruption

- In addition to debate and discussion about the policies themselves, we must also train leaders at every level to identify and strongly oppose corruption, so as to liberate land policy from misgovernance.

Strategic Priority 4

Promoting Sustainable Farming, Collaborative Agriculture, and Systems for Secure Livelihoods

1. Promoting Organic and Sustainable Farming

- Along with fighting to secure land rights, we must also work to secure the sustainable usage of that land by promoting good farming practices amongst labouring and small farmers.
- We will assist those in the farming community, especially those previously marginalized, to acquire the proper training when it comes to organic and sustainable farming practice from the state and other relevant organizations.
- We will promote the conservation of local traditional crops in their respective localities, the usage of eco-friendly fertilizers, and the usage of bio-pesticides.

2. Facilitating Community-led Action and a Holistic Approach to Agriculture

- We will orient our efforts towards holistic models of land and agriculture development aimed at uplifting the lives and status of marginalized and small farmer families, and train members and leaders of the people's organizations to develop and implement new models and partnerships.
- We will mobilize and train farmers to effectively engage in shared farming methods on existing commons and other acquired and communalized land.
- We will facilitate the study of how secure livelihoods can be cultivated in the context of farming, agriculture, and small production, and train and support small and marginalized farmers to develop such livelihoods.

3. Ensuring that State Provisions and Benefits are Effectively Implemented

- We will: work to ensure that small farmers are always kept informed about the provisions, benefits, and rights that they are entitled to from the state; follow-up with these farmers to make sure that they are actually able to access these provisions and benefits, and help make the implementation of such provisions as effective as possible; and work with local governments when necessary to increase such effectiveness.

Taking the Movement to the World

1. Participating in and Contributing to the Global Land and Agrarian Movement

- We should: closely examine developments in the land discourse of various parts of the world; seek to learn from the successes, failures, and experiences of various countries and movements; and identify opportunities for meaningful cooperation, contributions, and participation on the world stage.
- When circumstances and convictions align, we are open to taking membership of or entering into cooperation with like-minded international organizations, and will continually strive to strengthen ties with friendly international movements.

2. Maintaining Critical Cooperation with the Mainstream

- We should keep well-informed about the land and agrarian policies and practices of the United Nations and its agencies, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other relevant mainstream international organizations, and be prepared to enter into critical dialogue with them.
- It is important to clarify and develop positions about which issues are appropriate for cooperation with mainstream organizations, and which issues require criticism, non-cooperation, and protest; information and discussion about these policies and practices will be presented in forums to farmers, people's organizations, and their leaders.

3. Bringing the Global Discourse to Nepal

- We will organize meetings of global land movement participants, and also invite relevant international organizations to hold meetings, gatherings, and seminars in Nepal, so as to increase exposure to and learn from organizing practices.
- In addition to holding contextually relevant discussions in Nepal, we should also aim to support like-minded campaigns and movements in other countries whenever such support would be appropriate and meaningful.



Managing Resources

Generating and

Sustainable and effective resources, including but not limited to funds, will be required to carry out the tasks and programmes laid out in CSRC's Strategic Priorities in accordance with our core values. Therefore, we will need to engage in activities that help us create such resources for the organization and the movement. In doing so, we must make sure to not pursue or accept resources that: put into question the identity of the organization or the movement, run contrary to any of our goals

or strategies, or that threatens the long-term sustainability of our projects.

Methods for Securing Financial and Material Resources

1. Self-mobilization
2. Local and national resource-mobilization
3. International resource-mobilization
4. Social enterprises

For any nation to flourish, its farmers must be happy and prosperous.



Resource Generation Strategy 1

- We can work with decision-makers at local, regional, and federal governments on projects related to study, research, and innovation in the issues of land and agriculture, as well as share our resources and provide technical support on other such pertinent initiatives.

Economics textbooks acknowledge that land is not a commodity created by people, but a gift of nature. Hence, the one who toils on the land is the one who deserves its harvest.

Resource Generation Strategy 2

- In the context of the land and agrarian discourse, we can design courses for various state employees and social organizations in order to develop the necessary professional skills, and thereby also develop resources.

Resource Generation Strategy 3

- We will establish a research and publication unit to produce high-standard publications on the topics of land and agriculture, which will serve both as a form of resource generation, and also as a contribution to the discourse.

Resource Generation Strategy 4

- Within the broader domain of land and agriculture, the organization may itself or in partnership with other groups run certain social enterprises, and thereby contribute to resource generation.

Resource Generation Strategy 5

- When a ministry or any department of the Nepal Government makes projects or resources related to land and agriculture available to open competition, we will put forward applications and proposals that keep to the core values and strategies outlined above, and make our application plans transparent to all.

Resource Generation Strategy 6

- When like-minded international groups, organizations, or federations present initiatives to study, research, and campaign on issues of land and agriculture, we will seek to form productive partnerships and participate.

Identity and Development Organizational

Becoming a National Resource

We aim to develop our identity as an effective national resource when it comes to matters of land and agriculture in Nepal. CSRC should be known first and foremost as an organization deeply involved in the spreading and strengthening of the land rights movement in Nepal, and as a continuing resource for that movement. Additionally, in the relevant contexts, we should develop as a creative and reliable partner to state and government actors, academic circles, civil society organizations, and international groups and federations. CSRC's organizational character should continue as a rights-based, resolutely non-profit, resolutely non-party political organization.



Combining Technical Expertise and Committed Activism

In appropriate contexts, CSRC will be able to offer concrete technical support in the form of orientation and skilled human resources to land and agrarian initiatives. To carry out this role effectively, we should aim to develop as a distinctive human resource organization at the national level. The staff and members who form CSRC's human resources should be marked by their commitment to just land and agrarian systems, and technical expertise combined with steadfast activism. They will, in accordance with CSRC's training and organizational values, be distinguished by a critical worldview, a participatory research approach, a transformative social approach, and progressive working norms.

We are committed to the belief that just relations must exist amongst both individuals and communities. We strongly oppose negative discrimination on the basis of any identity, be it class, caste, age, gender, ethnicity, religion, nationality, beliefs, or any other criteria: everyone deserves justice.

Instituting Inclusive and Participatory Governance

Aside from the success of initiatives mentioned in our Strategic Priorities, bringing our goals into fruition will involve aligning CSRC's organization management, leadership style, and governance procedures with the following points:

1. In addition to drawing from all seven provinces of the country, CSRC's membership will represent a diverse and inclusive alliance from across divisions of gender, ethnicity, ideology, and profession.
2. The national executive board, all of whose members will be employed on a voluntary and non-salaried basis, will provide responsible leadership at the level of policy-setting.
3. Working in accordance with the policies set by the executive board, the management leadership team will take on executive leadership, and be responsible for organizing and implementing the campaigns, programmes, and various other activities of CSRC.
4. Working in accordance with the organization's strategy, programmes, and budgets, the management leadership team will also propose the organizational structure of CSRC, which will then be sent to the national executive board for evaluation and approval.
5. Participatory methods, long-term process planning, and unbiased evaluations should become part of CSRC's organizational culture.

Commitment and Accountability

In addition to being always committed to strive with ploughers and labouring farmers for their land rights and a just land system, CSRC, in all of its programmes, campaigns, and resource generation activities, will always remain accountable to the communities it works with, partner organizations, and all other relevant stakeholders. CSRC's organizational strategies, work policies, budget management, and other commitments will always remain transparent and accessible to all those with stakes in its activities. A participatory approach, transparency, and accountability are to be key elements of our organizational culture.

Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

We are committed to a deep understanding of the participatory approach. This means that it is not enough to involve participants in the planning and implementation phases of our activities: the relevant community members and stakeholders must also be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of a programme, and in the discussion and decisions about what direction our activities are taking. Indeed, just as the rule-making and agenda-setting of a democratic state must be open to the participation of all of its citizens, CSRC believes that all of its members, associated communities, and stakeholders have the right to participate in the monitoring, evaluation, and agenda setting of its activities. This access to participation in the monitoring and evaluation phase of the process is, we believe, an integral part of the empowerment of marginalized people and communities.

Social Auditing

In addition to participation in the monitoring and evaluation phase of individual programmes and

campaigns, CSRC will also hold periodic social audits, involving stakeholders of various backgrounds and professions, in order to present and evaluate the actions of the organization as a whole. The primary objective of such an audit is to critically evaluate the contributions and methodologies of the organization from the perspective of a wide variety of stakeholders, including to the communities it works with, policymakers, technical experts, and others.

Organizational Learnings and their Application

CSRC is committed to learning from action, and to acting on the basis of learnings. We believe that it is both possible and necessary to derive learnings and theorization from past actions, and to apply such learnings to plans for future action. Hence, the participatory nature of our monitoring and evaluation is not only a method of maintaining accountability, but also of involving various stakeholders, and especially marginalized communities, in this process of theory production and knowledge generation. CSRC believes that this strengthens the knowledge generation process itself, and we are committed to always learning from this process and applying learnings to our work.

**'...to make scientific land reforms
having regard to the interests of the
farmers, while ending the dual
ownership existing in the lands'**

**The Constitution of Nepal, B. S. 2072,
Part 4, 51, (e), 1**

**'States shall promote the participation, directly and/or through
their representative organizations, of peasants and other people
working in rural areas in decision-making processes that may
affect their lives, land and livelihoods; this includes respecting
the establishment and growth of strong and independent
organizations of peasants and other people working in rural
areas and promoting their participation in the preparation
and implementation of food safety, labour and environmental
standards that may affect them.'**

**United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Peasants and
Other People Working in Rural Areas, Article 10.2**



Community Self-Reliance Centre

A Nepali social organization, the Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC) has campaigned more than a quarter of a century for comprehensive agrarian reform and the land rights of working farmers and tillers. Through this time, CSRC has worked to organize and raise consciousness amongst those deprived of land rights, build public opinion in favour of progressive land reform, and conduct action-research related to land and agrarian issues. Today, it is regarded as a national resource by organizations, intellectuals, and policymakers concerned with land rights.

Through the process of raising awareness about land rights, organizing the rights-deprived, conducting action-research, and campaigning for land reform, CSRC has established a presence across Nepal's mountains, hills, and plains, in more than two-thirds of the nation's districts. CSRC currently maintains working relations with communities and local governments in all of these places.

CSRC is committed to the belief that social inclusion and participatory democracy must be strengthened at the roots of a society. Hence, each of the organization's activities and initiatives in all of its working areas begin with participatory context-mapping, and proceed with community-level organizing and the empowerment of those deprived of their rights.

Having resourceful and competent local governance is an important part of establishing and maintaining a just and sustainable land-management system. CSRC facilitates this by first and foremost strengthening the local organizations of working farmers. In addition to this, CSRC works with local governments to make them aware and capable with regard to the scope of their constitutional duties. This empowerment-focused approach is a long-term commitment of CSRC.

In order to better strengthen pro-farmer land systems, CSRC has adopted a policy of maintaining constructive yet critical relationships with local, regional, and national government bodies. Alongside this, whenever it becomes necessary in the course of the land rights campaign to hold state organs or government bodies accountable to the people, CSRC supports and has facilitated direct civic pressure and nonviolent public campaigns.

In terms of its origins, CSRC was established in Sindhupalchowk District in April 1992 as a local organization, and spent the first couple of years of its existence devoted to local reforms and social welfare. Soon, following work and reflection, the realization came that the roots of rural poverty lie in unjust land relations, and CSRC has been working in the cause of land rights and agrarian reforms ever since. Just relations of land and agriculture form the very foundations of an equitable democracy and a socialist-oriented economy - both of which have been adopted as goals in Nepal's constitution.

Now and into the future, CSRC's activities, plans, and campaigns will be driven by the goals of a pro-people system of land management, and a sustainable, organic, and eco-friendly agrarian practice.



Community Self-reliance Centre

