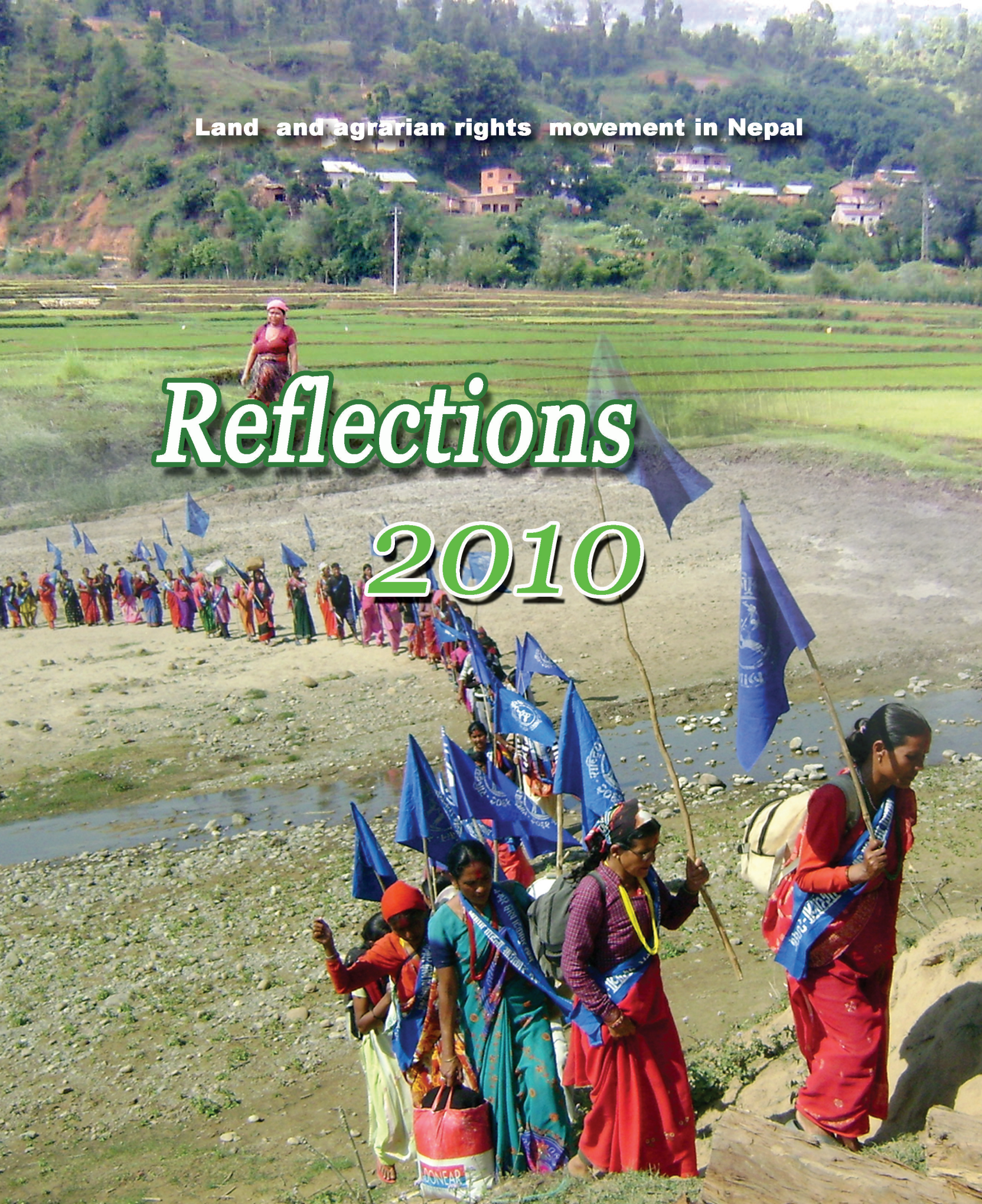


Land and agrarian rights movement in Nepal

Reflections 2010



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Reflections 2010

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Design: Kumar Thapa

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Abbreviations

AAN	ActionAid Nepal
CA	Constituent Assembly
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CCO	Canadian Cooperation Office
CDECF	Community Development and Environment Conservation Forum
CIDA	Canada International Development Agency
CIRDAP	Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Asia Pacific
COP	Conferences of the Parties
CPN (UML)	Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist and Leninist)
CSDR	Centre for Social Development and Research
CSRC	Community Self-reliance Centre
DDC	District Development Committee
DEO	District Education Office
DFID	Department for International Development
DLRF	District Land Rights Forum
EC	European Commission
ESCR	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forest Users in Nepal
FM	Frequency Modulation
FY	Fiscal Year
GB	Great Britain
HH	Household
HLSLRC	High Level Scientific Land Reform Commission
HUGOU	Human Rights and Good Governance Advisory Unit (Danida)
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
ILC	International Land Coalition
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INGO	International Non-governmental Organisation
IT	Information Technology
JDS	Janachetana Dalit Sangam
NC	Nepali Congress
NLRF	National Land Rights Forum
NRERRAC	Natural Resources, Economic Rights and Revenue Allocation Committee
ReFLECT	Regenerated Freirian Literacy through Empowering Community Technique
Rs	Rupees
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SIDA	Swiss International Development Assistance
StOP	Strategic and Operational Plan
SWAN	Society Welfare Action Nepal
ToR	Terms of Reference
UCPN(M)	Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Covenant on Commission of Desertification
UNMC	United Nations Millennium Campaign
VDC	Village Development Committee
VLRF	Village Land Rights Forum

Acknowledgement

Community Self-reliance Centre (CSRC), as its name denotes, is committed to make the land-poor people self-reliant by supporting the ongoing struggle for ensuring their rights to land and agriculture. CSRC in its strive to secure the land rights of the land-poor people has been working closely with them. Over the years, the organisation has received meaningful cooperation, constructive participation and commitment from the people.

Therefore, CSRC has high regards for all landless tillers, tenants, *Haruwa/Charuwa*, *ex-Haliya* and *ex-Kamaiya* for their perseverance, passion and meaningful participation in land and agriculture rights movement. The movement would not have gained momentum sans their contribution.

National Land Rights Forum and its district chapters, national collaborating NGO partners, and the members of the National Land Rights Concern Group deserve appreciation for their contribution and constructive facilitation. Their relentless efforts and unwavering commitment has driven the movement to a new height and position. Hundreds of land rights activists across the country have organically linked and facilitated the local movements with the national movement through their continued struggle for securing land and agriculture rights. We are indebted to them.

The media, political parties and members of the Constituent Assembly, Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resource and Means, government agencies, particularly the Ministry of Land Reform and Management, the High Level Scientific Land Reform Commission, Landless Problem Solving Commission and District Committees, District Land Reform Offices and Revenue Offices not only provided support, but also gave impetus to the movement. CSRC highly appreciates their meaningful contribution.

Supporting the land-poor people to live a dignified life and safeguarding their rights lie at the heart of CSRC. It would have not been possible to secure land rights of land-poor people without strong moral, financial and technical support of ActionAid Nepal, Care Nepal, CCO/CIDA, DanidaHUGOU, Oxfam GB, UNMC/UNDP and International Land Coalition – the strategic partners of the National Alliance for Land and Agrarian Reform. Their support has strengthened the movement and brought positive changes in the lives of tenants and landless farmers. We extend special thanks to them.

We would like to thank Mr Jagat Deuja, Program Manager, for his tireless efforts for land rights movement, and Mr Ram Sharan Sedhai for his contribution to preparing this report. Our special thanks go to the Executive Committee, primary members, staff, volunteers, and well-wishers of CSRC for their passion, commitment and continuity to leading the land and agriculture rights movement to this height. We expect similar cooperation from them in the future.

Jagat Basnet
Executive Director
March 2011

Roshan Chitrakar, PhD
Chairperson
March 2011

Glossary

<i>Ailani</i>	Unregistered land/public land.
<i>Banda</i>	General strike or shutdown.
<i>Bigha</i>	Unit of measurement of land in the Terai. One bigha is equal to 0.6 ha or 1.6 acres.
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.
<i>Haruwa/Charuwa</i>	A kind of bonded labour system where poor and landless people are forced to graze the cattle by landlord or plough the landlord's land in extremely low wages paid in grains on yearly basis as a repayment of the loans taken by their parents. This system is found mostly in central Terai region of Nepal.
<i>Haliya</i>	System of hiring people for ploughing landlord's land with nominal wages.
<i>Koot</i>	Fixed amount of major grain payable to the landlord by the tenants/tillers as a rental.
<i>Ukbada</i>	A form of Jimidari land ownership in only three districts in Tarai: Rupandehi, Kapilvastu and Nawalparasi; abolished in 1964.
<i>Kattha</i>	Unit of measurement of land in Terai. One kattha is equal to 3,625 square feet.
<i>Ex-Kamaiya</i>	Agricultural bonded labourer, particularly those that existed in western part of Nepal.
<i>Kamlari</i>	Female Kamaiya (mostly unmarried adolescent and youth), often daughters of ex-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 agricultural labourers particularly in the districts of Mid- and Far Western Development Regions of Nepal.
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.

Executive Summary

Reflections 2010 is the annual report of Community Self-reliance Centre (CSRC) which encapsulates the resource allocated, objectives set, achievements made, lessons learnt, and challenges faced during January to December 2010. The learning and achievements contained in this report are those of land rights-deprived people and land rights activists which may vary from individual to collective experiences.

The main purpose of this report is to document the progress and changes made in the lives of the land-poor people against the strategic objectives and the strategic and operational plan (StOP) of 2010, and to share key achievements, challenges, and emerging issues with all stakeholders including the land-poor, land rights activists, policy- and decision-makers, implementers, political actors, apologists of human rights, rights activists, government officials, civil society representatives and the media.

In terms of strengthening organised efforts of the tillers and actions at the community level, the land and agriculture rights movement has made some important achievements in 2010. The major are as follows:

A total of 5,881 landless and tiller families have received 768.20 hectares of land worth Rs 642.35 million (91.76 million USD) under tenancy rights and Landless Problem Solving District Committees. The land ownership certificates have given dignity, freedom, political power, social prestige and security of shelter and livelihood to the people.

1,327 tenant and landless families have protected their rights in residing places and tilling land from forceful eviction by the landlords and local elites. Regarding to which the value of protection is not counted.

The tillers and land rights-deprived people have taken ownership of land and agrarian rights movement and leading it in their respective districts and places. They generated and mobilised Rs 1,422,571 for local level activities in 2010. 30 National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) Dis-

trict Chapters have developed their own annual movement and institutionalization plan and they are moving ahead as per the plan. At the community level, 64 Village Land Rights Forum (VLRFs) utilized Rs 2,373,670 local resources from Village Development Committee (VDC) and District Development Committee (DDC) for their livelihood and physical development at their respective places.

A total of 271 new primary organisations have been added with the participation of 14,327 people, including 6,905 women and 4,333 Dalits. The total number of land rights group reached 1,924 including 31,099 women and 30,929 Dalits. The land and agrarian rights movement has been expanded to 50 districts.

Thanks to ongoing pressure and the work of the land and agrarian rights movement, the Landless Problem Solving Commission has formed district level landless problem solving committees in 25 districts. It is estimated that around 100,000 land certificates can be distributed, if the political situation becomes favourable. The Landless Problem Solving Commission claimed that 25,000 land certificates have already been issued.

High Level Scientific Land Reform Commission (HLSLRC) has submitted its report to the government. CSRC and NLRF had created favourable environment for the commission to function and write the report from the community to the national level.

CSRC, collaborating partners and NLRF including its district chapters have been able to exert pressure on the parliamentarians to include land rights in the new constitution. They have established linkage with the Constituent Assembly (CA) members and closely following up should the parliamentarians stick to the commitments on land reform. As a result, most of the issues have been included in the draft submitted by the CA committees.

The community-led land reform practice has been carried out in 5 VDCs of 5 districts - Gangaparaspur (Dang), Laxminiya (Mahottari), Hardiya (Saptari), Hansposha (Sunsari) and

Ramche (Sindhupalchok). The communities themselves have prepared the community level land reform framework by holding continuous discussion with the respective stakeholders. Besides private land, they have utilized 20 hect ares (30 bigha) of uncultivated land and shown examples of poverty alleviation. This program has also sensitized and spawned awareness with local political and community leaders on land reform issues. 5,745 families have been directly involved in this program.

A total of 4,589 frontline leaders involved in land rights movement including (2,418 women and 1,482 Dalits, 2,171 men, and 1,558 Janjatis) have been trained in people's organisation, social campaigns, and land reform. Now they are planning to organize the similar type of training in their respective districts and communities.

It is learnt that critical awareness among the tillers on the political economy of land rights makes a difference in the quality of movement on the ground. Systematic engagement with land actors and organized resistance at the community level can resolve land disputes faster. A one-sided approach of organized resistance can take a longer time to resolve land disputes. This needs to be augmented by systematic engagement with landowners and other key actors so as to sensitize them and make them aware about social justice.

CSRC and the land and agriculture rights movement faced a lot of challenges at local and national levels. The rise in the armed outfits in the Terai and growing political conflicts in the working districts leading to racial and ethnic disputes rendered it difficult to organise and mobilise activists and community people.

Another key challenge faced was forceful eviction to the settlers by the landowners and ad-

ministration. Likewise, there are growing disputes and conflicts between the tillers and the community forest users groups in various districts. However, the movement has attempted to resolve them through dialogue.

Since there has been a weak and caretaker government, it became difficult to work on policy formulation and implementation.

CSRC's total budget for 2010 was Rs 56,109,520. Out of it, Rs 38,511,363 was spent which is 68.63% of the approved budget. Of the total expenditures, programme cost was Rs 27,483,543 (71.36%), management Rs 8,004,203 (21%) and capital cost Rs 3,023,617 (7.85%). This apart, the movement mobilised local resources worth Rs 12.70 million in the form of cash and kind given by tenants and landless farmers. The contribution was the result of the movement's emphasis on raising and mobilising local resources for its sustainability and creating a sense of ownership among them.

As the land rights movement is an ongoing process, CSRC will lobby and advocate for incorporating land rights in the Constitution and in implementing the Commission's recommendations. Its engagement with political parties for developing an alternative policy and programme, and implementing the Commission's report, and the engagement with the government will be furthered. Strengthening NLRG would be one of the priorities for CSRC in 2011.

It has been realised that CSRC could not engage constructively with landowners and non-state actors who play a crucial role in land reform in Nepal. Therefore, it will explore ways and means to engage with them in 2011.

1

Introduction

1.1 Purpose and process of the report

This *Reflections 2010* is a synopsis of achievements and lessons learned collectively by CSRC, its national collaborating partner organisations, and the land rights-deprived people from January to December 2010. This *Reflections* documents the activities carried out, progresses made, challenges encountered, and the learning gained during the period. The main purpose of this report is to share these issues with the general public, supporting organisations, and the concerned stakeholders. This report consists of series of in-depth reflections and reviews carried out from the community to the national level during the year. It has been published after scrutinising all the qualitative and quantitative information so as to ensure the authenticity and accuracy of information.

The other purpose is making public the accountability of organisation to share what changes have been brought in the lives of the poor people and what poor people got from the initiatives. This report has also limitations. There have been hundreds of initiatives and reflections in each district and community, but only a few and major reflections have been included in this report in order to make this report reader-friendly.

1.2 Organisation of the report

Reflections 2010 has been divided into seven sections including an introduction. The introduction describes the purpose of this report and the processes followed in its preparation. The second section examines the operational context of land rights movement in 2010 plus the socio-political situation of the country. The third section sheds light on the ground reflections and record of actions and results. The fourth section highlights the organizational develop-

ment of CSRC during 2010. The antepenultimate section describes the learning gained and challenges faced over the year. While the sixth section gives the account of income and expenditures during the year, the final one projects the way forward.

1.3 Outcome of participatory review and reflection process

This report is the synthesis of review and reflection process which is the main pillar of the land and agrarian rights movement. The participatory review and reflection processes (PRRPs) are conducted every three months at district and regional levels and half-yearly at the national level. Rights holders, representatives of the NLRFs, NGOs and supporting organisations take part in the process and express their opinions on the programs. The main objective of conducting the PRRPs is to build on reflections of changes at each levels, capacity building on land and agrarian rights movement and giving direction to its programs and policies for the coming days.

Participants in a rally taken out by DLRFBanke to mark the 'stand up' campaign in Nepalganj.



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2

Context Overview

2.1 Political context

Politically the year 2010 remained disappointing as the overarching task of writing a new constitution was marred by the political instability since the major political parties representing in the CA focused their attention on toppling one government and forming another in their leadership.

The CA members of the major political parties killed the precious time by obstructing the business of the House turn by turn. Their immaturity not only delayed the drafting of the eagerly awaited constitution, but also stopped the finance minister from presenting annual budgets for three consecutive years. The obstruction in presenting the budget resulted in a delayed release of allocated amounts, bringing even the day to day work to a halt, forget about development work.

A glimpse of NLRF- interaction with CA members on women's right to land at CSRC's office.



So much of the time was wasted on reaching to a so-called political consensus on almost every issue which overshadowed the regular work of the state. This in turn mostly affected the ultra poor who have no food to eat and no home to live in. Hence, the land rights movement also could not advance as expected.

Although, the government reorganised the HLSLRC and even cooperated as the commission expected. The attitude and behaviour of the government towards the issues of land reform remained negative, and it did not focus on the economic transformation and transitional justice of the poor people. Although the Landless Problem Solving Committees were formed they did not get enough budget for implementing their work.

The government has drafted another Three-Year Development Plan, but it has also not focused on land reform issues although there have been constructive pressure from the local level. The government could not table its any bill in the parliament. The seventh amendment to the Land Act, 1964 is still pending. Although there is a democratic government, there has been no changes in land reform policies which were formulated by the Panchayat regime.

The important thing is that the government made commitment to scientific land reform in Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2006 and has a provision for the same in the Interim Constitution 2007. But no step has been taken to translate those plans into practice yet.

2.2 Priorities and initiatives of the government

HLSLRC submits report to the government

CSRC, NLRF and its district chapters and tillers organized several follow-ups and launched campaigns to pressurize the HLSLRC to take off and start its work. The HLSLRC obtained inputs and support from CSRC and NLRF and has submitted its report to the Prime Minister.

Landless Problem Solving Commission burgeons

As a result of ongoing pressure and the work of the land rights movement, the LPSC formed district level landless problem solving



committees in 25 districts. At district level, CSRC has supported in preparing their terms of reference, working modalities, and action plan. At the district and national levels, the Commission is coordinating with the NLR, CSRC, and its collaborating organisations for further work and coordination. It is estimated that around 100,000 land certificates can be distributed, if the political situation becomes favourable. The commission, district committees, NLR, CSRC and its collaborating organisations worked closely to distribute land ownership certificates to the real landless people.

Govt drafts Land-use Policy and Haliya (bonded Labour) Prohibition Bill

The government has initiated the drafting process of land-use policy and it has made budgetary arrangements accordingly. The budget for the current fiscal year has made the following provisions:

A change in land management system from the current fiscal year in order to maintain a balance in economic growth, commercial system and environment by eliminating the contradictions and weaknesses prevailing in the traditional land management system.

The existing land classification system will be refined. From now on, land will be classified into six categories; agricultural, industrial, forestry, commercial, residential and public community. Ownership certificates will be issued accordingly.

Individuals or companies willing to construct residential buildings by developing land need to complete all the construction works ready for sale within five years. A policy will be adopted in respect of saving mobilizing agencies for constructing residential buildings under joint venture and selling it to the targeted group on a priority basis.

Similarly, the government is drafting Haliya/ Haruwa, Charuwa Labour (Prohibition) Act for the elimination of bonded labour system in Nepal. The Ministry of Land Reform and Management has already consulted with the civil society organisations and experts on it.

Govt's budgetary programs for fiscal year 2010-11

Agriculture

With a view to attaining self-sufficiency and promoting exports of meat, livestock devel-



▲
A boy ploughs the field in the village of Palpa district.

opment programs will be implemented as a campaign. Rs 1 billion has been allocated for the provisions of concessional loans to the livestock raising farmers to be lent through Small Farmers Development Bank and Small Farmers Cooperatives.

The budget for the “Karnali Zone Special Agriculture Development Program”, which has been implemented from the past, has been increased. Emphasis has been given to implementation programs including transportation of fertilizer, seeds, small irrigation, training and extension to increase agriculture production in other districts facing threats of food shortage.

Rs 2.75 billion has been allocated by substantially increasing the subsidy to be provided to the farmers on chemical and organic fertilizer.

An arrangement has been made to provide 50 percent capital subsidy to the cooperative of the small farmers to purchase machinery and equipment for processing cardamom, ginger, tea, coffee and honey. Budget has been allocated to enhance the learning and capacity development program of the small farmers cooperatives.

Rs 980 million has been allocated for research and development program in the agricultural sector.

Cooperative sector will be motivated to establish and operate large agriculture and animal farms. Law related to cooperative farming will be formulated. The government will make arrangements to provide infrastructures like roads, irrigation and electricity for cooperative farming.

In order to encourage the cooperatives willing to establish and operate fruits and vegetables collection centres, chilling centres, cold storage and animal slaughter houses, the

provision of providing subsidy for their capital expenditures to be incurred in the construction of infrastructure for such works has been given continuity.

A Bill on Public Warehouse will be drafted within this fiscal year.

The policy of providing 50 percent subsidy to the insured on the premium they pay for the insurance of agriculture and livestock has been given continuity.

2.3 Priorities and initiatives of donor agencies

The international development agencies have long been assisting the government of Nepal in formulating policies related to land reform at various levels. As Nepal is at the juncture of writing a new constitution and formulating Three-year plan, the agencies have rendered support to the government by articulating the needs of the people.

Potential development support

1. Supporting the design and implementation of national packages for bonded labourers (e.g., Haliya, Haruwa, Charuwa and similar groups) in the agricultural sector and supporting their access to basic services, by learning lessons from similar packages provided to former Kamaiya and giving due consideration to the needs of women and girls. Support could also be provided to their families, such as free health services and education for their children.
2. Assisting the restoration/replacement of cadastral maps and land records destroyed during the conflict, checking against local knowledge and practice in the process.
3. Supporting the survey, analysis, mapping and protection of public and government land.
4. Supporting the piloting of new approaches to decentralize land management systems to VDC level, and supporting the stocktaking of land disputes and the extension of alternative dispute resolution systems to resolve them.
5. Supporting measures to increase women's access to land and to secure property and tenancy rights, including inheritance legislation and law reform.
6. Supporting the development and implementation of a national land policy and a national land-use and planning policy and associated legislation, including programmatic support for land-use maps and national land-use zoning.
7. Supporting institutional land management capacity-building, focusing on cadastre, land administration and land management needs.
8. Support the development of a computer-based land information system.

3

Reflecting the Ground

3.1. Major achievements

CSRC has been able to make almost all achievements set against the targets for the year 2010 based on its annual work plan and budget. It could not meet a few targets. It would be a daunting task to try to encompass all the achievements made during the year in a small report like this. Therefore, CSRC has presented the summary of the accomplishments of 2010 as major achievements. They have been put in the order of organisational strategic objectives and output.

3.1.1. Organizing, strengthening and mobilizing rights holders

271 new VLRFs formed and mobilised

1,924 NLRF has been strengthened and mobilized to lead land rights movement in 43 districts although contact has been established in 50 districts.

Likewise, 271 new village level land rights forums (VLRFs) were formed and 109,642 tenants and landless families were mobilised.

They pressed the political parties and the government to include land issues in the new constitution, implement HLSLRC report, distribute land to real landless people, stop eviction from living and tilling land and to allocate resource to the land-poor people.

As a result, the land issues have been included in the draft of the constitution, Landless Problem Solving Committee has tried to work on behalf of land-poor people, political parties have spoken in favour of the landless and tenant farmers and stopped eviction in some places.

Land received and their value

A total of 5,881 landless and tiller families have received 768.20 hectares of land worth Rs 642,350,000 under tenancy rights and Landless Problem Solving District Committees. The land ownership certificates have given dignity, freedom, political power, social prestige and security of shelter and livelihood to the people.

Besides this, the details of the families who received land are shown in the table below.

Place/Source	Families	Area	Value in NPR	Value in USD	Remarks
Landless Commission	5,818	1,147.5 Bigha (765 hectare)	573,750,000	8,196,428	1 hectare= 10,00,000
BelbariMornig	33	33 Kattha (1.1 hectare)	66,000,000	942,857	1 hectare= 60,000,000
Kuchabadhiya families Banke	26	6 Kattha (0.2 hectare)	600,000	8,571	1 Kattha = 1 00000
Rupandehi	2	1 Bigha 11 Katha (1 hectare)	1,500,000	21,428	1 Bigha= 1,000,000
Sindhupalchok From Jyangbu and Chandra)	2	8 ropani 13 Ana (0.9 hectare)	500,000	7,142	
Total	5,881	768.2 hectare	642,350,000 (642.35) million)	9,176,426 (91.76 million)	

Women farmers in Salyan district seen busy working on their farm, preparing for plantation.



© SWAN

Now I realise the strength of an organisation

Lakpa Lama hails from Helambu VDC ward no. 8 in Sindhupalchok district. He has been paying rental of land in the form of fixed amount of food grains to Pemba Lama, a landlord from Melamchhiyang. After a road constructed in the village passed through the land that Lakpa was tilling, Jangmu Lama, a shopkeeper from Timbu bazaar, bought 7 ropanies out of the land without his knowledge. 'Even after knowing about the incident, I kept quiet as the buyer did not say anything regarding the sale of the land. After a week, the purchaser approached me and asked me to cooperate with me. He offered one third of the land. I declined his offer telling him that he should give me 50 percent of the land, adding that the forum would decide on the issue.'

The forum decided that it would not come to an agreement until the land owner gives Lakpa 50 percent of the land. Then the landlord was forced to share 50 percent of the land. 'I got 3.5 ropanies of the land registered in my name. At the current price, the land is worth Rs 1.6 million. Had there been no organisation, I could do nothing. Now I own the land. The district land rights forum and its activists ensured me of my lost land. Now I have realised the strength of an organisation. I will also support the forum wholeheartedly. My victory has encouraged others as well.'

Land Rights Forums become self-reliant

Three land rights forums of Bardiya district have earned Rs 14.46 million (USD 209,207.14). There are many such forums which have been able to generate and utilise funds. These are just a few examples.

The settlement of Jharaniya community of Magaragadi, Bardiya was established in 1967 but there was no fertile land and the menace of wild animals was big. So people did not want to settle there. The second time, the settlement was established in 1989, but people were forcefully evicted in 1994 by using elephants. Again, the settlement was established in 2005, with the leadership of National Land Rights Forum. Now 107 families are living there. Those who were regarded as a landless people in Magaragadi VDC Ward No. 6, agreed to live there. Each family has been farming around 0.2 (5 Kattha) hectare of land. After a series of discussion, local political leaders, community members, FECOFUN and land rights forum have agreed not to evict those families without giving alternative to them. They have been doing collective farming in 1.5 hectare of land. The earnings of collective farming go to the movement fund of the NLRF primary groups.

It takes four hours to reach the district headquarters in Gulariya, but the primary group members go to

house from a loop. This group is in Ward no. 4 of Magargadi VDC. Another primary group's name is Janachetana Land Rights Forum where ex-Kamaiya and landless people have been collectively organized. 52 households each received around 0.2 hectare (5 Kattha) of land. Out of this, 14 households have received land certificates. All the primary group members are the members of community forest users' group. Their settlement was electrified this year. Most of the meeting houses were built by acquiring support from the people through winning their hearts. They have requested the forest users' groups for material support. The first task will be completed when all members receive land certificates. They are saying that there is a significant work but the focus is first on land certificate and security of this shelter. They have good understanding of people's organization, and their roles and responsibilities.

The collective work of Banmoti primary group persuaded many. The group is in Magargadi ward no 3. This group has 105 families which own around 5 hectares of land (7 Bigha). With the collaboration of forest users' group they have farmed around 13 hectares of land (20 Bigha). They formed this group in 2008 and now they have elected the community

Place	Organized members	Area of land owned	Area of collective farming	Vegetable farming	Legumes	Rice
Magaragadi-6, Jharnya Phant	107	10 (high)	2 (high)	lentils and 10,000 kg of farming.	1000kg	50,000kg
Magaragadi-4	52	13	1		1000kg	10,000 kg
Magaragadi-3, Banmoti Phanta	55	13	2	Rs 20,000, there are 55 families have received land. This year they struggled		
Total	214	49	25	Rs 20,000 their 100kg	60,750kg	
Total value	This year we are going to consume rice from our own production. The Rs 14.64 million (USD 20,920.14) it. They have also formed a cooperative					

Since each primary group has developed their own house, it is easy to reach another primary group's house. Anyone can identify the primary groups'

Vegetables farming	Legumes	Rice
10,000 kg	10,000 kg	50,000 kg
	1000kg	10,000 kg

Rs 20,000, there are 55 families. Out of this, 31 families have received land. This year they struggled for getting their land. Rs 20,000, there are 60,750 kg of rice. They have also formed a cooperative where they have been able to collect Rs 69,200. For this, they have been given Rs 30,000 in grant to the group. This year they have been able to save Rs 22,000. They have even stored 150 kg rice in the event of managing guests. They have built and set aside two rooms for land rights discussions.

VLRFs raise campaign fund, claim budget from govt

The VLRFs have generated a total of Rs 1,422,571 out of which they spent Rs 861,339 and have a balance of Rs 561,232 in movement funds to strengthen the land rights movement and local initiatives. They even utilized these funds for their daily activities of land and agrarian rights movement.

Likewise, at the community level, 64 VLRFs utilized Rs 2,373,670 local resources from VDC and DDC for their economic livelihood and physical development.

Campaign facilitated in 50 districts

164 land rights activists (74 women, 90 men, 54 Dalits, 57 Janjatis) have been facilitating land rights campaign in 50 districts at community, district to national levels. These land rights activists have been establishing links between the local discussions at district level and planning of campaign at local level. The local activists seem one of the pillars of land rights movement.

With the facilitation of land rights activists, NLRF and 30 District Land Rights Forums (DLRFs) have developed their own annual action plan on the land rights movement. Based on this, they have been carrying out the land and agrarian rights campaign in their respective districts and communities.

With the strong facilitation of NLRF and local activists, an all-party body was formed in six VDCs in Dang district to take in more than 7,000 applications for landless farmers' registration.

4,589 frontline leaders trained

A total of 4,589 frontline leaders involved in land rights movement including (2,418 women, 1,482 Dalits, 2,171 men and 1,558 Janjatis) have been trained in people's organisation, social campaigns, and land reform. Now they are planning to organize similar training in their respective districts and communities.

25 land rights activists and front line leaders obtained paralegal training and built the capacity on land-related legal systems and procedures in order to file cases at the district land reform and land revenue offices and district courts. This has enabled them to facilitate the land-related legal matters at the community level.

Learning Centres foil forceful eviction

They have also been facilitating 170 land learning centres at the community level where 6,308 community members (4,176 women, 2,771 Dalits and 2,442 Janjatis) have been actively participating in analyzing their situation along with the preparation of action plan. These centres have greatly contributed to strengthening the local land rights movement and people's organisations. They are mapping context developing community level action plan, and being organized in the group of agricultural co-operatives.

As a result of becoming aware of their rights through the circles, the rights holders have successfully organized mass movements and campaigns at the district level and foiled the attempts to forceful eviction of land-poor by the land-owners and forest authorities. In order to secure their rights to land in the new constitution, the participants in ReFLECT circles have also organised three big and more than 20 mass demonstrations on land rights and constitution across the country.

Women get hold of money and land

The effort to sustain the land rights movement by supporting livelihood needs of rights holders through cooperatives has become instrumental in mobilising women and generating fund to a greater extent. 873 women organized in 16 agricultural cooperatives have mobilized Rs 2, 137,327. By mobilizing the money, they have received a profit of Rs 715,176.

Likewise, 85 poor Dalit families from Madhupatti VDC in Saptari district have registered 104 hectares of forest land as a community forest. By selling dry wood from the community forest, Rs 400,000 have been collected and deposited in the group's movement fund to be used in the coming days.

14 landless families own land, others to follow

A land registration committee in Sindhupalchok has prepared land ownership certificates for 133 families. The committee in Sindhupalchok was formed last year to identify people who had been left out during a land registration process. Out of 133 families, 14 have already received the land ownership certificates and others are in the process.



Landless people with their recently received land ownership certificates in the village of Siraha district.



Land Rights Forum changes the face of the community

The Sehari village in Beladevipur VDC in Kailali district lies on the bank of the Khutiya River. 77 families live in public land, but their settlement is cut by the river every year. The Kalika Land Rights Forum was established in 2006.

The weekly interactions at the learning centre disclosed that there were 30 Kamlaris in the community. The following discussion led to seeking support from an organisation called Friends of Needy Children and 27 out of 30 Kamlaris are now receiving free education staying in a hostel. Padma Saud, one of the members of the forum, has also got an employment in the hostel.

A road to the school from the settlement was constructed in 2009. The road had to be constructed through the land of the rich. At the beginning, the rich people were reluctant to provide land for the road. But due to frequent interactions between the forum and the rich people, the latter agreed to provide land and the road was built.

Following interactions at the learning centre, the community people requested the Social Service Study Centre to provide assistance for a boring to irrigate their land. The centre provided the support and 22 families benefitted from the irrigation system. Govinda Rana began commercial farming of vegetables. He has been able to install a private boring from the profit he had made from the vegetable farming. Likewise, Ram Rati Rana has been able to buy 7 quintals of paddy from the earning of potato farming.

During the meeting of the village council of 2010, the community people demanded to have their representative in the council and Puran Nepali, a member of the forum, has been selected as a member of the council. The VDC has allocated Rs 50,000 and has provided 6 Hume pipes.

The people of the settlement had no access to the community forests. Now Ganga BK, vice chair of the forum, has been elected as a member of the community forest users group.

A flood in the river washed away the house of Kalawati Chaudhari on 4 september 2009. The members of the forum donated her 5 ropanies of land. The forum has also constructed a community hall for conducting the meeting of the learning centre. They have also cultivated banana on 1.5 kattha of land as a collective farming.

The 77 families have applied for the land ownership certificate of the land they have been living in at the Kailali District Landless People's Problems Solving Commission.

Following interactions with and delegations to the Chief District Officer to control the Khutiya River, the latter recommended the Water Induced Disaster Control Division Office no. 7 Kailali. In response to the recommendation, the division office provided 15 gabion wire nets immediately. An embankment at a cost of Rs 440,781 was decided to construct along the river bank on 7 December 2010. Khutiya River Control Users' Committee has been formed under the chairpersonship of Kalawati Chaudhari. The embankment has been constructed which has protected the Sehari settlement and more than 50 bigha of cultivable land.

3.1.2 Clarifying land reform, policy change and implementation

Eviction case submitted to UN Special Rapporteur

The national and international coordination and linkages of land rights movement was enhanced through CSRC. It contributed to prepare and submit an eviction case involving a Nepali tiller to the UN special rapporteur on food rights during a consultation in Chennai, India. The special rapporteur has submitted the report on land rights and the right to food to the UN Human Rights Council which had clearly directed to the state parties to stop eviction from tilling and secure the land rights of tillers and landless farmers.

Multi-stakeholders dialogues bring clarity on land issues

36 discussion sessions have been organized from the community to the national level where 1308 people participated. Out of this, 582 are women, 527 Dalits and 669 Janjatis. The discussion has contributed to build the opinion on land reform among the policy-makers and the general populace. The local initiatives have been linked at the policy level (with issues linked to policy discussion). The discussion also helped to strengthen the relationship among policy-makers, political leaders, community

members, and CSRC. Since there is a strong link between micro initiatives and macro policy discussion, good relationship with most of the policy-makers and politicians has been established. As result, the land issue is getting more attention and becoming focused and people-centred.

CSRC has also published and disseminated alternative land reform and management models involving 5,464 families after collecting, collating and scrutinizing relevant good practices from national and international experiences. They have also carried out nationwide campaigns, lobbying and advocacy programs to create micro-macro linkages for policy changes and/or to develop alternative policies for institutional reform and to ensure democratic governance in land administration and management.

CA members urged to include land rights in new constitution

A series of interactions from the community to the national level in coordination with CA members, leaders of political parties, leaders of the civil society organizations and experts was held to garner support for the inclusion of land reforms in the new Constitution. To pressurize the Natural Resource, Economic Rights and Revenue Allocation Committee of the CA whose members were divided on whether to include land reforms in the national agenda or leave it

An interaction with stakeholders for exerting pressure on the government to implement the recommend action of the HSLRC, jointly organised by CSRC and INSEC in Lalitpur.



to the purview of the Federal Government, a Land Rights March was also organized. CSRC also promoted radio programs and published articles in national newspapers on land reforms to build public opinion and create pressure on concerned actors. The local pressure and series of discussion helped the CA members to understand how important land issues and property rights of poor people are.

CSRC contributes to formulation

At the policy level, CSRC and its partners primarily focused on ensuring that the land rights of tillers are embedded in the new Constitution and the recommendations of the HLSLRC are relevant and positively impact the lives and fulfill the aspirations of millions poor tillers. To accomplish this, CSRC and the entire land and agrarian rights movement provided technical inputs (drafted policy papers and made presentations) to the constitution drafting process, pursued land rights discourse at the CA and political parties levels, collected international experiences on how constitutions protected the land rights of the tillers and worked with the experts assigned to the CA committee on natural resources.

Collaboration with HLSLRC bears fruit

CSRC held intensive interactions with the members of the HLSLRC while the latter was in the process of preparing a status report on land reform to be submitted to the Prime Minister. The members of CSRC and NLRP supported the commission in preparing the report by giving technical inputs and financial resources. Thanks to the deeper engagement of CSRC during the preparation of the report, it has encompassed almost all the demands of land rights activists.

Parliamentary Committees consult CSRC

NLRP and the primary organisations in the villages have been able to create a reasonable pressure on the parliamentarians to include land issues in the new constitution. They have established linkages with the CA members and are constantly following up on whether parliamentarians stick to their commitments on land reform while drafting the new constitution.

The Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources and Revenue Collection nominated CSRC as an observer to its meetings. With its regular participation, CSRC has contributed to rendering the Committee's land-use plan and policies pro-people to stop forceful evictions from forest areas and halt the allocation of agricultural land for housing. CSRC's participa-

tion in the parliamentary committee meetings contributes to formulating policies in favour of the land-poor people.

Government begins to register Birta land

Following the long struggle of farmers in Rasuwa district, the government announced a process to register Birta land. Now, more than 600 applications in Rasuwa and 300 in Sindhupalchok have been registered in the Rasuwa and Sindhupalchok Land Revenue Offices respectively.

3.1.3 Critically engaging with non-state stakeholders

Talks held with non-state stakeholders

CSRC has initiated informal discussions with non-state stakeholders (the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and multinational companies) and has also started reviewing the policy of these organizations. However, critical engagement with non-state stakeholders is yet to take off apparently on account of the busy schedule of non-state stakeholders. CSRC senior management envisages accomplishing it in 2011.

CSRC has not been able to critically engage non-state stakeholders (the IMF, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and multinational companies), which have heavy clout in influencing government decisions. Besides, these organizations can also pool in substantial financial and technical resources for the implementation of scientific land reforms and management. The strategic partners may need to play a more proactive role to initiate CSRC's critical engagement with non-state stakeholders.

3.1.4 Generating learning and sharing knowledge

Community-led land reform practised

The community-led land reform practice has been carried out in 5 VDC of 5 districts, Gangaparaspur (Dang), Laxminiya (Mahottari), Hardiya (Saptari), Hansposha (Sunsari) and Ramche (Sindhupalchok). The communities have prepared the community level land reform framework by holding continuous discussion with the respective stakeholders. Besides private land, they have utilized 20 hectares (19 Bigha in Dang, around 30 Bigha in Saptari around 10 Bigha in Mahottari and Sunsari and Sindhupalchok) of uncultivated land and shown examples of pov-

erty alleviation. This program has also sensitized and spawned awareness with local political and community leaders on land reform issues. 5,745 families have been involved in this program.

Activists and members capacitated

Training in rights-based approach (RBA) and poverty analysis were provided to the front-

line workers – land rights activists – from different districts with a view to equipping them with better and deeper understanding of rights, poverty and the context of Nepal as part of their capacity building. Likewise, the finance and English language training were imparted to finance assistants and program officers of CSRC to advance their capacity in the respective fields.

Ex-Kamaiya of Takiyapur organized, get hold of fallow land

Twenty-seven Chaudhary families residing at Takiyapur, Gangparasur-9, Dang, do not possess even a single piece of land while others have meager, less than 0.4 hectare of land. Although some of them have small piece of land at Takiyapur, they did not have permanent residence due to frequent flood in the Rapti River. After a long discussion with the political parties and community members, they constructed huts in the jungle, which is an hour's walk from the settlement. When the river is flooded, they flee the settlement and move to the jungle.

One of the ex-Kamaiya shared that they need the huts only for the night because during the day they have to go away searching for work. Most of them rely on daily wages for their subsistence. Sharing the discrimination they have been facing, one of them said, "Those who are close to landlords, get land from the government. As we are not in a state of being closer to the landlords, we have not received even a small piece of land despite being an ex-Kamaiya."

In 2009, land rights activists organized a meeting and analyzed the context of the community. Chupa Lal Chaudhary, one of the ex-Kamaiya, said that the context analysis helped them to understand their economic situation clearly.

Meanwhile, they also set up a land rights forum called 'Takiyapur Land Rights Forum'. The forum has 27 members and there are no rigid criteria for membership. Initially, they were in search of fallow and wasteland. They found a fallow land close to their settlement which was on the bank of Rapti River. Following a series of interactions with the local landlords, it was agreed that if the land were handed over to the landlords, they would give up after 3 years to respective persons and if the land were claimed as public, they would keep on tilling forever.

The community estimates the fallow land to be around 10 hectares. So far it has not been measured. In June 2010, they cultivated the land and planted maize. They have produced more than 10,000 kg of maize. One kilogram of maize costs Rs 15. So the value of maize would be Rs 150,000 (\$ 2,143). Now they have planted potato in 3 hectares, lentils in 4 and mustard in 3 hectares. They have received mustard seeds from District Agricultural Office at subsidized price. It is estimated that 10,000 kg of lentils, 10,000 kg of potato and 4,000 kg of mustard seeds will be produced whose estimated value would be Rs 500,000 (US\$ 7142).

The tentative price of one hectare land is Rs 750,000 (US\$10,714). Therefore, the total value of the land would be Rs 7,500,000 (US\$ 107,142) by the lowest estimation. The community people are regularly visiting the District Land Survey Office, Gorahi, Dang in an effort to identify the total area of public and private land they have occupied. The group conducts meeting on 23 of every month and discuss on the decision of previous meeting, further plan and save Rs 10. The monthly saving was also invested in potato farming.

According to the community people, SWAN and CSRC provided them necessary support during the entire process. The organizations have been providing training and seeds besides linking the community with the other agencies. They have applied at the Underground Water Supply Project for irrigating the land. So far, they have been assured of irrigation facility. The community people are happy with the agricultural produces. "Now our productions last at least for three months. If we tilled this land for at least five years, we would be able to buy a piece of land", said an elated farmer.

Tillers become aware

Many landless agricultural workers and un-registered tenants, who joined the movement with high expectations, have become frustrated with the delay in policy formulation and enactment of laws. Taking into consideration the international experiences, CSRC has been facilitating land reforms through a bottom-up approach. In 2010, a total of 4,589 frontline leaders have been mobilized in the movement facilitation process. As a result, 16,244 families claimed their rights at different places like in scholarship, electricity, public land, public pond, forest, income generating activities etc.

These land-poor facilitators, activists and leaders at the grassroots have facilitated a participatory process that enables community-based tillers (women and men) to analyze local contexts such as status of land (private, public and other unused land), quality of land, irrigation facility, enhancement of production and productivity and market linkages. Participatory processes that enable community people to analyze local context coupled with agricultural training received by lead farmers who in turn pass their knowledge to interested community people, and agricultural issues discussed in popular education centres

have improved grassroots level agricultural practices. It has enabled farmers to move beyond subsistence to occupational farming.

Moreover, areas where community people have been informed about the quality of land and their rights, they have succeeded in convincing local people to provide them their unused land on lease for occupational farming. They have also persuaded the VDCs, political parties and government officials to support them in collective farming and cultivating unused or barren public lands. However, the focus on utilizing unused public land for agricultural production has not been given due priority as these initiations are limited to few areas only. Absence of irrigation facility is the main hurdle to increase productivity.

Fact-finding study concluded

A fact-finding study on land rights situation of Nepal conducted by professors and students of Fordham Law School, New York, USA in collaboration with CSRC has been completed, and the findings have been shared with different UN agencies and human rights organisation. A team of Leitner Centre including students visited Nepal in 2010 for the validation of data and compilation of new progress on land issue. The report is going to be published soon.

Struggle renders Lodh landowner

Mr. Abadh Ram Lodh has been living at ward no. 11 of Gulariya Municipality in Bardiya district since 1974. His family had been sharing the crop grown in 1.34 hectare (2 bigha) of land of Sadhu Baniya. The survey carried out in 1964 had established the tillers rights of his father on the land.

As Abadh Ram did not have citizenship certificate and the landlord was influential, the landlord alleged him that he was an Indian national. On this charge, the landlord removed his name from the list of tiller's and prevented him from sharecropping.

Then he started to till 2.35 hectare (5 bigha) of public land in the Gulariya Municipality. He was able to sustain his family from the income of the land. In 1994 political leaders settled landless families from elsewhere in the land who occupied all but 0.54 hectare (16 kattha) of Abadh Ram's land. The other landless people got their land ownership certificates from a commission in 1999 but he could not.

He also got organised in the Shiva Bhumi Land Rights Forum on 2007. He actively carried out struggles (sit-ins, processions, delegation, traffic halt etc.) through the organisation. He was successful in acquiring citizenship certificate in 2008. On the strength of the organisation, Abadh Ram was able to get 0.5 hectare (15 kattha) of public land he had been tilling registered in his name in 2009.

Nowadays Abadh Ram participates in almost all programs held at district level. He has been telling the world that had he not been affiliated with the land rights forum, he would not have got the land registered in his name. "The land has been registered in my name thanks only to the forum," he says.

CSRC conducts social audit

With an objective of rendering its plan, budget and program transparent and holding itself accountable to the rights holders, donors, partner organisations, government agencies, and the civil society, CSRC organised its annual social audit on 27 August 2010. Minister for Land Reform and Management, Vice-chair of CA, chief whips of major political parties, CA Members, Secretary of Social Welfare Council, Ministry of Land Reform and Management along with the representatives of civil society leaders and journalists participated in the event and shared their views on land and agrarian rights campaign. Most of the leaders of political parties also took part in the event.

Radio programs brings clarity on land issues

Nepal FM 91.8 (Kathmandu), Sungava FM 107 (Mahottai), Shuklaphata FM 99.4, (Kanchanpur) and Krishnasar FM 94.0 (Banke) have contributed to bringing land issues into discussion and linking policy discussion at the VDC and DDC levels. Further, the broadcasts have encouraged and strengthened the popular organization at the community level to advocate for land issues. With the broadcasts, poor people have found a place to speak out their grievances outside their families. The radio programs also helped prepare land rights activists themselves by including them in the radio broadcasts.

Men and women take part in a land encampment organized by DLRG in Parbat district



Book on political economy of land published

CSRC has also published a quarterly Land Rights bulletin, the Social Audit report, and a book on political economy of land and agriculture. Similarly, a handbook was published and distributed with leaflets among community members and leaders to increase awareness on land issues.

Two videos on Women's March and Social Audit have been developed. Similarly, 'Land First' magazine have been published and distributed to those who participated in the social audit.

Planning capacity of community enhanced

Baseline target indicators, annual plan, and 3 years plan of 30 districts have been prepared, allowing for preparation of annual, semi-annual and quarterly plans and budgets. It is expected that it would contribute to monitor the target, progress and changes. The developed plan will be reviewed and monitored each year giving responsibility to each resource centre and resource organization.

3.1.5 Ensuring women's right to land

As land is a primary resource in Nepal, CSRC has placed women's access to and control over land for their empowerment as an important agenda in the land and agrarian rights movement. Various campaigns, interactions and movements were organized to sensitize and build pressures on key actors to ensure that women's access to land in the new constitution. During the period, women participated in campaigns and related programs promoting women's access to land. Some of the major events concluded are as follows:

Rural women march to ensure land rights

More than 60,000 rural women marched simultaneously from different places in Dang, Banke, Kanchanpur, and Kailali districts to pressure CA members, political party leaders, and policy-makers to include women's rights to land in the new constitution. Held from 8-18 March 2010 each team comprising more than 150 members aged between 15 to 78 years gathered at the major places of those districts. They held interactions on women's access to and control over land in schools, campuses, rural households, government offices, and political party offices to generate awareness among the stakeholders.

The march was successful in raising the issue of women's access to and control over land, injustice and exclusion from property rights among the general public. The marchers submitted demands to the Vice-chair of CA



Rural women demonstrate in Bardiya district demanding their equal right to land.



during a huge demonstration held in Tikapur, Kailali. During the march, many CA members expressed their solidarity with and commitment to including women's rights to land in the new constitution.

Community groups managed food and accommodation on their own during the march. Participating rural women carried their own blankets, utensils, snacks and water. This self-sufficiency of the marchers has sent positive message to the apologists, champions and other rights activists that campaigns of such a magnitude can be carried out without depending on donors. The march also drew a great amount of empathy and support from the general public.

Minister agrees to exempt tax

The minister and secretary at the Ministry of Land Reform and Management have agreed to put forward a proposal providing tax exemptions on women's land registration. The proposal demands for at least 50% and 30% exemption in the registration tax in the Himali and Karnali regions, and in other parts of the country respectively.

The minister and secretary have already forwarded a proposal to the Finance Ministry that seeks to charge Rs 100 only if land is registered at the joint ownership of a husband-and-wife. As part of this process, CSRC organized regional workshops on women's access to land and submitted the proposal to the minister with 100 men from Sindhupalchok as signatories.

For the legal provision of women's access to land, CSRC held a meeting with the Vice-chair of CA and Chair of Committee on Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles. Through the joint effort a meeting was organized with the Minister for Land Reform and Management and, Minister for Finance. They have agreed to reduce the tax and formulate policy on behalf of women.

Lately, the active participation of women in land rights movement and their involvement in occupational farming has been increasing. Women were active members of savings and credit groups and cooperatives and were utilizing credit for occupational farming.

Participants in a training present their views on solving the problems related to land and agriculture.



We are no longer exploited

My name is Sabitri Balampiki. I was born at Belgachhi-4 Bhorleni, Mahottari district in 1979. My father passed away when I was one and a half years old. Because of landlessness, we did not have anything to eat. Then we started to stay at our uncle's house for our survival. Time passed by. I got married with a boy of my class who was also landless. Therefore, it became difficult for us to manage two meals a day. Life did not change even after marriage. I became pregnant and the due date arrived, but there was no food in my house. My husband used to go to Kathmandu to work in a carpet factory. I used to work as a day labourer in my village. In the name of property, we had only a small plot of land where we had constructed a small hut. One of the neighbours who had registered the land we were living in claimed that land and the community members decided in his favour. That made us more difficult and worried about for survival. Now we have a 6-member family with two sons, two daughters.

As per the advice of Mr Ambar Bahadur Karki, the chairperson of the Land Rights Forum, Kishannagar, I established the connection with National Land Rights Forum, Mahottari. Then we got organized in the group and named the group as Balampiki Tole Land Rights Forum-8, Mahottari and I became the Treasurer of that group.

While we got organized in the group then we developed the action plan and initiated to claim the rights. At first, we submitted the applications to the VDC to provide recommendation letter of living in the land and collection of housing tax for the proof of occupying that land. At first, the secretary of the VDC ignored our request. Then we padlocked the VDC office. After that he agreed to provide the recommendation letter of living in the land 7 days later. As agreed, the VDC secretary and the representative of DLRF Mahottari visited us for observation and seeking consensus of local people to provide the recommendation letter. Till now 27 families have received recommendation letters from the VDC.

Including me, 9 families have already received land ownership certificate from the Land Revenue Office, Mahottari. This has really encouraged us. We have received various kinds of training such as kitchen gardening, collective farming etc. In our group meeting, we discuss our pain and exploitations, discriminations and rights, and develop the action plan. Based on the action plan, we are moving ahead and this land rights movement has been changing our life and gradually making us self-subsistent. It was the DLRF Mahottari that helped us being organized in the group and fight for our rights to land. Now there is less exploitation and discrimination from the elite.

4

Organisational Development

4.1 Institutional baseline developed

CSRC has developed an institutional baseline document setting specific targets and indicators to measure the achievement of StOP. CSRC has revisited its existing strategic working approaches, Human Resource Development and Financial Management Policy and has revised its organisational management structure in line with the StOP 2009-2013.

4.2 Joint team reviews CSRC

Danida Human Rights and Good Governance Advisory Unit (DanidaHUGOU), ActionAid Nepal, Canadian Cooperation Office, Care Nepal, MS Nepal and Oxfam GB entered into a strategic partnership to jointly support CSRC's StOP, 2009-2013.

This Joint Annual Review primarily focused on the performance of CSRC within 2010. The review has assessed and/or analyzed: i) the results achieved by CSRC in light of Annual Work Plan and Budget targets - in terms of cost-effectiveness, and from the perspective of gender and social inclusion; ii) the strengths, weaknesses and challenges in the implementation of the activities; iii) the priorities and activities of CSRC in light of the changing context in Nepal; iv) the progress of CSRC in terms of development of its constituency, strengthening its internal accountability mechanisms, and addressing institutional capacity building needs; and v) the strengths and weaknesses/gaps, if any, in the functioning of strategic partners.

The review draws information from document study and field visits. The field visits included interviews at the central and interviews and focus group discussions at the local levels. Six districts (Sindhupalchok, Saptari, Siraha, Mahottari, Dhanusha and Sarlahi) representing a variety of land rights issues, conditions and situations in Nepal were visited for observation of activities and conditions, and

to obtain first-hand accounts from the rights holders and key informants. The major findings of the joint annual review team are as follows:

Strengths

- Wide geographical coverage and organizational presence of NLRF has enabled it to carry out mass movements and campaigns across the country at the local, district and national levels.
- A strong base of committed and trained activists, comprising oppressed tenants and landless agricultural labourer (many of whom are women), play the principal role in facilitating the land rights movement, enabling NLRF to take the lead in movements and campaigns.
- Strong ownership of land rights movement by the rights holders: NLRF takes the lead in movements and campaigns and are now in a position to independently plan and manage movements and campaigns. Rights holders are united by and committed to a common cause and have even pooled in their limited resources to make land rights movement a success.

Glimpse of the annual general meeting of CSRC in progress



- All key actors (including major political parties, the bureaucracy, donors, the media and the civil society) recognize land and agrarian rights as an important issue that they cannot ignore for a long period of time. The land rights movement and policy advocacy over a long period has made it mandatory that they take up this issue more seriously.
- CSRC has earned the trust of national and international organizations as a champion of land rights. Realizing a need for collective support to the entire land rights movement on the basis of a long-term strategic plan, CSRC and its international partner organizations decided to join hands under a strategic partnership where all the partners would put their financial and technical inputs according to the spirit of StOP. This has brought widespread national and international support to CSRC's work. CSRC was consulted by the government, HSLRC and other key stakeholders including the strategic partners on land issues and policy formulation.
- Besides being accountable to its constituency and stakeholders and transparent in its dealing, CSRC possesses sound leadership, vision, and capacity to facilitate the land rights movement and advocate for land and agrarian reforms. Its participatory style of leadership, good financial

discipline, trusting relationship with strategic partners and alliance members, and commitment to change are exemplary.

Weaknesses

- Inadequate coordination between CSRC's district-based resource organizations (partner NGOs) and district and VDC chapters of NLRF: Coordination between CSRC's partner NGOs and district and VDC chapters of NLRF was observed to be shallow in some districts. This coordination is vital for policy advocacy, capacity development of community-based rights holders, linking local issues to the land rights movement, and expanding the organizational base of NLRF. The priority given to the accomplishment of specific activities of different donors by the partner NGOs and advocacy efforts of the district chapter of NLRF without consultation and support of the partner NGOs has to some extent hindered advocacy efforts and linkages of community-based rights holders to NLRF and the land rights movement.
- High dependency of NLRF on CSRC with regards to policy advocacy at the central level: It will be very difficult for NLRF to effectively advocate for relevant policies without the presence of CSRC which takes the lead in advocacy work. NLRF

Members of a joint annual review interact with community people in Dhanusha district.



activists and leaders need to be at the forefront of advocacy efforts at the national level also with CSRC and other alliance members supporting their advocacy efforts. At present, it appears to be the other way round.

- Inadequate efforts to address economic rights of the rights holders: Though some commendable efforts have been made in terms of improving the economic rights of the rights holders, this is inadequate and nominal despite the huge demand emanating from the grassroots level. The linkage of the rights holders to other donor supported-programs on economic rights and agrarian reforms has not been well established.

Best Practices

- Training and encampments organized at the local level: Community-based women and men felt that these initiatives organized at the local level, besides according them due respect, established local ownership, enhanced participation and motivated them to practically apply learning at the local level, further enhancing the prospect of sustainability.
- Addressing land rights issues brought to fore by movements and campaigns at the local level through dialogues and consensus: Local level land rights issues are primarily addressed through dialogue and consensus based on a documented understanding signed by representatives of political parties, relevant government line agencies, local bodies, representatives of NLRF and the civil society. These documents have become the basis for initiating necessary processes for further decisions to legitimize the accord. It also creates the platform for political and bureaucratic accountability and ownership of the land rights issues.
- Development of local activists and leaders: The practice of developing local activists and leaders has been effective as it has generated greater local ownership and enhanced active participation of community people in movements and campaigns.
- Inculcation of participatory planning and review at all levels: CSRC and its collaborating partners (NGOs, various structures of NLRF and community groups) have institutionalized the participatory review and reflection processes that provide space to all participants to express their views.



- Priority given to interface and interaction between right holders and policy-makers: This has established better understanding of land rights issues among policy-makers and made rights holders understand the notion of progressive realization of their rights and to some extent reduced anxiety and frustration among them.
- Institutionalization of social audit within the land rights movement: This practice has enhanced the accountability and transparency of CSRC and its collaborating partners.

▲
Land rights activists participate in half-yearly review of CSRCs programs and policies held at Lalgadh of Dhanusha districts.

4.3 Institutional transparency and accountability

CSRC has been conducting social audit for the last four years. Social audits have been conducted to promote and maintain accountability, transparency and shared learning. It is an inseparable part of StOP of CSRC. Social audits are increasingly being institutionalised within CSRC. With an aim of proving own accountability, getting feedback to its work from the stakeholders and advocating for the right to information, CSRC continued the practice of social audit at community, district and national levels. Social audits conducted by CSRC have widely been lauded as an exemplary initiative in operationalising good governance practices.

With an objective of rendering its plan, budget and program transparent and holding itself accountable to the rights holders, donors, partner organisations, government agencies, and the civil society, CSRC organised its social audit on 27 August 2010. Minister for Land Reform and Management, Vice-chair of CA, chief whips of major political parties, CA members, Secretaries of Social Welfare Council,

Minister for Land Reform (3rd from left) Dambar Bahadur Shrestha along with members of constituent Assembly participate in the First National Council of NLRF held at Bhaktapur.



Ministry of Land Reform and Management along with the representatives of civil society leaders and journalists participated in the event.

The 15th general assembly of CSRC was organised on 26 August 2010. The organisation holds general assembly every year which ratifies the programs and budget of previous year and approves the programs and budget for the current year. All the primary members of CSRC participated in the assembly and exercised their rights. The general assembly also added 6 more primary members.

With a view to making its programs and policies relevant, contextual and keeping the organisation abreast of the current trends in organisational management and human resources, CSRC has made some changes in its Human Resource Management Policy and Financial Regulation Management Policy.

CSRC carried out its joint annual review of 2010 by a team of an independent consultants, one member each from the CSRC board and supporting partner organisation. The review team looked at the best practices, weaknesses and suggested ways to improve them and overviewed the annual plan of calendar.

4.4 International linkages and collaboration

Leitner Center for International Law and Justice, Fordham University, USA awarded Annual Human Rights Award 2009 to CSRC. Aline/IDS, UK gave the Farmers' Voice

Award to CSRC in 2010. ActionAid International and IDS/UK invited CSRC to present the case of accountability in social movement. This has also established linkage with IDS/UK, ALINe.

4.5 Expansion of con-stituency

CSRC has expanded land rights movement activities in new districts and reached to 50 in 2010. Thus, a base line of the current context has been prepared in the new districts. This will help NLRF and CSRC to measure progress of the intervention objectively in future.

4.6 Human resource and knowledge building

Ms Kalpana Karki, Regional Program Officer, and Mr Puskar Acharya, Administration and Finance Coordinator, received training in conflict management and financial management respectively from Danish Fellowship Centre, Denmark in 2010.

Mr Jagat Deuja, Program Manager, participated in Transparency in Land Administration Meeting held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia organised by UGM, UN-Habitat, Global Land Tool Network, an ITC, an Associated Institute of the United Nations University the same year. Similarly, Jagat Basnet, Executive Director, and Roshan Chitrakar, PhD, Chairperson, participated in the International Land Coalition meetings held in Rome and Thailand.

5

Learning and Challenges

5.1 Learning

Local initiatives create ownership and build sustainability: Community level training, encampment and livelihood initiatives have instilled a sense of pride and self-respect among rights holders; allowed community people to actively participate in and benefit from the initiatives; created a feeling of ownership; and contributed to the sustainability of the initiatives.

Social preparation and critical awareness of local context and land rights issues is essential for successful expansions of working constituency: Orientation of community people to the issues of land rights of the deprived community, analyzing local context, identifying potential leadership and internalization of the current situation through participatory processes is the prerequisite to initiate land rights movement in a new geographical location.

Systematic engagement with land actors and organized resistance at the community level can resolve land disputes faster: A one-sided approach of organized resistance can take a longer time to resolve land disputes. This needs to be augmented by systematic engagement with land owners and other key actors so as to sensitize them about social justice.

Positive and tangible results derived from the movement need to be articulated for motivation: Experiences have shown that motivation of rights holders towards movements was higher in areas where movement leaders have articulated about tangible results that have taken place due to movements.

5.2 Challenges

Some of the challenges that the land rights movement faced during the year were similar to those of the previous years. The main challenges are as follows:



Convincing major political parties to take up land reforms as a priority issue needs to be addressed immediately: Despite the slogans chanted and commitment made, the major political parties do not show eagerness to bring about a meaningful breakthrough. The portfolio of the Minister of Land Reform and Management generally goes to smaller political parties which have little say in the cabinet, parliament and general political discourse which shows that major political parties are actually paying a lip service to this issue because: i) they have influential landlords in their party; and ii) prefer not to take up the political risk as building up a political consensus on land reforms can be a thorny issue that may take a long time to materialize. Even then, the end result may not to meet the expectation of the rights holders.

Implementation of accords: Many accords and understanding have been made with representatives of political parties, NLRF and the officials of related line agencies and government bodies as the signatories but many of

them are not actually implemented or have taken a very longtime to be implemented. The accords and understandings, in the absence of specific laws and policy decisions from appropriate authorities, are often confined to the back burner and lost in bureaucratic processes and interpretations that sometimes do not take off or take a long time to culminate.

Land mafia snatch the agenda: Land brokers and land mafia have overshadowed the real landless people's problems. They have used their clout to register the land provided by the government in their names and their henchmen. They have snatched the agenda of the real landless people which has distorted the meaning and the essence of land rights movement.

An interaction held with district level stakeholders on land reform in Dhankuta.



6

Income and Expenditure

6.1 Financial performance

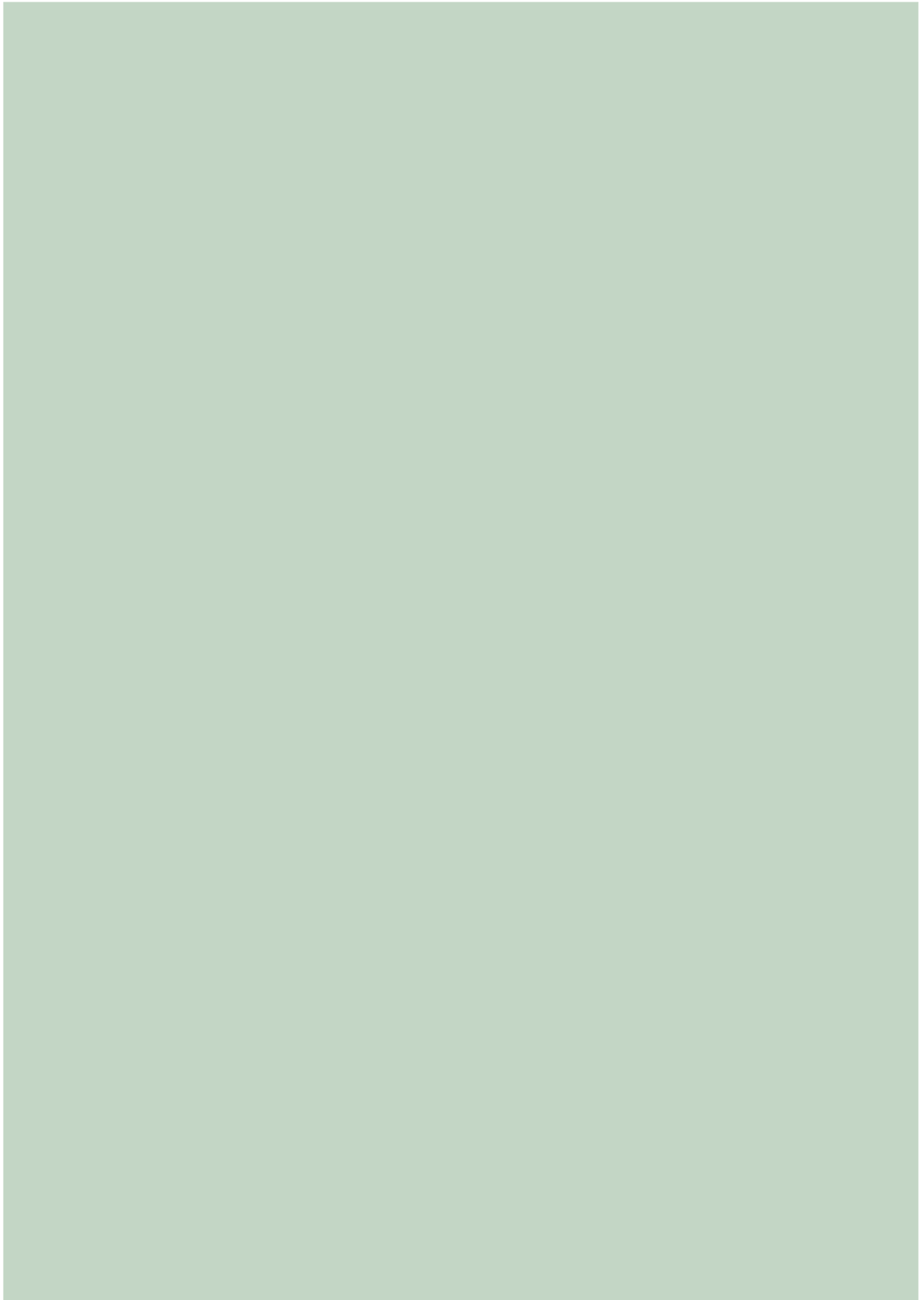
Financial performance from 1 January to 31 December 2010



Minister, Vice-chair of CA, chief whips of major political parties and CA members, officials from Social Welfare Council and representatives from civil society, government agencies, rights holders and media persons participate in the national social audit of the CSRC.



A	Sources of fund	Commitment	Disbursement
1	ActionAid Nepal	3,750,000	3,431,250
2	Care Nepal	2,500,000	2,500,000
3	DanidaHUGOU	31,053,855	27,082,000
4	MS Nepal	3,200,000	3,200,000
5	Oxfam GB	554,000	554,000
6	Canadian Cooperation Office	40,000	40,000
7	International Land Coalition	1,080,000	881,129
8	UNMC	720,000	551,398
9	Interest Income (BF)		150,411
10	Income from completed projects		893,692
11	Income from project services		227,007
12	Income from Resource Centre		646,421
13	Income from membership fees		8,300
14	Miscellaneous income		200,713
15	Donation in kind		78,330
	Total, sources of fund (A)	42,897,855	40,444,651
B	Application of fund	Budget	Expenditure
a	Program cost		
Output 1	Organizing, strengthening and mobilizing rights holders	17,188,660	12,721,614
1.1	Building, strengthening and expanding National and District Land Rights Forums as people's organisations	1,325,460	1,000,307
1.2	Capacity building of NLRF and DLRF staff and activists in the areas of advocacy, paralegal skills, and networking and alliance building	1,561,000	1,676,828
1.3	Context mapping	850,000	236,854
1.4	Forming and strengthening District Land Rights Forums (25 districts)	6,601,950	4,383,240
1.5	Mainstreaming the action-reflection-action model of popular education in land rights movement	6,850,250	5,424,385



7

Way Forward

Although CSRC had envisioned that the constitution writing process would have been completed by 2010, it could not happen. Therefore, CSRC needs to give continuity to its previous year's programs particularly focusing its activities on ensuring the rights of the land-poor in the new constitution. CSRC hopes that by the mid of 2011, new constitution would be promulgated.

Thanks to the relentless efforts of the land rights-deprived people and land rights activists, the civil society organisations and the strong recommendation of HSLRC for Scientific Land Reform on behalf of land-poor and their rights are expected to be ensured in the new constitution.

CSRC's programs and priorities will be central to ensuring the rights of the land-poor in the new constitution and in order to achieve this goal, the organisation would make every possible effort to include land issue in the new constitution. Since CSRC has taken the ownership of HSLRC Report, it focuses its campaign on publicizing and implementing it on behalf of the land-poor people.

As per the principle of 'where there is social movement there is a possibility of social transformation,' CSRC focuses its effort on promoting social movement for land and agrarian rights movement and strengthening of people's organisation at every level.

Since land reform is a political issue, CSRC emphasizes on bringing the political parties in the process of land rights movement and building opinion on land reform on behalf of land-poor people.

Similarly, it centres its activities and initiatives to bringing different stakeholders to network and collaboration with different civil society organizations, and government to strengthen land rights movement on behalf of the land-poor people.

Building the capacity of land rights activists is important and building the team of land rights movement and enriching the present knowledge and skill to facilitate the land rights movement will be an essential part of CSRC's work in 2011.

Women from Kanchanpur and Kailali districts in far-western region of Nepal participate in the 'Women's March'



Annex 1

Demand letter

Date: 18 March 2010

The Vice-chair
Constituent Assembly
Nepal

Subject: Regarding our demands for change

Dear Madam,

The March for Ensuring Women's Rights to Land (comprising rural women from Kanchanpur, Kohalpur and from Tulasipur to Tikapur) was organised with the objectives of showcasing the reality of the rural women, generating awareness among villagers, raising voice against the injustices to women and the poor, and creating hope for change. 297 women from the grassroots participated in the 11-day march. 41 men also took part in it. We feel proud of organising such a historic march.

We faced numerous difficulties during the march, but never lost hope. The rural people extended valuable support to us. They even participated in the march at different places, disrupting their work. As we carried utensils, shawls, quilts and drinking water along the march and held interactions with the rural women, people remarked that we were pioneering a new kind of movement.

We would like to briefly appraise you on the findings of the march. Hunger and deprivation are prevalent in villages. Women suffer most from poverty. Badi women still live on begging. Landless squatter women lack safe house, drinking water and toilets. Family hinders single women most in claiming their land rights. Tillers have to offer free labour to landlords. Girls of school-going age are forced to be domestic helper on a token pay. Refusal to send their daughters as housemaid results in extreme hunger.

Democracy has no meaning to the poor men and women. They are forced to pay 60 per cent interest on borrowing from local money lenders. People say that their rights are confined to paper only. They say that they don't expect the government to deliver services to them. Most of the young men have gone to India for seeking a job. This has added responsibilities to the already overburdened women. The

people say that political leaders visit them before elections and assure them of right to land, but soon after the election, they vanish. Many squatters' settlements lack electricity and drinking water and schools are in a sorry state.

There are playgrounds, but no land for squatters to live in. The land distributed to squatters are either infertile, or on the banks of rivers or near jungles. Public lands have been registered in the name of the elites. No one opposes it. People are so much frustrated that some have even gone to the extent of renouncing citizenship and left the country. Particularly women and Dalits among the squatters are most affected by poverty. A huge quantity of resources is brought into the country in their names, but the resources disappear on the way. They are always treated as second class citizen.

The situation of flood victims is worse. The land is infertile. There is no food and no work. The government does not provide food grain. The VDC budget cannot be spent for their livelihood. They have no right to forest and VDC resources and are forced to work at a low pay. Their ownership of land has been snatched away. Unfulfilled commitments have made them hopeless. Forest office considers the poor as an enemy. Therefore, the land ownership certificates issued by the government in the name of squatters are meaningless. We saw the height of cheating by the state.

Settlements have been torched. Huts have been demolished. Attempts have been made to rape women. Their lands have been captured by the mighty. Tillers have been displaced and denied the share of land. The sanctuary victims' problems remain unaddressed even after the formation of 22 commissions. The people are prohibited from collecting fodder and firewood, and fishing in the rivers inside national park in Bardiya. This has hit hardest to the Rajis and the land provided to the ex-bonded labourers is infertile and insufficient.

Despite the negatives, we also saw some positives. People have begun claiming the VDC budget, communities have begun uniting, establishing cooperatives in a few places, started collective farming, begun claiming rights and launching struggles. Based on the experience and findings of the march, we would like to request you to address our following demands:

1. The constitution should have a provision on:
 - a Complete right of women farmers on land and equal economic rights.
 - b Equal wage for equal work and no discrimination to women in social security.
 - c Equal right to inheritance.
 - d Equal lineage rights.
 - e Land reform should be introduced with reasonable ceiling of land holding and no compensation should be provided on land acquired by the government exceeding the ceiling.
 - f Safe housing for each family.
2. The state should provide cultivable land sufficient to sustain livelihood to the land-deprived people. It should also provide seeds, technology, irrigation, and subsidies. Land should be provided on joint ownership of men and women.
3. Joint land ownership certificates should be issued to men and women whose families already own land within two years of the enforcement of the new constitution. Women's ownership should be established in the land ownership certificates that have already been issued.
4. No tax should be levied if the land owned by husband is transferred to the wife and vice versa. In order to attain it, the government should launch a national campaign.
5. Land registration tax, if registered in the name of women, should be waived by 50 percent and no tax should be levied while registering land in the name of single women, women with disabilities and Dalits.
6. Single women and women who want to acquire independent land rights should be transferred land rights without any complications and free of charges.
7. The equal right to inheritance should be implemented by introducing a national plan of action.
8. Women should be given right to collective farming on arable lands.
9. There should be a provision for equal wage for equal work and just wage. The wage of agricultural labourers should be fixed with the participation of women's organisations at the local level.
10. Special programs on education, drinking water, employment, agriculture and land reform should be introduced to the settlements of squatters and poor.
11. The squatters' commission should constitute district commissions and resolve the problems of squatters. The land commission should be transformed into an implementing agency.

We request 297 women members and vice-chair of the Constituent Assembly to fulfill our demands at the earliest.

*All the participants in the
Women's March for Land Rights
National Land Rights Forum*

Annex 2

Cumulative performance of land rights movement from 2004-2010

S.N	Particulars	Unit	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
1	People's organization									
1.1	People's organization at community level	Organization	258	284	381	288	117	325	271	1,924
1.2	People's Organization at district level	Organization	3	8	2	15	6	5	4	43
1.3	People organized into people's organizations	People/Hhs	9,461	9,106	14,848	14,718	2,902	6,594	14,327	71,956
		Women	2,763	2,561	6,707	7,067	1,534	3,562	6,905	31,099
		Dalits	5,021	4,202	6,057	8,251	1,342	1,723	4,333	30,929
1.4	People's participation in land rights discourse	Hhs	26,420	22,601	42,157	86,043	51,151	64,948	109,642	402,962
1.5	Tenants and landless farmers made aware/sensitized	People	130,000	341,000	297,375	851,759	355,400	168,582	209,403	2,353,519
2	Leadership									
2.1	Activists trained and mobilised	People	97	310	487	102	92	153	164	1405
		Women	27	133	165	39	56	78	74	572
		Dalits	24	131	180	56	32	71	54	548
2.2	Community leaders trained and mobilised	People	213	77	377	788	648	1,183	1,303	4,589
		Women	67	12	153	305	325	468	1,088	2,418
		Dalits	117	23	176	318	210	479	159	1,482
3	Civil society alliance									
3.1	Total districts covered	Districts	11	14	31	42	42	47	50	50
3.2	Total VDCs covered	VDCs	118	127	199	257	257	315	0	
4	Achievements			0			0			
4.1	Petitions filed by the tenants	Petitions	4,916	15,309	0	5,267	2,997	3,216	22	31,727
4.2	Petitions settlement	Petitions	2,406	4,052	4,807	2,219	939	440	0	14,863
		Women	112	378	234	113	195	88	0	1120
		Dalits	82	1,583	1,174	548	127	59	0	3,573
4.3	Areas of land transferred to the tenants	Hectares	237	719	1,397	681	269	305	24.07	3,632.07
		Women	11	67	68	33	55	61	0	295
		Dalits	8	281	340	166	36	40	0	871
		Market price Rs (m)	53	197	432	211	61	73	0	1,027
4.4	Retention of public land	Hectare			200	63	82	0	140.35	485
		Market price Rs (m)			56	19	24	0	42	141
		Families benefitted			200	76	126	0	188	590
4.5	Petitions filed by landless people	Petitions	53,096	0	0	0	0	7,356	20,768	81,220
4.6	Total petitions settled	Petitions	0	0	0	66	0	0	5,818	5,884
4.7	Areas of land distributed to the landless	Hectare							765	765

Annex 3

Key events from 1 January to 31 December 2010

Month	Key Events
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five teams of Land Reform Commission members visited communities and participated in district level interactions in CSRC working areas. Held popular education training in three places to land rights activists. Published book entitled "Land Rights in Constitution". Organized national review of land rights movement in Lalghad, Dhanusha.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convened regional conference on women's right to land at Baglung and Attariya, Kailali. Held rally and demonstration in Bardiya with more than 6,000 participants for the formation of district committee of Land Reform Commission.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held an 11-day rural women's march to ensure their land rights. Organized rallies and interactions on women's rights to land in Sindhupalchok and Sunsari. Held interaction on issues on land rights in Dhankuta.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convened district conference of National Land Rights Forum, Dadeldhura, Surkhet, Dang, Siraha, Saptari, Morang, Parbat and Sindhupalchok. International Law and Justice's fact finding mission (International Law and Justice at Fordham Law School, New York City) visited and shared conclusion of last year's field study and received feedback. Strategic partners evaluated and reviewed land rights movement.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitored the status of landless people at Dharampur, Kanchanpur by UNMC team. Conducted press conference for solution of Ukhada problems. Conducted cooperative training in Sunsari, Sindhupalchok, and Kailali districts.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held a 10-day demonstration against eviction in Surkhet. Held interaction on women's rights to land with 26 participants including women CA members in Kathmandu. Broadcast weekly radio program from Mahottari, Banke and Kanchanpur. Conducted paralegal training in land rights in Banke. Held mass demonstration of haruwa and charuwa in Lahan, Siraha. Formed women's cooperatives in Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Sunsari, Saptari, and Mahottari districts. Held interaction on solution of landless problems in Rajbiraj, Saptari.
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team of landless commission visited field in Sunsari, Jhapa, and Morang districts. Held campaign on "Stand Up and Take Action" on the occasion of World Poverty Day in various districts. Member of natural resource committee and forest conservation issue management subcommittee visited different places of Nepal in 6 teams. Carried out internal audit and final audit. Attended meeting on transparency in land administration in Indonesia. Held national review of land rights movement.
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convened interaction with the participation of political parties' leaders, government officials and land rights activists in Baitadi. Published book entitled "Economic Politics of Land and Agriculture". Held 15th General Assembly of CSRC. Conducted National Social Audit.

Media coverage and publications

CSRC in the print media



Publications



Districts Covered



Collaborating Partners

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

International Partner Organisations

- ActionAid Nepal
- Care Nepal
- CCO/CIDA
- DanidaHUGOU
- International Land Coalition (ILC)
- Oxfam GB Nepal
- UNMC/UNDP

Community Self-reliance Centre

Vision

A Nepali society where everyone enjoys a secure, free and dignified life

Mission

CSRC's mission is to empower land-poor women and men to enable them to claim and exercise their basic rights, including their right to land resources

Core Values

- Promotion and Protection of All Rights for All
- Respect for Plurality and Diversity
- Social Inclusion
- Promotion of Non-violence
- Institutional Good Governance
- Democratic Decision Making and Implementation
- Equality between Women and Men

Goal

To secure equitable access to land for poor women and men for ensuring their freedom and right to a dignified life

Strategic Objectives

Objective 1

Rights holders (land-poor women and men) organized, strengthened and mobilized to claim and exercise their rights

Objective 2

Clarity and consensus about land reform established, and land reform policy and frameworks suitable to the needs and realities of Nepal developed and implemented

Objective 3

Critical engagement established with non-state stakeholders (such as the IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and multinational companies) involved in land and agricultural issues

Objective 4

Learning generated from ground level actions and practices, and disseminated the knowledge at all levels

Objective 5

New land policies introduced guaranteeing women and men equal rights to own land

