



Reflections 2020

**LAND AND
AGRARIAN
RIGHTS
Campaign
IN NEPAL**

CSRC
आत्मनिर्भर केन्द्र

Community Self-reliance Centre

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Reflections 2020

Community Self-reliance Centre (CSRC)

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Acknowledgement

This report highlights major results of the land and agrarian rights campaign facilitated by Community Self-reliance Centre (CSRC) during 2020. The presented results of collaborative effort among several development partners, people organizations, government agencies, and UN agencies.

This year, the federal parliament endorsed the 8th Amendment to the Land Act, 1964, and ministries of council has approved the 18th Amendment of the Land Regulation. These resolutions are very much important to provide land to the landless, informal settlers who are deprived of land ownership. CSRC has closely worked with the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives, and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA) and other government agencies to incorporate the issues of landless, informal settlers, and tenant smallholder peasants in these policy resolutions.

This year was full of excitement and challenge for launching the implementation of new strategy (2020-2025). Based the learning of past strategic period and considering the changing context, CSRC focused in five strategic priorities. They are-strengthening and continuing land and agrarian movement, contributing to knowledge production, generating policy discussion and good governance, promoting sustainable farming, collaborative agriculture, and systems for secure livelihoods, and taking the movement to the world.

CSRC extends its sincere gratitude to all the government agencies from federal to local level including the MoLMCPA for implementing land related laws and regulations. We believe the formation of the Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC) is the primary step to materialize the policy provisions to ensure land rights of landless and informal settlers. We also extend our gratitude for MoLMCPA and the Government of Nepal for appointing our former Executive Director Jagat Deuja as an expert member of the commission. We expect that thousands of real landless people will receive land from the LIRC. The local governments also deserve these for collaboration with CSRC for policy formulation and implimentation.

Furthermore, with much appreciation, we acknowledge the crucial role of our partner organizations including Action Aid Nepal (AAN), Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), CARE Nepal, Foundation De France (FDF), the Freedom Fund (FF) IM Swedish, International Institute for Environment and Development (iied), International Land Coalition (ILC), Micro Credit to Mothers (MCM), National Land Rights Forum (NLRF), People In Need (PIN), Oxfam International, UN-Habitat, Wilde Ganzen for their continuous support. Finally, we extend our generous appreciation to our all colleagues at NLRF and CSRC for their tireless contribution in yielding better results of our hard work together this year. We extend special thanks to Binod Gautam PME Coordinator and Dharma Raj Joshi, NES Facilitator for preparing and editing the reflection report.

Finally, we sincerely thank our rights holders and communities, who continue to pursue their dreams despite of the challenges they face.

As always, CSRC full-heartedly appreciates any constructive feedback from stakeholders about our works in general, on this publication.

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Executive Director

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Chairperson

Acronyms/Abbreviation

AAN	ActionAid Nepal
ANGOC	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
CBA	Climate Based Adaptation
CDO	Chief District Officer
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSRC	Community Self-reliance Centre
DAO	District Administration Office
DLRF	District Land Rights Forum
FDF	Foundation De France
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FF	Freedom Fund
FFPLA	Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration
GLTN	Global Land Tool Network
GoN	Government of Nepal
HHs	Households
IAA	Integrated Agriculture Acts
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
ILC	International Land Coalition
JLO	Joint Land Ownership
LGWG	Land Governance Working Group
LIRC	Land Issues Resolving Commission
LRFs	Land Rights Forums
MoALD	Ministry of Agriculture Land Management and Cooperatives
MoLMCPA	Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSP	Multi-Stakeholder Platform
NES	National Engagement Strategy
NFGF	National Farmers Group Federation
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NLRF	National Land Rights Forum
NRA	National Reconstruction Authority
PIN	People in Need
PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STDM	Social Tenure Domain Model
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
VLRF	Village Land Rights Forum

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Context and Overview

Coronavirus (COVID-19) spread created an unprecedented situation for land and agrarian reform. However, the government continued its efforts towards the constitutional mandate of ensuring tenure security of land for tenure insecure people even when health and safety was the top priority of the state.

Agrarian reform with land distribution had indirectly been proclaimed “dead” in 2015 with the failure of the state to implement the recommendations of the past 3 high-level commissions formed for land reform and institutionalize the agenda in the Constitution; but land distribution is now revived indirectly in the national agenda with the 8th Amendment to the Land Act 1964; establishment of Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC) and 18th Amendment to the Land Related Regulations 1964 in 2020 after the continuous efforts of the land and agrarian movement led by the CSRC and NLRP in collaboration with its allies.

LIRC is given the mandate of providing the land to the landless including landless Dalits and to formally recognize the land tenure security of those who have been residing in informal land. The contested 18th amendment to the Land Regulation 1964 has incorporated specific provisions related to the size of the land to be distributed in different administrative and geo-spatial locations. LIRC has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 200 local governments to conduct the context mapping in the current fiscal year and should do so with all 753 local governments within the three years from now.

Principally, there is a general agreement among all major political parties, including the opposition to raise and address issues concerning landless, tenant, smallholder peasants, informal settlers, and other marginalized peasants. The hopes of people that are to get legally recognized ownership of land resort to the LIRC in the current political fluidity.

All the local governments clearly expressed their intention for the best utilization of local resources including land for the benefit of smallholders, marginalized and tenant peasants and are eager to begin the joint actions with LIRC and other partners for technical assistance to resolve the decades long land problems in their areas.

There is rumor that the government has recently approved the provision that allows large-scale Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Nepali agriculture sector. That will simply shift land resources in the hands of corporations, both global or local, or co-manage with the previous landlords. They will prioritize the large scale agro-business sector in their projects. Such priority promotes large-scale investments and commercialization of agro-business and that gradually sidelines the issues and rights of landless, marginalized, and smallholder peasants. In addition, land grabbing and non-utilization of fallow land are other severe problems in Nepal. The government has also introduced some regressive policies such as land bank that also safe-guard the interest of land owners.

Finally, both national and local scenarios for land inequality depicted a bleak picture of the unequal societies through national and international media which has once again brought land reform and governance issues to the centre of development discourse. In this context, evidence-based land rights campaign and policy advocacy have become crucial to protect and promote peoples land and agrarian rights.

1 SECURE LAND TENURE

Land ownership has been critical for decent housing and livelihoods in both rural and urban settings in an agrarian economy like Nepal. Issue of land reform in Nepal has remained a central and cross cutting agenda of developmental, political, and social transformation. CSRC has been advocating secure land tenure for landless, land-poor and tenant peasants to protect, promote and safe-guard their rights to access and own land. This year, CSRC's advocacy initiative made it possible to gain land ownership certificates for 4,356 households over 286.44 hectare of land.



Figure 1
Integrated settlement
of Budune, Nuwakot

Earthquake Affected Landless Families Secured Durable Settlement

Earthquake of 2015 displaced thousands of families and disproportionately affected the poor, landless and small holder peasants. CSRC in collaboration with the government, international development partners, and other local NGOs, involved in relief, recovery, reconstruction and resettlement initiatives. As the significant number of landless people living in public land are deprived of getting government grants for the reconstruction of their houses in the absence of their formal land tenure security, CSRC lobbied and advocated for necessary legal and policy reform to ensure their adequate housing rights.

In addition, CSRC was involved in the collection of data of beneficiaries and necessary credentials that are required to receive government's grants. In 2020, CSRC became successful to ensure the housing rights for 380 landless families in 17 districts, out of which 202 families have constructed their houses at the place where they have been living.

Relocation and Resettlement



Figure 2
A family in
Sindhupalchok
constructed house in
safe place

The geographical survey conducted by National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) showed that the earthquake triggered the incidents of landslides in a hilly terrain that blocked the trails providing the hurdles to the response activities. Initially, the earthquake affected families-built houses elsewhere including in the vulnerable areas as the relevant government authorities did not provide adequate information. In this regard, CSRC conducted field visits to such areas and submitted the recommendations to the NRA for geological survey. Despite the COVID-19 imposed movement restriction, NRA completed the geological survey of Ward no. 2 and 3 of Jugal Rural Municipality in Sindhupalchowk district.

The NRA decided to relocate the families living in the risk prone areas to safer areas and to provide a grant of Rs 200,000 (Two hundred thousand) to purchase land and Rs 300,000 (Three hundred thousand only) to construct private house in safer areas as per the provision of Private House Reconstruction Guideline 2017.

This year, CSRC in collaboration with NRA and PIN, facilitated the processes to purchase 6.23 hectares of land for 454 families to ensure their rights to adequate housing. Among them, 211 families have completed the construction of their houses.

New Home of Che Lama



Mr. Che Lama Tamang is a resident of Aamachhodingmo Rural Municipality (RM) ward no-5 Chilime, Rasuwa. His family shifted to a newly built home in April 2020.

The Earthquake destroyed his traditional thatched house. After the geologists confirmed that the area was vulnerable to landslide,

his family together with the neighbors displaced to other places. CSRC facilitated the grant, land acquisition and land registration process to many of such displaced families.

Che Lama said, *“Initially, I was quite unaware about the procedures to claim grants. CSRC team supported for land registration and grants receiving process.” After taking the grant, he purchased 0.01 hectare of land with the grant worth Rs 200,000 received from NRA. Finally, he obtained the Joint Land Ownership (JLO) with his wife.*

His wife Manjim expressed a delightful expression saying “Now we have a new home where we feel safe.”

CSRC supported the displaced families throughout the support period from applying for the grant to the completion of the safe house.

Integrated Settlement at Norbuling



Figure 3
Nurbuling Integrated
Settlement

CSRC supported to the earthquake affected marginalized and Dalit family to construct their houses in safer place in Sindhupalchok district in collaboration with the local

government and other organizations. CSRC signed an agreement with Helambu Rural Municipality for the collaboration to complete the integrated settlements of 40 (35 indigenous and 5 Dalits) households in Norbuling. The Helambu Rural Municipality urged CSRC to roof over the CGI sheet for all households in the area. Finally, CSRC distributed Rs 30,000 (thirty thousand only) for each household to roof over CGI of the poor indigenous families and a beautiful settlement was established at Nurbuling of Sindhupalchok district.

Tenancy Land Rights

Tenancy land rights in Nepal ensured by the Land Related Act 1964 remained one of the policy priorities for the last 56 years. During this period, there have been several attempts at policy and practice level to conclude dual ownership over agricultural land and ensure the land tenure security of the tenants.

According to the government data of 2019, out of 77 districts 55 districts have tenancy land problem. So far, the government has registered total 275,431 tillers as tenants. Out of them 140,153 tenants have filed tenancy land separation applications. Based on the total applications, 76,395 cases are already concluded. There are estimated 200 thousand unregistered tenants.

CSRC has been continuously helping tenants to have their rights over the land that they have been operating on and taking care of for decades. In 2020, additional 305 tenants received legal land ownership over the half of the land that they have been operating as tenants as a result of joint initiative of CSRC and National Land Rights Forum (NLRF).

Tenant Farmer Finds Hope to Claim Land

Shukadev Chaudhary aged 77 is struggling to claim tenancy land rights over land that his family has been cultivating and taking care of as a tenant.

He tried a lot to get the fair share of tenancy land but could not convince the land owner. Then he began to unite the villagers, lobby with the political leaders, and visit the government offices with a hope 'to get that land registered in his name'.

With support from NLRF he continued his activism and organized many other people facing land rights issues and began to pressurize the government to separate tenancy land. After a few years, he became able to acquire land title over 36 Kattha [1 Kattha = 0.034 ha.] under tenancy land right provision included in the Land Act 1964. Meanwhile, he has yet to acquire land title over the remaining four Kattha land.



Currently he is determined to get the remaining four Kattha of land, which he knows that this piece of land is not going to be easily obtained due to its increasing monetary value. Meanwhile, he has a strong conviction that he will fight. *“The struggle as a tenant has given important insight and intuition that land rights cannot be obtained only with the provisions on paper. We have to fight to realize the rights. But no matter what the vicissitudes of life as a tenant, I am still glad that I become able to secure my tenancy land right and it taught me not to stop to the end”* he said.

Village-Block



Figure 4
Village blockers
receive land certificate
in Mahottari

Village-block land refers to a considerably large tract of land mainly used for residential propose, by a group of people, that is mapped under one single plot, given the limited technical expertise, time or human/financial resource during the last land survey or mapping process. Since it has not been sub-divided into individual plots legally through the remapping process- poor, landless, agricultural workers and marginalized people residing in such areas have been facing economic, social, political, and legal problems.

CSRC & NLRf have been continuously motivating the government to initiate remapping of the land previously mapped under the single block and local people to create effective demands for it. In 2020, 1287 families residing in the village-blocks received land certificates over 16.36 hectare.

Joint Land Ownership (JLO)

Many researches have shown that land ownership is primary cause of discrimination between men and women in the local community. According to CBS 2011, 72.8 percent of women engage in agriculture but they legally own less than 20 percent of the land. Land ownership of women is even worse in remote areas. In this situation, CSRC believes that JLO has been one of the instrumental campaigns to ensure equal rights of men and women in every household. A women-led campaign supported by CSRC in 2010 exerted pressure to introduce JLO policy to ensure equal rights for men and women. This JLO campaign has been institutionalized at policy level as several laws including Land Regulations (18th amendment) ensured to obtain JLO for landless and informal settlers who will receive land from the government of Nepal.

As continuation, CSRC supported 671 families to obtain JLO over 25.20 hectare of land to ensure equal rights for both husband and wife in 2020. According to CSRC's database total 10118 couples have obtained JLO over 2779.01 hectare of land by the end of December 2020.

"Government provision of providing equal rights over land to both male and female is praise worthy. After 60 years we have acquired JLO while registering our new land for reconstruction. Previously everything was of husband alone. We used to share everything but in terms of property only husband had ownership right. Now, we both have equal ownership. We strongly recommend to our neighbors for the acquisition of JLO to strengthen womens' decisions making power of all household chores."

Sanumaya Pariyar and Hasta Bahadur Nepali of Gangajamuna Rural Municipality of Dhading

Protection from Forced Eviction

In Nepal, the development agenda and projects are always set by the government's authorities or development partners without adequate consultation with local people. Among the government authorities and development partners, few are aware about the relation of land with the people's daily lives. Only compensation offered in terms of money cannot compensate for loss incurred on the culture, values, and heritages of local people. Thus, people sometimes oppose the development agendas or projects set by the government. In 2020 alone, the local governments, District Administration Office (DAO), Office of National Park and Conservation sent formal letters to landless and informal settlers to leave the public places within 15 days.

There was the possibility of forced eviction of 555 households of six districts viz. Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet, Sarlahi, Siraha and Mahottari. The affected people do not have any alternatives except to reside in the public place. Thus, CSRC and NLRP supported them to be united and pressurize the governments to respect their land and housing rights. In addition to this, CSRC jointly with other stakeholders brought some of

Figure 6
Protected settlements
of Banphanda area of
Bardiya



the rights violation cases to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to draw the attention of the government of Nepal. Finally, the DAO allowed the landless and informal settlers to reside in public places.

Action Against Eviction

In 2006, local community decided to establish a human settlement in the Buffer zone of Bardiya National Park at Jharniya of Bardiya district where 105 families set up their houses. Out of them, only 45 families were verified as real landless.

The landless families started cultivating unused land by dividing seven Kattha of land, which provided the year-round food sufficiency for them. They cultivated and took the care of that land and nearby forest for 3 years without any obstruction. The vigilant stewardship of the community provided difficulty for the so-called elites – the illegal loggers. Later on they lobbied for communities forced exit from that land and exert pressure to cultivate plants rather than keeping human settlement in that area. The National Park arrested many people without any reason in the day and at midnight army and police set ablaze their houses repeatedly from 2009 to 2014.

The difficulty for the children, senior citizens and other dependents increased as the youths got arrested time and again. The National Park arrested 20 people



including seven women of that area. Women were released after a week, while the male were kept into custody for 25 days.

According to Ashrani Tharu, they were released on bail for one or two years and fined for encroaching the land of National Park. As a result, they were compelled to take loan by paying upto 36% interest.

Keshuram Chaudhary, resident of Barbardiya Municipality-7 said *“we faced several problems without any fault. Our neighbors did not help us. The elite groups spied against us. At the beginning, the local governments promised to provide land for agriculture. However, the elite groups lobbied against us and the local governments stepped back from its previous commitments.”*

Destroying all the houses of the landless people the National Park planted trees depriving them of using that land in 2014. Ultimately, the community people were forced to migrate to other areas where they constructed huts in public land as they don't have other alternatives.

As they have limited resources, they are either working with landlords or migrating to other countries for employment. Since they have yet to acquire formal land titles they are living under threat of eviction.

Policy Review and Analysis



Figure 7
Policy Review meeting

Policy Advocacy is one of the primary works of CSRC. CSRC has made a comprehensive review of Land and Agriculture related laws and regulatory frameworks as part of its regular engagement on policy advocacy. This year CSRC conducted a review of policies, laws and acts related to agriculture and land.

Review of Land Related laws

The fundamental purpose of the review exercise is to carry out an in-depth assessment of existing legal and regulatory frameworks pertinent to people centered land governance and land rights to identify likelihood of coordination and cooperation or conflicts between and among responsible agencies. During this exercise review of the relevant laws, policies and strategies related to land forest, and agricultural development was conducted and the efforts were also made to investigate the contradictory provisions (if any) related to access, use, and own land resources included in the sectoral legal documents. The paper has also presented comprehensive understanding on land-related government institutions which will make it easy to understand who is who in land governance. The review exercise is expected to support the government in integrated land law formulation process to address the major issues of peasantry in the context of people-centered advocacy for land resources even under the neo-liberal economic and political dispensation. A few of the recommendations for legal reform to the government for the larger benefits of the genuine peasants from the review are as follows;

- (i) Respect the jurisdiction of the province in the domain of *Guthi* (Trust) management and develop a common forum for the federal, provincial, and local governments to resolve any outstanding issue vis-à-vis land resource through the development of common understanding,

- (ii) Create a system at the level of federal government to take suggestions from the provincial and local government units in the process of formulating national policies and enacting laws vis-à-vis land (including in their revisions),
- (iii) Formulate land policy and enact land act at the level of local government by following the approach of context mapping or contextual analysis,

Agriculture Related Laws



Figure 8
Meeting with Hon.
Ghanashyam Bhusal,
minister of Agriculture
and Livestock
Development

CSRC conducted an extensive review of the prevalent agriculture policies and acts in the country to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) to formulate Integrated Agricultural Act (IAA) and submitted it to the Hon. Ministry Ghanshyam Bhusal.

The key suggestions for the new Integrated Agriculture Act are as follows;

- **Participatory context analysis of land and agriculture:** include participatory context analysis of land and agriculture for planning any kind of agriculture and market related programmes. Carry out these processes every five years and revise the act as per requirement.
- **Overall Empowerment of Small-scale producers:** until and unless the producers are empowered, no amount of grant, subsidies, and support can be utilized by the real producers. And if they get, they will not be able to materialize the fair price of their produces. Hence, the act should include a separate provision to form and strengthen producers, and producers' group. For this, both government and non-government agencies should be mobilized effectively.

- **Clear provisions for local agriculture acts:** The IAA must provide specific provisions for the local government to formulate their agriculture acts by keeping the landless and marginalized peasants at the centre of the whole process.
- **Categorization of peasants:** Based on the area of land, income, and their farming priorities (i.e. food, vegetables, fruits, flowers, etc) the peasants should be categorized. These categorized peasants need to be provided with specific identification cards. Based on this categorization, government grants, loans and subsidies need to be provided.

Position Paper on the Land Bank

CSRC has been adopting a people-centered approach to analyze the government's policies and programs pertinent to the land governance, its use and management. This year the government of Nepal announced the Land Bank program and the debate emerged around whether the establishment of a land bank is essential in the current context and to what extent it will contribute to ambitious government targets related to and.

Decades of engaged research, activism and advocacy on land and agrarian issues in Nepal, as well as multi-stakeholder deliberations with experts, land and resource users; CSRC and NLRG, came up with clear position to meaningfully contribute to the ongoing debate at a time where few details on the land bank policy are known and in which the government has presented Land Bank as a silver bullet to Nepal's agrarian crisis without a clear, conceptual underpinning. Regarding the Land Bank program, CSRC made the following position points strongly through the position paper.

"With the establishment of the Land Bank, the landowner will be allowed to withdraw land from previous arrangements and instead place it in the land bank where a person paying higher rent can gain use of the land. In this way, the Land Bank is not only acting as inhabiting force for contemporary unequal land relations but also causing the further proletarianization of marginalized peasants by eroding their access to land. Eventually, land will be confined to the hands of a class that is not engaged in farming while small peasants will be converted into mere agricultural labourers."

"Land bank will include leases restored of government land will lend itself to the entrance of big corporations rather than access to a more needful peasant class."

"Land Bank program launched at the time when LIRC is formed and already begun working to manage issues of Nepal's landless and squatters create such a dilemma where Interest groups can obstruct processes meant to resolve the problems of landless and informal settlers and divert attention that makes such issues harder to address. It could also affect the government's commitment to increase land access for landless and marginalized peasants."

Majority of the marginal peasant communities felt that they were left behind as the Land Bank would only safeguard the control that landowners have over the land. Such outcomes would further undermine the land reform efforts in Nepal. Therefore, without basic preparation and more in-depth study as to how and in what form this model can be beneficial, it is not suitable to implement in Nepal.

Policy Brief

CSRC has been developing policy brief to inform the government and relevant stakeholders about the latest legal provisions and inherent policy gaps. As a continuation of this exercise, CSRC, in collaboration with NES Nepal developed a policy brief titled “Legal provisions and limitations to land rights and land management”. The policy brief described provisions related to sustainable land use and highlighted legal limitations, with reference to the 8th amendment to the Land Act 1964 and the 18th amendment to the Land Regulations 1964 to present some policy recommendations.

Major Recommendations from the Policy Brief are:

- Landless communities including landless Dalit should be provided land for housing and agriculture based on necessity (of family) and land availability ensuring full ownership according to land ceiling law (specify provisions).
- Clear deadline should be mentioned to conclude an investigation of land beyond the ceiling. Appropriated land, by implementing land ceiling, should be distributed to landless.
- Legal provision should be in place to provide land on lease, also considering the changes that may surface in land tenure arrangement after COVID-19, for peasants who want to do agriculture.
- The issue of tenancy land distribution that has been contested ‘for long time’ should be concluded.
- Institutions received the benefit of keeping land beyond the ceiling provisioned in the Clause 12 of Land Act 1964 eighth amendment, should be prevented from selling or exchanging land in any reason. If such institutions dissolve or go into liquidation; there should be provision for government to buy that land at the price in which the ministry provided before or just seize that land.
- Except in Kathmandu valley, Metropolitan city, Sub-metropolitan city and urban area of Municipality, land should be provided only for housing and for both housing and agriculture to those who do not do agriculture and to those who do agriculture respectively.
- Fees collected from informal settlers should be fixed irrespective of the size, rather than classifying informal settlers.
- Residents of the land specified in the Clause 52B (4) and of government and public land without land certificates should be provided prior information and reasons on why they are being displaced.
- Informal settlers owning land outside their current district of residence should be provided homestead land or housing facilities for them on instalment basis

Formation of Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC)

The current Nepali Land Administration System (LAS) only deals with the formal or statutory land tenure system. Around 25 percent of the total arable land and

settlements are outside the formal cadastre, which is accounting for approximately 10 million physical parcels on the ground. More than 1.3 million families classified as “landless and informal land settlers;”. This means that a significant portion of the population is living in informality without any spatial recognition and without security of tenure.

Hence, to provide land to the landless squatters and manage the informal settlers within 3 years the Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC) was formed by the Nepal government on 22 March 2020 as per the provision of the Land Act 1964 (2021) - Clause 52.B.

CSRC's Representation in LIRC

A meeting of the council of ministers on 22 March 2020 appointed the Executive Director of CSRC Jagat Deuja as an expert member of Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC). Mr. Deuja will serve commission for three years. , Mr. Deuja has been appointed based on his long years of expertise for land rights campaign in Nepal. The joint secretary of MoLMCPA Janak Raj Joshi said, “The government of Nepal has expected that thousands of landless and informal settlers will receive their land entitlements during the tenure of this commission and the expertise of Mr. Deuja will contribute to resolve all pertinent issues of land in Nepal.”

The commission has already started to collect data of landless, informal settlers and the area of land they have been utilizing and have targeted 200 rural/municipalities to complete the assigned task. The Commission has already formulated Nine working guidelines based on the past learnings.

Commission has prioritized the participatory approach to ensure the inclusion of the local communities in its intervention through the mobilization of community leaders and organization working on land and housing rights issues. The land survey will be conducted in a participatory way and will cover the landless Dalit and landless peasant in the first round.

Provided input on Land Use Regulation and Land Regulation



Figure 9
Meeting with
Members of Natural
Resource Committee

The government of Nepal endorsed the 18th amendment to the Land Related Regulations, 1964 on 21 November 2020. It has significant people centered provisions to safeguard and institutionalize the peoples' rights to land. CSRC significantly contributed to include such provisions providing inputs and conducting policy dialogues putting the needs of landless, informal settlers and marginalized communities at the center of this policy.

Some of the progressive provisions that will materialize the spirit of the constitution and the 8th amendment of the Land Act 1964 as below:

As per the provision included in the Rule 52C the LIRC will provide specified size of land to landless and informal settlers according to the geographical and administrative categories.

Land distributed through the LIRC will be registered in the name of both husband and wife. This provision will safeguard the equal land rights for men and women.

In addition to this, local governments are made responsible to conduct context mapping of both land and people to establish an updated database which will recognize the local land related issues as well.

2 STRENGTHENING PEOPLES' ORGANIZATIONS

CSRC has been working since more than last 27 years for the rights of landless, land-poor, and smallholder peasants. They are historically deprived of enjoying their several human rights including land rights in Nepal. CSRC is supporting backward, marginalized, and ultra-poor households not only to ensure their rights but also their livelihood alternatives. In 2020, the people-led land rights campaign of CSRC has brought some notable results in that direction. Following are some of the outcomes materialized through CSRC's support and initiation in 2020.



Figure 10
Newly formed VLRFs
at Gadhwara, Dang

Formation and Reformation of LRFs

CSRC has been supporting the District Land Rights Forum (DLRF) across the country. In 2020, CSRC supported DLRFs in 7 districts, Namely - Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardiya, Banke, Surkhet, Dang, Dhanusha and Jhapa and made significant progress in strengthening the Land Rights Forum mainly through two ways: first, by forming new LRFs in areas where landless and land poor people reside and lack legal ownership over land; and the second, by re-forming the already established LRFs as they have not been active to protect and promote peoples land rights because of various reasons. In addition to that another way to strengthen and expand the LRFs is to distribute membership to new members and have renewal of the old membership.

There are total of 300 LRFs actively working in above mentioned 7 districts. Out of which, 16 LRFs formed and 81 LRFs reformed this year. Similarly, encouraging number of new memberships is added to the LRFs in all districts and the trend of membership renewal also shows remarkable progress as presented in the Table below in detail.

Table 1: Land rights forum and membership detail

District	Formation of LRFs	Reformation of LRFs	Total LRFs	Membership Distributed	Membership Renewal	Total Members
Kailali	1	8	39	95	670	2680
Kanchanpur	1	21	33	144	782	1699
Bardiya	-	47	84	373	1511	4303
Banke	-	-	24	169	878	1140
Surkhet	-	5	67	98	98	2349
Dang	13	-	45	262	450	1500
Dhanusha	1	-	8	20	150	350
Total	16	81	300	1161	4539	14021

Land and agrarian rights campaign



Figure 11
Cycle Rally in Bardiya

CSRC has been supporting community people to adopt new, innovative, and creative approaches to bring the issues of landless and informal settlers into attention at local, provincial, and national level and motivate the relevant government authorities for the desired solution.

This year, local peasants deprived of their rights to agricultural land organized a 'Land Rights March' from 1 – 5 March 2020 demanding ownership rights to the land that they have been operating on. Specific reasons to organizing this rally were – to visit peasant communities and understand their problems; to make them aware of the

latest changes at policy level and support government for their implementation in the ground – such as to pressurize the government to form a Land Commission as per the provision of the 8th Amendment to Land Act 1964; to ensure the representation of the Land Rights Forum in the commission and its local committees; to pressurize them to formulate land use plans and facilitate for the timely implementations of the progressive provisions included in the Constitution, National Land Policy 2019, Land Use Act, 2019 and 8th Amendment to the Land Act, 1964. In addition to this to request local government representatives for security from the forced eviction to all the settlers as district administration and forest committee threaten to displace each year.

Seventy-year-old Rammilan Loniya of Badhaiyatal Municipality – 4 of Bardiya said, “20 years’ care and use of 4 Kattha land has not resulted in acquiring any legal proof to show this land belongs to me. This very plight has motivated me and these fellow campaigners to join this land rights march.”

During the March, the campaigners/activists had discussion with the local governments with regards to identifying inclusive solutions to land related problems and to form a district level land issues resolving commission where they committed to implement the progressive legal provisions included in the policies and laws.

Manuals for Leadership Development and Advocacy Trainings

Leadership development training and advocacy trainings are the key tools to strengthen and empower the local communities to claim their land rights. To systematically organize the result oriented trainings to land rights forum, and land poor communities, CSRC developed leadership development training manual and Advocacy Training Manual. Both the manuals mainly targeted to enhance the leadership skills and advocacy skills and strategies for land activists at village and district level.

3 ENABLING LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES

Figure 12
Meeting of
Aatmamilan
Agriculture
Cooperatives in
Bardiya



Promotion of Women-Led Cooperatives

CSRC has been working to ensure land rights for the landless and land-poor peasants and promotes their sustainable livelihood. Promoting women agriculture cooperatives to generate income for the members of LRFs is one of the core programs. It has supported 108 women agriculture cooperatives for sustainable livelihood in 2020. The members of the cooperatives are also doing agro-based enterprises. For example, the members of Jana Sahayogi Agriculture Cooperative of Bardiya district are engaged in poultry farming and the farming has contributed for their sustainable livelihood. In the same way, the members of Milijuli cooperatives of Tikapur, Kailali buffalo farming by taking loan from the cooperatives. The cooperatives did not collect any interest rate from its members during the lockdown period from July to August 2020. According to the chairperson Sima Tharu of Aatmamilan Cooperatives in Bardiya, they did not have any options before CSRC supported to establish this Cooperative. When CSRC provided grant support to them in 2016 for the first time, they engaged in various small businesses and started to make regular savings. They have now Rs 1,500,000 in the account of cooperatives. Such saving is being mobilized for new businesses such as tailoring, poultry, livestock keeping and vegetable farming to diversify the livelihood options to serve the needs of the family members.

Cooperative Improved Livelihood of Junu Kumari

Junu Tharu, 35 of Barbardiya Municipality-6 lives with her four family members-her husband Khusiram Tharu 37, and two children. They are a freed Kamaiya family. They have a small plot (0.169 hectares) of land. Despite the small area, Junu and



her husband utilize the land very well. They are engaged in vegetable farming for the past two years. But, due to the limited market and low price, the income from the farming was not sufficient to cover daily

household expenses..

To meet the daily needs, her husband Khusiram started working as a wage labor in local market. Junu started saving income little by little engaging herself in saving groups. From the small initiative of the free Kamaiya community, Atma-Milan Agriculture Cooperative was established and registered in the area. The cooperative has 30 members. All of them are from freed Kamaiya families. Junu Shared “after the registration of cooperatives, CSRC supported us with seed money of NRs 300,000 (In words Three hundred thousand only). I have taken a loan of NRs 40,000 from the cooperative for goat farming. Initially, I started with 3 goats. They grew to 6. In the past eight months, I sold 3 goats and earned NRs 39,000. With this money, I paid back my nine months’ loan. After three years, I will be free from the loan which I borrowed from cooperatives to conduct farming.”

Goat farming has been a major attraction for peasants like Junu in the community. The expenses are low with high profit in goat farming compared to other agriculture activities carried out. Junu added “at present, I save most of my husband’s earnings in the cooperatives. Being engaged in an agriculture cooperative has been fruitful for me and other members as well.”

Empowering Small-Scale Producers

CSRC has initiated a campaign to empower small-scale producers, with specific focus on producers of Jhapa, Dhanusha, and Dang districts. Land and Agriculture Learning Centers (LALCs) are the major tools used in this campaign for empowerment. Likewise, tools related market empowerment, contractual agreement and scorecards have also been developed for producers’ empowerment. The capacity enhancement of

small-scale producers regarding claiming resources, demand of fair prices, and other legal rights has been the pivotal focus of the campaign. The small-scale producers were oriented and backstopped by CSRC for claiming agricultural related resources from government agencies. This year, 230 small-scale producers have claimed resources from seeds, agri-input support to cash grants from the District Agriculture Knowledge Center, Provincial, and Local Governments worth around Rs 2,000,000 (in words Two Million Rupee only).

I along with the other 17 houses of Kohabara, Gauradaha-6, Jhapa had entered commercial farming in early 2018. The farming commenced on a good note, with peasants producing organic vegetables and the company agreeing to manage the markets. Fair pricing and a regular payment system were other major commitments of the farming that attracted us. However, the payments were delayed, with the price of both organic and non-organic produce. Six months elapsed but we did not receive the amount. Slowly, other producers left the organic farming program. In this period, CSRC started a land and agriculture learning center in the area. Social map, tree analysis, and context analysis were used to identify possible solutions to our problems. Series of discussions were conducted with the company with support from CSRC. Finally, after 6 months the company provided our due amount. CSRC led the contractual agreement process between producers and the company.

Kuber Prasai, Organic Farmer

Likewise, 18 organic small-scale producers are able to negotiate and claim a due amount of Rs 150,000 from an agriculture company in Gauradaha Municipality, Jhapa. CSRC supported the producers to collect evidence on the matter through a participatory approach. Based on the evidence, a series of discussions were organized with the company at the central and district level. After the discussion the company was ready to provide the amount which was due for more than six months. Finally, the producers received their amount on 23 January 2020.

4

INNOVATION AND BEST PRACTICES

Innovation and best practices are the great lesson of CSRC and collaborative partners. CSRC generates knowledge based on such practices and utilizes its upcoming activities. It also regularly updates the innovation and best practices to its stakeholders, partner organizations and well-wishers through its regular publications. There are some important cases of innovation and best practices which were documented by CSRC in 2020. Some remarkable cases of best practices that CSRC documented have been presented in this section.



Figure 13
A woman farmer
plants vegetable
in Dang

Increased Access to Land by Landless, & Small Holder Peasants

Utilization of agricultural land left fallow has been a major priority for CSRC. This approach ensures the access of landless, small-scale, and landless producers to land. It has dual benefits. One for these landless producers to have access to land for production. It increases the food production capacity of the nation, reducing its dependency on third nations for food.

CSRC continues the effort for utilizing unregistered fallow land from last years in Dang and Dhanusha districts. This year, a total of 262 families from Gadhwara Rural Municipality-4 & 5 and Sabaila Municipality-13 of Dang and Dhanusha districts have utilized 20,567 hectares of fallow land. This is the first time that some of these families have access to land for farming. This model has highlighted the strategic

commitments of CSRC by ensuring landless and small-scale producers' access to fallow and unregistered lands, which has a direct impacts on the food security of these marginalized communities.

Agencies	Families Utilizing	Area (Utilize land)	Remarks
Lokharpur VLRF, Dang	51	2.8	River bed land
Magahar VLRF, Dang	105	5.75	River bed land
Lalpur VLRF, Dang	29	1.6	River bed land
Gadhawa-4-VLRF	23	3.24	Unregistered land
Gadhawa-3- VLRF	44	6.67	
Dholbaja LALC, Dhanusha	10	0.507	River bed land of Absentee owner
Total	262	20.567	

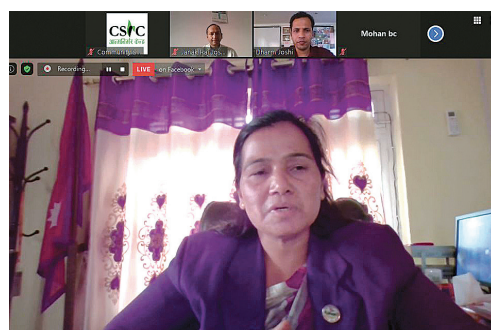
We do not have any land for farming. In the learning centers, we discussed about the need of land for our sustainable livelihood. A meeting was organized with ward chairperson, land owners and peasants to utilize absentee land. Initially everyone did not agree. The owners were reluctant to provide land for farming. CSRC organized separate dialogues with each actor to acquaint them on benefits of utilizing the absentee land. An agreement was made with the owner and our group to farm these land for five years. Currently, 10 families are farming 0.50 hectare of river bed land. The lentils are in final stage for harvesting, this is the first time that we will harvest the crops from our own land and the profit will be ours to take.

Pabitra Sada, Sabaila Municipality-13, Dhanusha

Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Platform

Decentralizing Multi-stakeholder Land Policy Dialogue

Figure 14
Hon. Bimala KC,
Minister Mo/MAC



that exist at specific time and space. It has been used as an effective tool to ensure meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders.

In 2020, CSRC supported three provincial level multi-stakeholder land dialogues around the theme of 'Land Policy Related Problems and Possible Solutions' to facilitate policy-making by provincial and local governments, where it actively engaged NES-Nepal members, Land Governance Working Group (LGWG) members, MoLMCPA, LIRC and other platform members.

The main takeaways from the discussions were: first, this multi-stakeholder process should be able to identify concrete policy solution to ensure the security of the land rights of the poorest of the poor communities and complete the rehabilitation of Ex-Haliyas and Kamaiyas where provincial and local governments can play crucial role. Second; formulation and implementation of the land use act seems to be a prerequisite for land reform in Nepal and the local government should have full authority to implement land use act at local level. To do this, the need to prepare and create a comprehensive land database through context mapping to know exactly the status of the land use and ownership status is felt; and third is to explore the ways if the provincial or the local governments can initiate the real land reform to address their development needs, given the central government deviated from the path of the real land reform.

So, the multi-stakeholder dialogues have played an instrumental role as a wake-up call for the serious and result-oriented engagement of multi-stakeholders for people-centered policies and practices.

Joint Action for People Centered Land Governance

CSRC has been initiating many diverse joint initiatives to identify people centered solutions. This Year, CSRC has initiated joint actions with LIRC to support local governments to identify landless and informal settlers as well as the lands that can be distributed through LIRC. For this noble purpose, CSRC is surely to be entered into a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 14 local governments.

Some of the specific joint actions:

- Submitted recommendation letter to the Minister, MOALD, suggesting the ways to utilize barren land (both government and private) to increase agricultural production,
- Sent a request letter to all 753 Local governments requesting the inclusive and sustainable land use approach to ensure agricultural land available is utilized.
- Submitted a Demand Letter to the District Administration Office, Provincial Governments and the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Federal Government to stop the ongoing forced eviction of informal settlers in Surkhet District and across the country. Protected 48 households from being evicted in Surkhet District in April 2020 amidst nation-wide lockdown.
- Lobbied to incorporate provisions for protection of agriculture land and classification of land into various categories to maintain sustainable use of land in the policies and programs of the government for the coming fiscal year and got included.
- Raising awareness about the COVID-19 in the communities mobilizing the front-line land activists.
- Joined JURY-Nepal with other 13 organization to file a writ petition in Supreme Court on 26th July 2020 seeking a directive to stop forced eviction of landless peoples from their residences on government land, public land, forest land and national-park land without ensuring an alternative place for them to live on.

Land and Agricultural Learning Centers

CSRC adopts a participatory approach in all its programmes and projects. Land and Agriculture Learning centres are an integral part of CSRC, tailored to achieve its result of grass-root level empowerment. This year, 15 land and agricultural centres (i.e. 8-Dang, 4-Dhanusha & 3-Jhapa) with 315 (F-211, M-104) members were established. Communities through this centre discuss different issues. The combination of theoretical orientation, and practical implementation for market linkage is resulting in holistic socio-legal empowerment of landless, marginalized communities and small-scale producers through the concept of land and agricultural learning centre.

Community Land Right Protection Initiative

Community History Mapping of Dangisharan Rural Municipality



Figure 15
Community history
mapping being held
in Dang

Community land protection initiative is one of the innovative engagements of CSRC initiated in partnership with the International Land Coalition (ILC) and Dangisharan Rural Municipality in Dangisharan of Dang district. This initiative has been providing the results comparable at global level through ILC for efforts to protect communities land rights. The program engaged more than 2000 landless and small-scale peasants living in and utilizing unregistered and government land in this rural municipality. Seven (F-5, M-2) facilitators have been facilitating the programme at local level applying various participatory exercises in close coordination with the locally elected representatives.

CSRC has used a community history mapping to understand the history of land use, acquisition and dispossession in the study area. This exercise engaged elderly people of the community to have a deep-dive into the historical account of the settlement, land use practices and their struggle towards securing their land tenure. Based on the

mapping exercise, Prasduwa community of ward no 6 found to be the most affected one. In 1978, the 29 dalit families transformed the bushy land into an arable farm but 8.67 hectare land they have been operating on is taken away from them by Bhanu Secondary School of the area. During the interaction Kaushila Pariyaar, 73 said *“We have been evicted from the land my husband and others made arable and livable that 40 years ago. Now, we live in a risk prone area beside the cliff vulnerable to landslides. All our hard efforts have gone into vain.”*

Community history mapping exercises become instrumental to visualize how forcefully the native indigenous groups and marginalized communities were compelled to leave their land by immigrated communities. Through this participatory exercise, the younger generation become aware of various atrocities their ancestors faced while protecting their lands. The mapping exercise also enabled the participants to visualize and realize vivid pictures of how was the land made arable? How the indigenous Tharu and Dalit communities were made landless? How the unregistered lands were occupied by certain groups?.

Dangisaran Rural Municipality has not only taken ownership of this programme, but also designated a room for Community Land Protection programme within their office premises and allocated NRs Six Lakh [NPR 600,000 (US\$ 5264)] for the programme.

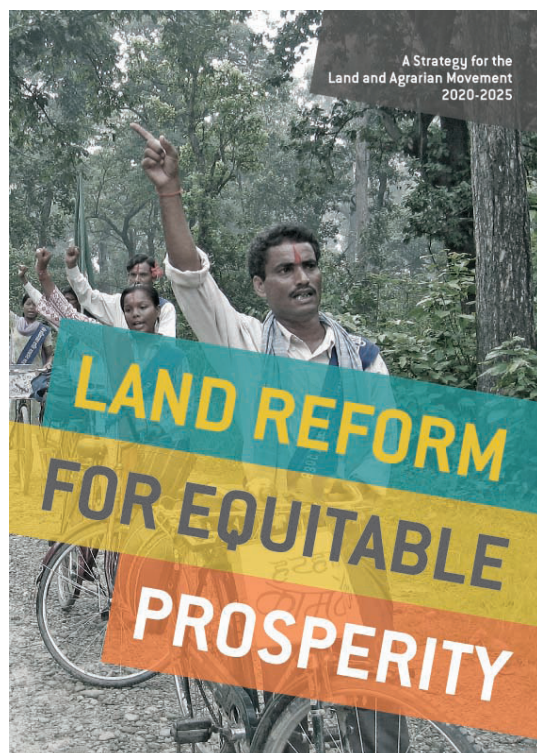
In addition, the mobilization of local facilitators has become very instrumental in acquiring factual and realistic data related to land. Local facilitators are motivated to work because they aspire to resolving local land issues. With support from Rural Municipality Chairperson, Ward Chairpersons and leadership of the community, other participatory exercises like Social mapping, Resource mapping, Formulation of Hypothesis, History mapping and Valuation practice are being conducted smoothly in the working areas.

‘No Lockdown in Agriculture’ Campaign

All people were confined inside houses during lockdown imposed by the government of Nepal to curb the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic. Strict lockdown measures and movement restrictions provided difficulties to peasant communities and family peasants during harvesting season in Nepal. In this situation, CSRC launched a social media campaign called “No Lockdown in Agriculture” with the aim of spreading a message to stakeholders and peasants to keep farming continued during the lockdown. The clear message of this campaign is ‘let’s not stop agriculture related works for national development. If agriculture related work is stopped in the field then the majority of the population will have to starve.

During this campaign, CSRC spread awareness about the preventive measure to contain the spread of the pandemic among the peasant communities. The photos, and videos of the people working on their farm following localized and standard safety measures were collected from the field and a number of blogs were composed. The photos, videos and blogs were regularly shared through CSRC’s official website and social media to encourage the people to keep continuing the agriculture related works and to motivate the government formulate agriculture friendly policy measures to support the peasants in the difficult times. CSRC uploaded the 65 photos, 3 videos, 26 blogs and 2 posters with the clear message of ‘No Lockdown in Agriculture’ during the lockdown period.

5 ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Strategic Priorities; 2020-2025

Strengthening and Continuing the Land and Agrarian Movement

Contributing to Knowledge Production

Generating Policy Discussion and Good Governance

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

Taking the Movement to the World

Adoption of New Strategy

CSRC presented a new five-year strategy for the period of 2020-2025. Drawing on the extensive experiences and lessons learnt from engaged action research, campaign and advocacy in the field of land and agrarian movement for over two decades, CSRC has attempted to incorporate an objective analysis of the emerging context, identification of challenges and opportunities, and in-depth assessment of potential risks in its strategy. CSRC has also designed new initiatives for its institutional development with the refinement of working approaches and methods.

In this strategy, certain old but still relevant initiatives are continued; other initiatives are modified as per the needs of the time; some of those no longer relevant are removed, and some new initiatives have been added as well.

CSRC believes in holistic empowerment at the community level, continuous learning at the institutional level, engaged knowledge production leading to transformative action, and progressive collaboration at both local and global levels. As always, several rounds of consultations conducted at senior level of CSRC for its successful implementation.

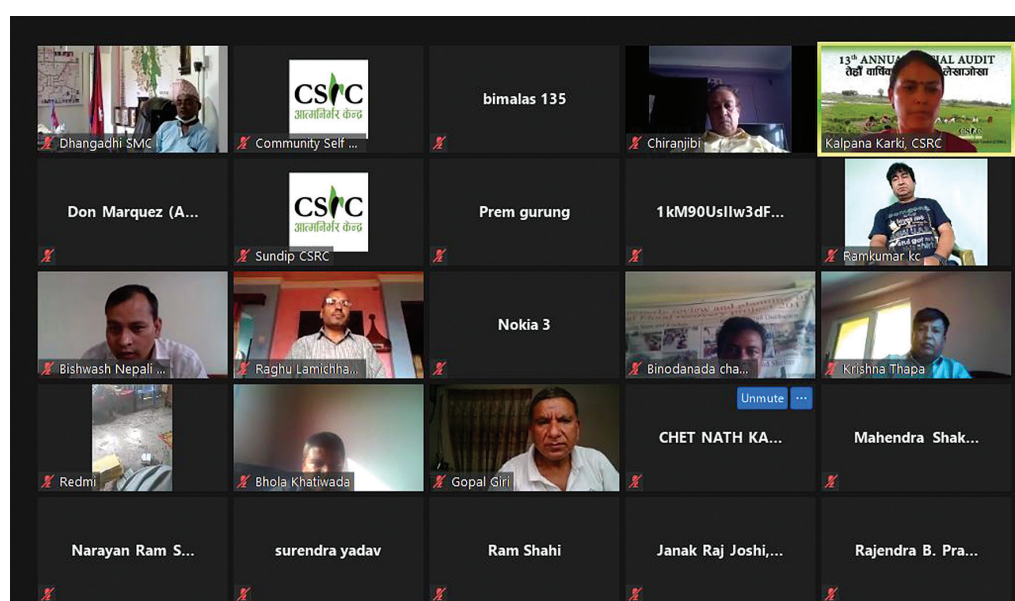
Based on the strategy CSRC has prepared a 5-year action plan.

This plan will be shared with strategic partners to continue the partnership and collaboration aligning the new strategy.

Transparent Action & Good Governance

The principles of good governance - accountability, transparency, responsibility, disclosure practices - are crucial for the credibility for NGOs in the dynamic socio-political environment to maintain an effective internal control system. It is also considered as the social responsibility of every NGO to be transparent and to strengthen the governance system. CSRC has developed different mechanisms to follow good governance practices, to strengthen its own internal structure, to avoid any crisis arising out of poor governance and to establish the public image and organizational credibility.

13th Social Audit



CSRC conducts internal, external audits once a year since 2008. In the social audit events, the financial team shares all the income and expenditure among the stakeholders, so that all the participants, beneficiaries and stakeholders clearly know the financial status of the organization. As a continuation, CSRC organized its 13th Annual Social audit virtually on 2 October, 2020 via zoom. The annual financial transaction and progress of CSRC was presented among stakeholders, land rights activists, representatives of partner organizations. CSRC utilized the budget of Rs. 7,59,90,301.69 for the fiscal year of 2076/77 B.S in the Land Rights and Reconstruction Campaign. According to Mr. Nawaraj Thapaliya, the chartered accountant of Thapaliya & Associates “CSRC conducts external audits on an annual basis. As far as I am concerned CSRC has been focusing on the promotion of transparency and accountability. This social audit is also one the examples of transparency of social audit.”

In the programme, vice-chairperson of SWC Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada expressed his gratitude towards CSRC for publicizing its financial expenses and results achieved. He also urged all civil society organizations to focus on social entrepreneurship models for their self-sustainability.

Similarly, front-line leaders Ambar Chaudhari of Dang, Pabitradevi Sada of Dhanusha and Asmita Thapa of Rasuwa shared their experiences on acquiring land rights. Likewise, pivotal suggestions were provided from other participants to improve the priorities and upcoming strategy of CSRC.

“SWC has now focused for the sustainability of Nepali NGOs and has proposed to focus in the social entrepreneurship. If the NGOs are self-reliant and independent, they do not need to depend on the foreign investment. Through this forum I also request all NGOs to be transparent and maintain good governance in every level of organization. The social audit can be one of the means of the transparency and accountability. All NGOs need to organize social audit among the stakeholders.”

Dr. Padhma Prasad Khatiwada, Vice-Chairperson, SWC

General Assembly of CSRC



CSRC holds its general assembly every year. Parliamentarians, members of the National Assembly, organization's general members, staffs, and partner organization representatives are among the participants. This year, CSRC organized its general assembly on 26 October 2020 at Bhumighar. CSRC General Secretary Mr. Hari Prasad Pudasaini presented the annual progress report and Reflections of 2020 among the participants of the assembly. Treasurer Ms. Saraswati Katawal presented financial report for the fiscal year 2019/2020. The Assembly approved both reports and upcoming plan as per the Strategic Plan (2020-2025). The Assembly granted permission to the Executive Board to take necessary decisions regarding the implementation of the strategic plan. Because of Covid 19 many stakeholders such as the Vice-chair of National Assembly, previous board members, representatives of partner organizations were attended through zoom link whereas the general members, executive committee members and staff were present in meeting hall of CSRC.

Annual Review Meeting of CSRC



The annual review and reflection meeting of CSRC is a part of the regular programme monitoring and evaluation process. CSRC reviews its overall programme at least once a year with the participation of land activists, its staff and board members. Despite the COVID pandemic the annual review meeting of CSRC was organized from 25-26 December 2020 at Nagarkot, Kavrepalanchok with the participation of CSRC staff, and board members. Due to the effect of COVID pandemic CSRC could not ensure the participation of frontline leaders, members of Land Rights Forums and community people this year.

The two days' meeting was helpful to review all the initiatives conducted by CSRC during 2020. In the first day of the meeting, both programme and finance team shared their progresses, learnings, challenges, and strategies followed to overcome the challenges. The participants critically commented on each presentation made by the respective members. In the second day, a detailed plan for next year i.e., 2021 was formulated and approved by CSRC staff, and board members. The representative of each programme also explored the possibility of collaboration for other organizations.

Chairperson of Executive Committee of CSRC Mr. Gopal Thapa Magar expressed that the review meeting is significant to contribute for promotion and protection of the rights of thousands of landless, small holders and tenants with whom we have been working for long. He said, "CSRC believes in transparent and healthy discussion and, therefore, the positive comments, learnings and progress shared in this meeting are our contributors which guide us in our future endeavors."

Similarly, the former Executive Director of CSRC Mr. Jagat Deuja also encouraged all participants to seek innovation and expand the learning sharing culture among team members. He said, "Innovation is key to progress. Discussion and reflection on innovation is required. Organizational values need to be internalized by all the staff and it must connect with our personal life."

Research on 'Identification of Harawa-Charawa Community in three Local Governments of Dhanusha District'



CSRC applies rights-based approach in its all programs and campaigns and its work with the Harawa-Charawa community is not an exception. Harawa-Charawa is a form of bonded labour that still exists in Mid and Easter terai. Although the government officially abolished Kamaiya Pratha (a form of labor system including Harawa-Charawzwa) in 2000, progress in its actualization is negligible.

This year, CSRC carried out a participatory field-based research for Identification of Harawa-Charawa Communities in Shahidnagar Municipality, Ganeshman Charnath Municipality and Dhanauji Rural Municipality of Dhanusha district and published a research report. The research was conducted in coordination with the local governments, the freedom fund, Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum, and local partner organizations.

According to the study, out of the total 19,425 households from all three study municipalities, 3,636 (18%) households belong to former Harawa-Charawa and 951 families still working as Harawa-Charawa. Among the 951 practicing Harawa-Charawa, 185 (5%) households continue to live in Laguwai (Owner's land). 1432 (39.3%) households reported that food production from their own farm do not suffice their year round food needs. Research findings also indicated that the previous efforts of the government to rehabilitate Harawa-Charawa have been inadequate and ineffective as the identification was not done properly. Thus, this research is the first step initiated by CSRC and local governments to recognize Harawa-Charawa communities for the further rehabilitation process. Based on the evidences generated by the study, local governments are incorporating specific policies and programs in their periodic plans that prioritize the timely rehabilitation of these communities. It is one of the exemplary works of CSRC to generate evidences to influence policy changes at local level.

Value Chain Scoping Study of Organic and Non-Organic Vegetables in Gauradaha Municipality, Jhapa and Gadhwara Rural Municipality, Dang



CSRC conducted a value chain scoping study in Gauradaha Municipality and Gadhwara Rural Municipality of Jhapa and Dang districts to explore key areas for linking small-scale producers, landless and marginalized communities with market. The overarching objective of this study was to assess the opportunities and constraints in the existing value chain, identify the market-based solutions and to prioritize areas of short-term and long term intervention. The study revealed that normal (non-organic) vegetable farming involves many producers in comparison to organic farming and other actors contributing to the local and provincial economy of the area. Organic production, due to its limited production, testing and certification; is quite slow in growth.

The study identified five major actors (Producers, Middle-men/Agents, Retailers, Local traders and Consumers) responsible for linking the farm production to the plates of consumers. The market analysis and observations confirmed that the longer the marketing chain, and higher the number of actors involved; the price the producers get are reduced but the consumers had to pay more. In this context, there is an average price difference of 120% between the price producers get, and the price consumers pay for the same product.

The Agriculture Value Chain is fulfilling the demand of the country through a high number of imports, which does not benefit the national economy. It is unrefined compared to the international practice of value chain systems. Specific price fixing mechanisms for green organic and non-organic vegetables, concept of minimum support prices, agri-transportation and local collection center should be planned and implemented by all the three tiers of government immediately. These immediate strategic actions need to reform the current value chain system in favor of the local producers that will benefit the nation in the long-run.

6

KEY LEARNINGS

The efforts of progressive land reform initiatives through local, provincial, and federal level yielded better results for rapid implementation of land related laws.

The LIRC has legislated several its working procedures and conducted MoU with the local governments to resolve all pertinent issues of landless and informal settlers. Now all three tiers of governments engage to resolve the issues of landless and informal settlers in local level.

Focussed Initiatives can be scaled-up in partnership with the Government and Community

Based on the CSRC's experience working with some of the local levels such as Kanakai Municipality, Belaka Municipality and Dangisharan Rural Municipalities, LIRC adopted the context mapping exercise in its work across the nation to resolve the issues of landless and informal settlers. LIRC also requested CSRC for objective partnership for expert contribution.

Adoption of the new technology helps to adapt to the changed to Continue the advocacy and Campaign Engagement

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic CSRC continued its engagement with national government, international networks, CSOs and community people to make land and agrarian movement vibrant and policy advocacy from local, national, regional and global level by creating virtual platforms using different technologies such as zoom, skype and other social media.

Joint Collaboration with Government enabled to incorporate progressive provision in the newly formulated laws and facilitated for their implementation

The continuous campaign of CSRC contributed to institutionalize land tenure security for both landless and informal settlers through the 8th amendment to the Land Act 1964 and 18th Amendment to the Land Regulations 1964. LIRC is formed and currently working to materialize these policy provisions.

Way Forward

This year, CSRC has formulated new strategy (2020-2025). Based on the strategy CSRC has identified five strategic priorities which will guide upcoming initiatives for next year.

CSRC will continue to support the land poor communities to expand and strengthen peoples' agencies through awareness raising activities such as policy discussion, orientation, and leadership development training for frontline leaders.

The Land Ac, 1964 (8th Amendment) and Land Regulations, 1964 (18th amendment) have provided some opportunities to distribute land to the landless and informal settlers at local level. For this, some local governments will be supported to identify the the true beneficiaries through participatory context mapping

Some progressive laws have been legislated by the government of Nepal for land reform in Nepal. The law formulation processes, roles of CSOs and their implication to the landless, informal settlers and tenants are very much important to share among the national and international experts. Thus, some National and International Policy Dialogue will be organized in Nepal

Some of the confusion with regards to the policy provisions of the government continue to surface given the neo-liberal policy priorities of the state, CSRC will highlight the objectives, importance, and implication of these policy provisions through multi stakeholder dialogues at local, provincial, and federal level.

Evidence based advocacy is a prerequisite for land rights campaign and policy advocacy. To aid this purpose, CSRC will conduct some critical Action Research related to land and agrarian issues.

In order to implement existing laws and policies locally, every local government needs to categorize land in their area based on its use. CSRC will have meaningful engagement with local governments to support land use planning processes in at least 14 local governments.

Financial Summary

Community Self-Reliance Centre										
Financial performance										
Jan to Dec 2020										
S.N.	Name of Project/Program	Partner	Duration	Working Area/Sites	Total Budget	Utilization Of budget (2020)	Percentage	Status of Programme		
1	Strengthening Economic and Social Rights for Dignified Life of Marginalized Peasants	CARE Nepal	Jan to Dec 2020	Jhapa, Udayapur and Siraha	3,500,000	3,494,767	99.85%	Ongoing		
2	EPIC	IIED	01 Jan 2019-30 June 2021	Dang, Dhanusha & Jhapa	14,686,321	8,626,107	59%	Ongoing		
3	FFPLA	UN-HABITAT	March 2020 to Dec 2020	Jhapa, Udayapur and Siraha	2,093,604	1,930,994	92%	Ongoing		
4	Durable Solutions-II	People in Need (PIN)	15 Feb 2018 to 30 Jan 2021	Earthquake affected 31 Districts	86,276,470	84,878,311	98%	Ongoing		
5	Change the Game Academy	Wilde Ganzen	Nov 2018- Sept 2020	Capacity Building	1,875,175	1,811,372	97%	Accomplished		
6	Protecting land rights, Enhancing Livelihood of rural poor's	FDF	1 Aug 2019- 31 Dec 2020	Sindhupalchok	6,008,250	5,983,974	99.60%	Accomplished		
7	Community Land Mapping Initiative	ILC	Sept 2019- March 2021	Dang	2,750,000	2,437,043	89%	Ongoing		
8	Land Governance Working Group (LGWG/NES)	ILC	Dec 2019 to 31 May 2021	Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Kapilbastu, Nawalparasi, Nawalpur, Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur & Surkhet	21,996,365	9,416,406	43%	Ongoing		
9	CBI 9/10 Phase 2	ILC	15 March 2020 to 30 Nov 2021	Policy Level	891,250	601,584	68%	Ongoing		
10	Pratibaddha	PIN	1 Nov 2020 to 30 June 2021	Dolakha & Sindhupalchok	2,749,255	233,593	9%	Ongoing		
11	Land Use Planning Project	CARE	15 November 2020 to 15 June 2021	Jugal RM and Pachpokhari RM	25,471,758	359,670	1%	Ongoing		
Total					168,298,448	119,773,821	71%			

2020



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