

REFLECTIONS 2022

LAND AND
AGRARIAN
RIGHTS
Campaign
IN NEPAL



CSIC
आत्मनिर्भर केन्द्र

Community Self-reliance Centre

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Reflections 2022

**Community Self-reliance
Centre (CSRC)**

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Acknowledgement

Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC) has been working tirelessly for almost three decades to promote land rights of farmers and tillers. During this period, CSRC has organized rights deprived communities and raised awareness among them about their land and resource rights. CSRC also advocates alongside landless and tillers for progressive land policy and generates evidence through action research on land and agrarian issues.

CSRC believes that social inclusion and participatory democracy must be strengthened from grassroot to ensure meaningful and effective participation of the community people in land governance related decision-making processes. To promote this, CSRC has been conducting participatory context analysis regularly through all its initiatives involving community people. CSRC strongly believes this approach also becomes an important learning and capacity building experience for land rights deprived men, women and communities.

This report highlights the major outcomes and lessons learned from CSRC's land and agrarian rights campaign in 2022, in accordance with the organization's strategy for 2020-2025. The reported outcomes reported are collaborative efforts of various actors who have been part of the wider land rights campaign.

CSRC has closely worked with the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives, and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA), various local government and other government agencies to facilitate the policy-making and proper implementation. We extend our sincere gratitude to local government, all government agencies, from the federal to the local level, including MoLMCPA, for their support and contributions.

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Gopal Thapa Magar
Chairperson

Jagat Deuja
Executive Director

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Strengthening and Continuing Land and Agrarian Movement



Land access and ownership has been critical for decent housing and livelihoods in both rural and urban settings in an agrarian economy like Nepal. It is also linked to identity, power relation, dignified life and social justice of people. 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.

Securing Tenure Rights of Landless Families

257 landless and informal settlers received land ownership certificates of 63.05-hectare area of land in Kanakai, Dhangadhimai and Gurvakot Municipalities and Chaukune Rural Municipality from National Land Commission (NLC) this year. In this process, CSRC supported to these local government for the identification, verification and recording (IVR) process through orientation, proper planning, technical support etc.

Both local governments and NLC played crucial role to led the entire process and concluding it in afore mentioned local levels by awarding the land ownership certificates successfully. Hon. Minister of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA) Shashi Shrestha, herself, distributed land ownership certificates in Dhangadhimai Rural Municipality of Siraha and thanked all supporters and municipality for making this process successful.

Documenting Landless and Informal Settlers

CSRC continued facilitating 15 local governments for ensuring tenure security of landless and informal settlers and proper management of land and natural resources. The local governments have been provided technical support on the IVR process; formation of ward-level facilitation committees,

training to enumerators, and data entry personnel and mobilization of them to identify, verify, and recording process of Landless Dalits and Informal Settlers.

31 enumerators trained and mobilized for the data collection of landless Dalits, squatters, and informal settlers. The training was facilitated and conducted in the presence of NLC district representatives of respective districts. Similarly, 13 data entry personnel have been oriented/trained on the data entry system of NLC (NALCIS system).

Before proceeding the IVR processes at local level it was very important to acquaint the local representatives on the importance and procedures of IVR to run it smoothly eliminating any legal and policy hinderances. To do so, CSRC successfully concluded 122 orientations to local representatives and 109 community consultations.

The orientation instrumental to motivate local governments for institutional set up such as establishing land unit in 15 local governments, managing resources for day-to-day operation and enhancing capacity of human resources for software installation and land mapping.

In 2022, 13 local governments completed validating data on the recommendation of facilitation committees. In addition to this, the survey of 15071.9-hectare area of land has been completed.

Commitments of Local Level Candidates for Land and Agrarian Reform

The candidates of local election contesting from different political parties in Kailali, Nawalparasi, Bank, Dang, Surkhet, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Sunsari, and Udayapur districts committed to address the pertinent issues of land and agrarian reform at local level by signing a commitment paper prepared by District Land Rights Forums (DLRFs) in coordination with CSRC before the local election held on 13th May 2022. The candidates signed the commitment promised to resolve the issues with high priority if they get elected.

Commitment points signed by the local level candidates for land and agrarian reform are;

1. Prioritize to work for ensuring the land rights of landless Dalits, landless squatters, and informal settlers in accordance with the land act, rules, and procedures. In this regard, the local government will also continue past good initiatives at the local level.
2. Formulate the facilitation committee at local level (including ward office) and ensure at least one representative from land rights forum on the recommendation of VLRFB.
3. Form Land Use Council in accordance with the Land Use Act and coordinate with development partners including NGOs to expedite the formulation of land use planning process.
4. Prevent the displacement of citizens living in unregistered land. If there are families living in vulnerable area, along the right-of-the-way, or within protected area, they will be transferred to safe area with possible alternatives.
5. Implement housing and livelihood programs for the destitute, single-women, and marginalized landless families. The development project will

not violate the rights of people's dignity and freedom. Necessary arrangements will be made to provide compensation identifying the poor and vulnerable households in local level.

6. In order to increase the land ownership of women farmers, priority will be given to establish enterprises of the families registered land in women's names. In addition, the local government will promote Joint Land Ownership (JLO) initiatives by providing incentives to those families who obtained JLO certificates
7. Formulate and implement local land and agriculture laws based on the constitutional rights of local government

As per the commitments with people we are in the process of land distribution to landless Dalit, landless squatters and informal settlers in our municipality. We have sent all documents to NLC to proceed land distribution to the eligible beneficiaries. We have simultaneously formulated land use plan at our municipality. To implement the land use plan a land use plan implementation committee has been formed as per the mandate of existing laws. We have tried to implement all the commitments that we expressed among people before our election.

- Rajendra Prasad Pokharel, Mayor, Kanakai Municipality, Jhapa

Strengthening Capacity of LRFs for Autonomy and Independence

CSRC has been organizing the scattered landless and informal settlers for land and agrarian rights movement through the formation and strengthening of Land

Musahar Community Hopes for Receiving Land Entitlements

The Musahar community in ward-4 Tulasi chowk, Saptakoshi of Saptari, has long been entrapped in a vicious cycle of landlessness, poverty, and unsafe shelter. For last 35 years, these 22 households of 108 individuals have been forced to live along the Chandranahar canal, with no safer alternatives as other unused governmental lands were occupied by outsiders in the ward leaving the Musahar community with nowhere to go.



During the monsoon season, the canal poses a significant threat affecting their shelters and daily livelihood. Leader Luchai Sada, aged 55, explains, "During the monsoon, we can't even sleep properly at night. We have to stay awake the whole night carrying our children. Even, the staffs of Chandranahar come regularly and exert pressure for forceful eviction from this area."

Despite the harsh difficulties, the community has not given up hope. They have filled out the forms as landless Dalits. With the support of CSRC, PIN and NLC and Saptakoshi Rural Municipality they have been informed about the rules and regulations related to land, governmental services and facilities, and social security programs. "We understood that the government had entitled us the land and social security allowances through constitutions and different acts, policies, and rules" said Sada, "We have filled out the forms and provided the required documents to the enumerators. We are more positive and hopeful this time for having a safe land from the government."

Through their persistence and determination, they have now received the Nissa and are highly likely to receive land and a land ownership certificate. The Musahar community is heading towards a brighter future with land entitlements and a safe place to call home.

Rights Forum (LRFs) at different level. A total of 23 Village Land Rights Forums (VLRFs) were formed in 2022 organizing altogether 543 landless, land-poor and small land holder farmers which include 319 females. The members of the LRFs have been capacitated through different capacity development initiatives. CSRC organized three trainings about people organization and social movement for the leaders of DLRFs in Rasuwa, Nawalparasi and Dang with an aim of strengthening the capacity of LRF members to run land rights movement independently. These trainings focused on the autonomy and independence of DLRFs, self-reliant land rights campaign and best practices of land and agrarian rights movement in national and international level. Through these trainings, the participants were acquainted on the relationship between social movement and social transformation, modalities of movement to acquire expected goals, roles of DLRFs for transformative land and agrarian movement and opportunities to reach at the destination of land and agrarian movement. A total of 97 frontline leaders including 45 females from 17 districts benefited from the trainings. Similarly, CSRC supported 4 DLRFs to conclude their district level conferences as a part of governance and accountability. The conference has elected new leaders for the promotion of land and agrarian rights campaign.

"I have participated in so many trainings, discussions and workshops during the course of my life. But this training has encouraged me to involve actively in land and agrarian rights movement for upcoming days. The national and international experiences shared by the facilitators conveyed positive message that change is possible if we give continuity to our movement to achieve the anticipated goals."

- Manrupa Kumal, Chairperson of DLRF, Nawalpur

Commemorating Land Activists -Demanding to Declare Bhumi Diwas

On the occasion of the commemoration day of trio farmer leaders Bhim Datta Pant, Tulsi Lal Amatya and Baldev Ram, land activists, farmers groups and intellectual people offered tributes by organizing a discussion program on 2 August 2022 in Kathmandu. The speakers and participants of the ceremony remembered them as the pillars of social who fought for the transformation of Nepali society from different parts of Nepal.

Jagat Deuja, Executive Director of CSRC recalled the contribution of these brave leaders to the land and agrarian movement and reminded that land activists including human rights defenders can learn various lessons from them.

Dr. Jagat Basnet, founding member of CSRC presented a paper entitled, **'The Current Scenario and Future Direction of Land and Agrarian Rights Movement'** during the ceremony. He pointed out the need for a unified and strong land and agrarian movement to secure the rights of peasants, smallholders and marginalized farmers in Nepal. His paper concluded that the commercialization of agriculture, centralization of land ownership to a limited number of people and de-peasantization are the main obstacles to safeguard the achievements of land and agrarian rights movement.

Political analyst and a member of the Constituent Assembly, Shyam Shrestha said *"The agenda for land reform should be initiated from below ensuring the tenure security of Haliya, Harawa Charawa, Kamlahari, and so-called freed Kamaiya because these communities are the most marginalized*



in the society and has been trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty," he said.

Commenting on the paper Bimal Kumar Phuyani emphasized on land and agrarian rights campaign under the leadership of marginalized, peasants and smallholder farmers. He further added that our model for land reform should be driven by socialist perspective, which is also one of the mandates of current constitution.

Bimala Tamang, Chairperson of Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj felt it necessary to have an

impactful land movement to awaken the government and draw its attention to problem of urban landless people.

While closing the program, Saraswati Subba, Chairperson of the National Land Rights Forum, Nepal, reiterated the significant contribution and direction of these leaders for land and agrarian reform and demanded that the government of Nepal should celebrate 2nd of August as *"Bhumi Diwas"* (Land Day) every year as a tribute to these land rights activists.

Contributing to Knowledge Production



Landless and smallholder peasant communities including ex-bonded laborers – Haliya, Kamiya, Kamlari and Harawa, Charawa, lack easy access to adequate information about their land rights. Despite the Nepal's federalism is in its inchoate, public policies, and plans continue to coming from the top. Policy makers are not adequately aware about the real need of the ground while most of the community people don't know what is in the policy documents. There is a huge gap between state policies and peoples' need. Therefore, knowledge production for CSRC has been one of the key priorities to better inform our own advocacy work and governments policy decisions pertinent to the land tenure security, land use, land governance and sustainable agriculture. CSRC team members various methods to produce knowledge that range from community consultations to high-level policy dialogues, publication of action research reports, policy reviews and briefs. In 2022, CSRC conducted number of important policy dialogues, published significant reports and disseminated to wider audience.

Dissemination of 'Violation in the Name of Conservation' Report

The Amnesty International (AI) Nepal and CSRC jointly conducted a stakeholder consultation workshop to discuss the findings and recommendations of the study "Violation in the Name of Conservation" in Bardiya district and attract the attention of the government authorities including the Chief District Officer, Chief Warden, and other senior officials related to conservation as well as the district level land and environmental rights activists, journalists, and community representatives about taking the needful actions to improve the situation of human rights of the communities residing in and around buffer zone areas.

Nirajan Thapaliya, Executive Director of AI Nepal presented the key recommendations that emerged from this action research for the federal government, the Ministry of Forest and Environment, the Department of National Parks and National Park Offices; the National Human Rights Commission, and the land-related commissions. The overarching focus of the recommendation was on amending the existing legal frameworks that have been narrowing the space for the community in the buffer zone and effectively implement the people-centered legal provisions respecting the fundamental human rights – right to food, right to safer housing and ultimately the right to life itself.



In his remarks and commitment, the CDO of Bardiya district appreciated the effort of the CSRC and AI in bringing the issues of community people to the light. The pro-human rights orientation of the study helped him also to discern some gaps between the conservation efforts and the communities' needs. To address the communities needs related to land tenure security, significant changes are needed in existing policy instruments. Without changing the existing laws and policies, it is meaningless to shout for services and facilities on the ground. He committed that he will direct and guide his team to be more open and responsive to the needs of the communities while enforcing the conversation administration.

Book on Localization of Land Governance

The Constitution of Nepal and Local Government Operation Act 2017 which have delegated authorities to the local governments for administering land governance

independently. Despite these legal provisions the local governments are yet to realize the localization of land governance system. They have also raised their serious concern on the breach of their constitutional rights for the localization of land governance from federal to local level. In this situation, CSRC realized that it is necessary to have a comprehensive framework with effective modalities of the localization of land governance from the federal to local level as a reference document for effective implementation of legal provisions centered on the localization of land governance and administration.

CSRC together with MoLMCPA, GLTN and UNHABITAT published the book containing effective modalities and approaches of localization of land governance and make available to local government. This book has become an important resource material for policy and programme formulation at local level.

Generating Policy Discussion and Good Governance

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CSRC directs its efforts to create constructive pressure on government and political parties to formulate people-centered land laws, and to ensure that such policies and laws are implemented in a just and fairer ways for landless and land-poor farmers.

Endorsement of Land Use Regulation and Its Implication

The Land Use Regulation is aimed for smooth facilitation to implement Land Use Act 2019. Recently approved Land Use Regulation 2022 by the government, also incorporated the suggestions provided by CSRC, related to land use categorization (clause 5), land use planning (clause 9), and land fragmentation control (clause 12) at local level. Provisions on controlling land fragmentation could significantly contribute in not only protecting available agricultural land but also enhance land productivity, agricultural production, and farm income

as well as sustainable use of the land resource if implemented effectively.

In addition to that digitization of the land records containing the key details seems to be one of its priority areas towards advancing the traditional land administration and recordation in Nepal. Local levels can request for updated records when required. Under Clause 13 on Land pooling, there is a provision for promotion of collective and cooperative farming. This may entail longer-term implications for protecting resource base while making the maximum utilization of the land resource for livelihood improvement at local/community level. Local levels are expected to play pivotal role in facilitating land pooling at local level.

Clause 14 of the Regulation clearly mentions that infrastructure development or physical structure construction should adhere the provisions of the land use plan.

Formalizing NLC as Multi Stakeholder Platform

The National Land Coalition (NLC) Nepal is now formalized as a multi-stakeholder platform on land based on the readiness of the relevant organizations to join the platform and contribute to its mission of 'establishing rights of women, men and communities who depend on and obtain from the land'. The NLC Nepal is now fully functional as an inclusive and a common platform with its own strategy which guide its efforts and intervention for common plan and collective work to support social transformation process specially through promoting and protecting the land and resource rights of communities.

Facilitating for the Formulation of Land Use Plan at Local Level

The Land Use Act 2019 requires the local governments to formulate land use plan categorizing the total area of land into 10 different types for the best utilization of

land and natural resources available in local level. The MoLMCPA also urged all local governments to categorize at least agriculture land to prevent haphazard use of land for commercial purposes as well as to protect the agriculture land for sustainable development. Although the local governments are mandated to formulate land use plan, they have limited capacity for this and they have inadequate framework for the formulation of land use plan. In this situation, CSRC reached to the 15 local governments, acquainted the newly elected representatives, government officials, and suggested possible frameworks of land use plan. A total of 594 local representatives, government officials and other local stakeholders were acquainted on policy procedures, suggested frameworks of land use plan. As a result, five local governments- Babai, Dangisharan and Chaukune Rural Municipalities, Gurvakot and Bardibas Municipalities have prepared detailed frameworks of land use plan taking reference of model framework developed by CSRC in collaboration with MoLMCPA.

Celebrating World Food Day

To celebrate the 42nd World Food Day, the dialogue on "Land and Food Rights of Landless and Small Farmers" was organized in New Baneshwar on 19th October 2022 by CSRC in coordination with the member organization of "The Alliance of Agriculture for Food." A total of 119 participants participated in this program.

The dialogue brought real farmers to share their lived experiences to show how the land rights is linked to ensure the food security for the small agricultural families. Small farmers Bhubaneshor Lamichhane from Rasuwa and Krishna Ghimire from Lalitpur shared their problems and issues. According to them the issue of Birta holder is a deeply rooted problem in their area and has not been recognized in any legal and political documents of the government. They asked to the local government to pay attention to resolve this problem and ensure tenure security as well.



In the second session, Jagat Deuja, Executive Director of CSRC during his presentation on “Food Sovereignty and the Agricultural Development in Nepal” highlighted that Landless and small farmers are further marginalized due to climate change and natural calamities coupled with the increasing corporatization. He also shared the causes of food insufficiency for landless and small farmers, the status of policy implementation, good practices, major challenges and upcoming actions and strategies related to the land and food rights of landless and small farmers along with the data.

Birta Abolition Act 2016 (1993) abolished the Birta system, but farmers in Rasuwa and Nuwakot could not register their land due to corruption and lack of strong policy support mechanism from the government.

Drawing Attention of the Government on Birta Abolition

On August 25th, 2022, a meeting was held to discuss the issues and solutions for Birta land in Nepal. The meeting was attended by the Minister of MoLMCPA, Shashi Shrestha, secretary Ram Prasad Thapaliya, members of DLRFs from Rasuwa and Nuwakot. At the beginning of the discussion, the Executive Director of CSRC, Jagat Deuja, pointed out that the problem of Birta land in Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading and Lalitpur has not been solved for a long time. He also mentioned that 718 households in Rasuwa have been cultivating 300 hectares of land, while 1558 households have been cultivating 600 hectares of land in Nuwakot. He said that the Birta Abolition Act 2016 (1993) abolished the Birta system, but farmers in Rasuwa and Nuwakot could not register their land due to corruption and lack of strong policy support mechanism from the government. He urged for immediate distribution of remaining land to the farmers.

Bhawani Prasad Neupane, a DLRF leader, expressed concern about the existence of Birta land in a democratic country, and said that farmers are unable to mortgage, sell, or pay taxes to the state. The President of NLRf, Saraswati Subba, also said that the Birta holders hope to solve these problems the earliest the possible.

At the end of the discussion, the Minister of MoLMCPA, Shashi Shrestha, committed to finding solutions for all types of land-related problems and promised to take necessary action for the registration of Birta land as soon as possible.

Similarly, MoLMCPA has initiated the discussion on Guthi Bill which remained pending for more than two years. CSRC supported MoLMCPA by inviting the Guthi affected people for a consultation meeting with Guthi settlers to take recommendations on 20 March 2022.

After the discussion the MoLMCPA has formed seven members committee for the legislation of Guthi Bill under coordination

of Padhmanidhi Soti, joint secretary of MoLMCPA. The team is expected to draft a bill and submit to the minister for review and approval as soon as possible. the committee is mandated to consult with all concerned stakeholders to take recommendations before finalizing the draft.

Expressing Solidarity against Urban Landless against Eviction

The CSRC brought together the stakeholders in Kathmandu to discuss the incident of forceful eviction of landless squatters of Thapathali area of Kathmandu metropolis in together with Mahila Ekata Samaj and UN-habitat on 12 December 2022 at Babarmahal. The participants of the interaction stressed for the permanent solutions of the landless squatters without repressive measures.

On behalf of affected community Mrs. Januka Pokherel shared her harsh experiences of sustaining her family as informal settler. She also shared the humiliation from the state violating her right to self-respect and dignity. She told that she along with her colleagues in the settlement are commitment to follow the legal provisions but could not accept the inhuman activity of forcefully evicting the landless squatters without taking any possible alternatives. The representatives of local governments responded here as saying the real landless squatters will be provided possible alternatives for their settlement but they need to relocate from the bank of Bagmati river.

All stakeholders including local government made commitments for the proper management of landless and informal settlers of urban areas providing the best alternatives through the formulation of necessary action plan.

Promoting Sustainable Farming, Collaborative Agriculture and Systems for Secure Livelihood

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While fighting to secure land rights, CSRC promotes the sustainable usage of land supporting good farming practices amongst small farmers and landless. That contributes to holistic models of land and agriculture development to uplift the lives and improve status of marginalized and small farmer families. CSRC provides training opportunities to members and leaders of the people's organizations to hone their entrepreneurial and leadership skills to develop and implement scalable models and partnerships.

Strengthening Community-Led Climate Resilience Land-Agriculture Initiative

Climate change adversely impacts land, forest, and water resources thereby affecting the agricultural sector. Agricultural families especially small holders and landless communities in Nepal are most vulnerable to climate change-induced disasters as they lack adequate institutional and policy support and timely information on climate forecast. In addition to that the effects of the climate change are disproportionately distributed

among them - landless and smallholders, especially, women, and the impaired are seen having increased toll.

Considering the impact of climate change and its vulnerabilities in its working area, CSRC conducted a Community Led and Climate Resilience Land-Agriculture Practices for Sustainable Livelihood of Rural Communities with the support of the World Jewish Relief in two different regions: Tarai and Mountain (Laxminiya, Purano Kantibazar, Nayabasti of Gaushala Municipality-12 of Mahottari in Tarai region and Dale, Bolgaun, and Salme of Panchpokhari Thangpal RM-2 of Sindhupalchowk in the mountain.)

This campaign, indeed, was meaningful for empowering community people for their effective participation in land management and agriculture related decision making at local level, acquainting them to climate resilient agriculture tools and techniques, strengthening people's organizations for policy advocacy and implementation of progressive policies for the better livelihood of landless and informal settlers.

In addition to this, CSRC has been supporting the landless, peasants, and vulnerable communities for sustainable agriculture. It provided some organic seeds for small holder farmers of Laxminiya community and supported landless communities of Purano Kanti Bazaar for fish farming in the community pond.

In the same way, the two days of gender equality and women's leadership development training conducted at Purano Kantibazar of Gaushala Municipality also become instrumental to raise awareness for meaningful participation of women in political/decision making roles related to climate resilience and sustainable agricultural practices.

After participating in the training, Sushila Devi Mahato in Gaushala municipality has started using indigenous techniques such as mulching procedure in agriculture

Climate Resilience Agriculture Practices Improves Livelihood



I have never been to school for formal education. I grew up in the small peasant family and know how to cultivate the farm. With small land, it was hard to survive employing food crops only. After I attended the training on climate resilience agriculture practices, I decided to plant vegetables in the small portion of land for livelihood improvement based on the.

I learned skills such as preparing tunnels, seedbeds and covering the soil. Apart from that, I learned to produce biological toxins using the 'Five Elements': garlic, chili, onion, flowers, and cow-urine.

In the beginning, I started with chilly, cauliflower, and beans in 0.54-hectare land. There was irrigation problem in my community due to which the land was not producing vegetables as expected. We raised this issue among CSRC colleagues during our joint meeting. As a result, CSRC aided a well in our area to manage water for our farms. Vegetable farming supports all the needs of my twelve-members family as well as covers children's education. Besides the vegetables, I have started sugarcane farming on 0.61-hectare land and now it become an additional source of our income.

Based on the learning of the training we have covered our land with fresh soil taking from fallow uncultivable land. Now we have a better negotiation skill and have been able to generate Rs. 2,83,000 from the vegetable this year.

- Bishnudev Mahato, Gaushala Municipality - 12, Lakshminia, Mahottari

production. These techniques are effective in moisturizing soil in droughts and controlling bushes. Additionally, she is also using bio-fertilizers to control pests and bugs that made farming efficient.

Promoting Agriculture Cooperatives for Livelihood Upliftment

This year CSRC supported Rs 200,000 (two hundred thousand) to Alanagar Women Agriculture Cooperative of Nepalganj Sub-metropolis- 19 as a mobile fund for livelihood improvement of landless and small holder farmers, the members of the same cooperative. CSRC is supporting six other cooperatives from Kailali, Bardiya and Banke districts. These cooperatives have enhanced their capacities to run the cooperatives independently. Out of six cooperatives four have completed their annual financial audit on time. They are strictly following government's procedures to run the cooperatives. Till date, six cooperatives have received Rs 2,270,000 as mobile fund from CSRC in several times.

The members of the cooperatives have been taking trainings for cooperatives development from government and non-government agencies. They have taken grants from agriculture office for animal husbandries, vegetable farming in three districts. They have also taken grants to conduct skills development trainings, adulthood training and stationery supports.

This year, their membership has been increased to 903 individuals from 433 attracting many other women in the cooperatives. The newly affiliated members of the cooperatives received various training opportunities to develop their capacities on account management, financial audit and vegetable farming.

Rekha Shah, member of Mauraniya Agriculture Cooperative has commenced goat rearing by taking loan from her cooperative. According to her, she has been investing on school education of her children by selling her goats. She said, *"we used to go for wage labor in the past to run our household expenses but now I do not need to go outside as wage laborer. This become possible only after I affiliated with the cooperative which provided me low-interest rate loan for goat rearing."*

Utilizing Fallow Land for Sustainable Livelihood

19 landless families of the Musahar community in Nayabasti of Gaushala municipality-12 are utilizing 0.85 hectare of fallow land. CSRC in collaboration with WJR, provided deep boring for the irrigation (to support their livelihood). The deep boring has addressed the problem of water scarcity in the community. They have planted

Now this sandy and unproductive land has turned into productive one through irrigation channel and organic manure. We have started producing green vegetables in this fallow land. We were surviving by small amount of rice with salt but now we grew vegetables in our farms and have rice with green vegetables first time. CSRC supported us for deep boring and negotiated with our municipality in getting permission to utilize fallow land. Now, we are planning to utilize other fallow land which is adjoining to our premises.

Sima Kumari Musahar Majhi, Gaushala Municipality-12, Nayanbasti



vegetables in that land and have plan to sell the extra produce in the local market to generate income. They are also planning to expand the utilization of fallow land if available in the vicinity. As the community is economically poor and in need of additional support, CSRC has been lobbying with the local government for additional policy and social security support.

Similarly, 27 households of Gujara Municipality-5 Rautahat district associated with Janachetana VLRG has taken 1.2 hectare of area of land on lease and have started maize farming. DLRG, Rautahat facilitated the leased land distribution among the VLRG members for their use.

Securing Durable Settlements of Disaster Affected HHs

Sindhupalchok and Rasuwa districts of Bagmati province are among the disaster-prone areas of Nepal. The devastating earthquake of 2015 severely hit both the districts resulting in the displacement of thousands of households. To ensure safe and durable settlements of the displaced households, CSRC, in partnership with People in Need (PIN) involved in facilitating resettlement processes in Barhabishe Municipality and Bhoteksohi Rural Municipality of Sindhupalchok district and Uttargaya and Naukunda Rural Municipalities of Rasuwa district.

A team of CSRC and PIN not only involved in convincing the family members who are living in vulnerable areas for the relocation of safe

“Due to a lack of necessary documents and financial shortages, I was unable to obtain my citizenship certificate. As I shared this issue during a community interaction organized by CSRC and PIN, the team members of both organizations stepped in to assist me.

They helped me gather the required credentials, accompanied me to government offices, and convinced the authorities to grant me citizenship certificate. On December 19, 2022, I finally received my citizenship certificate. They also helped me, and my three children obtain birth certificates the following day. As a result, my children now receive a nutrition allowance of Rs 800 from the ward office and are able to attend school.

This support has greatly improved our lives. Without the support of CSRC and PIN, none of this would have been possible.”

- Gita Devi Mahato, Katahariya Rural Municipality Ward No. 2, Rautahat

areas but also engaging with the government agencies including National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Authority (NDRRMA) and local governments for smooth and faster resettlement process. A team of geologists was deployed in the disaster affected areas which produced an evidence-based reports from the study detailing if the areas are safer for settlement.

Based on the same report, NDRRM endorsed the name list of 1,224 households of Sindhupalchok district for the resettlement processes. According to the Private House Reconstruction and Relocation Procedure 2021, the approved households are eligible to get government grants to purchase land and construct houses in safe areas. Out of 1,224 households, 728 households signed an agreement with local governments. In addition to this, 659 households received first tranche to build households in safe areas and 14 households purchased 0.071-hectare area of land to build their houses. The District Administration Office of Sindhupalchok district has released Rs 4,200,000 for permanent settlement of landslide affected households whereas Rs 165,60,000 has been released for temporary shelter. In addition to this, 14 households received Rs 4,200,000 for land purchase in safe location.

Ensuring Access of Landless Communities in Social Security Schemes

Being landless means deprived of access to the government facilities because to claim such facility it is necessary to prove that you belong to particular place legally. The unpolite behaviour and harassment from government officials to landless people are common and need to be seriously taken account by all. About 20 per cent people of Katahariya and Saptakoshi Municipality of Rautahat and Saptari district are deprived of getting social security schemes from the government. The same Municipalities CSRC has been facilitating the land entitlements of landless and informal settlers and linking them to the government's social security schemes. Fifty-six landless families had electricity in their own homes, twenty-one individuals obtained citizenship certificates, two individuals obtained disability identity cards, eighteen couple got marriage registration certificates and forty-four children obtained birth registration certificates. With these certificates they are no eligible to claim the government's social security facilities such as cash allowances, scholarships for students and insurance.

As a member organization of different global and regional alliances, networks and collation CSRC has been actively involved in the several campaigns initiated by these networks in global, regional and national level. CSRC expressed its solidarities in these movements through physical or virtual platform. In 2022, CSRC played crucial roles to pay attention the government of Nepal for the implementation of its commitments for emancipation of the bonded laborers through a joint statement with Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FoRUM-ASIA). In addition to this, it actively participated in Global Land Forum (GLF) of International Land Coalition (ILC) and was honored by ILC as one of the top six finalists in developing model for land and agrarian reform.

Joint Statement of Forum Asia and CSRC on land issue: HARAWA-CHARAWA — Ensure Full and Inclusive Implementation of the Kamaiya Labour (Prohibition) Act, 2001

FORUM-ASIA and CSRC through a joint statement welcomed the special message of the Prime Minister of Nepal to fully implement the Kamaya Labour (Prohibition) Act of 2001, which formally declared all forms of bonded labour as illegal, and called on the government agencies to implement inclusive and non-discriminatory social protection programmes to ensure the rehabilitation of the Harawa-Charawa.

The announcement made on 18 July called on relevant ministries to ensure the full implementation of the Kamaiya Labour (Prohibition) Act 2001.

While the Act should apply to all forms of bonded labour, there has been no such initiative or rehabilitation has been implemented for the Harawa-Charawa, a form of agricultural labour system in Madesh Province.

The press statement clearly stated that debt traps, unjust working conditions, discrimination, and years of systematic neglect by the government have delayed much-needed interventions for the Harawa-Charawa. This announcement must be complemented with effective rehabilitation programmes, land ownership on a priority basis, and gender-

sensitive social protection mechanisms at the minimum.

In 2020, FORUM-ASIA and CSRC conducted a fact-finding mission in the Dhanusha district in Madesh Province, and produced a report the following year on the condition of the Harawa-Charawa, which analysed how their human rights are impacted by both poverty and climate change.

The report from FORUM-ASIA and CSRC has been instrumental in informing the visit to Nepal in December 2021 of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Professor Oliver De Schutter. After travelling to several districts, including Dhanusha, Professor De Schutter reported on the persistent issues of caste-based discrimination and unresolved land rights slowing down the rehabilitation of bonded labourers.

Concerned authorities and agencies, including provincial and local authorities, were also called by the Prime Minister to develop and implement special programs to ensure the socio-economic rights of the Harawa-Charawa families.

Assessment Study on Legal and Political Environment of Nepali CSOs

None of the legal frameworks including the Constitution of Nepal provide specific definitions to distinguish the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from Non-Governmental

Selection of IVR for ILC Awards



The IVR model of CSRC was selected as one of the top six finalists of the ILC best practice award in May 2022. ILC has shortlisted three best practices among its members. The IVR and other five good practices were featured in the Fair of Ideas at the Global Land Forum 21-26 May 2022 in Jordan. CSRC in collaboration with MoLMCPA, UN-Habitat/GLTN and local governments have been promoting IVR in 14 local governments for the identification, verification and recording the data of landless and informal settlers.

Organizations (NGOs). In Nepal, the term CSO is interchangeably used with NGOs, CBOs and professional associations. The spaces of these CSOs is shrinking legally and politically as the government and other state apparatus limiting the independence of their operation.

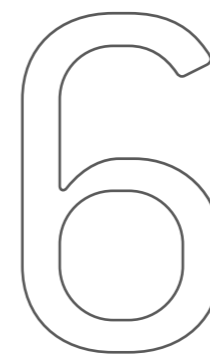
In this context, CSRC in collaboration with NGO Federation of Nepal and Asian NGOs Coalition for Rural Development (ANGOC) conducted an assessment and recommended the government to create conducive working environments for CSOs in Nepal.

The study report vividly expressed that the CSOs and NGOs act as a bridging and lobbying body between international and governmental agencies. Government works actively in coordination and collaboration in the field of physical development but is not supportive for rights-based campaign such as legislation of new act, awareness building, and

community mobilization. The perception of government towards CSO/NGOs is not univocal. Additionally, the report stated that the repressive policy and legal provision of government do not seem facilitative to run the CSO/NGOs without any obstacles.

Before publishing the report, a national validation workshop was organized where the participants of the workshop came into conclusion that the NGO federation should take leadership roles to make conducive working environment for Nepali CSOs. The report has been published in a publication of ANGOC together with the CSO study report of other six countries. This report is instrumental to dig out the issues being faced by Nepali CSOs' and bring them into the global arena.

Organizational Development



CSRC operates on the basis of organizational policies and systems developed through a participatory process that involves all stakeholders concerned. Transparency, accountability, and honesty are non-negotiable, and apply to all equally, including Executive Committee members, management, staff and volunteers. CSRC also provides equal opportunity for all board members, staffs, and activists in national and international training exposures, symposiums, workshops and so on.

CSRC's AGM Approves its Annual Progress and Plan

The CSRC approved its annual progress and financial reports through an Annual General Assembly (AGM) held on 23 September 2022 in Kathmandu. The AGM was attended by its general members, executive board members, and organizational staff. 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 the financial report for the fiscal year 2022/2023. The Assembly approved both reports and the 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.

Promoting Good Governance through Social Audit - 2022

The CSRC audited its annual progress through a social audit on 23 September 2022, at Gairidhara, Kathmandu. The annual financial transaction, progress, upcoming plans and actions for the land and agrarian movement were presented during the event. A total of 120 participants including frontline leaders, mayors, deputy mayors and representatives of governmental agencies and partner organizations, stakeholders and CSRC's staff participated in the social audit.



Participatory Review and Reflections Process (PRRP): Pathway to Self-Reflection

PRRP is a platform of CSRC where all members of CSRC including land activists come together and reflect on the overall performance of respective programmes, initiatives and land rights campaign. As in the past years, CSRC organized PRRP to review its best practices, identify areas of improvement, highlight

major learning, and challenges from 26-27 December 2022 at Bardibas, Mahottari. Total 30 CSRC's members including land rights activists of 15 district attended a two-day PRRP. The participants of the PRRP shared notable outcomes, best practices, learning and challenges related to CSRC's initiatives, DLRFs and local governments. The PRRP identified crucial steps to further strengthen land and agrarian movement through critical review of existing land and agrarian campaign and

strong recommendation emerged from the discussion that CSRC continue its increased support - both financial and technical - for strengthening Land Rights Forums from local to national level and facilitate their effective and impactful engagement for policy advocacy and monitoring the implementation progressive provisions for land tenure security at local level.

Learning

- Participation of Landless and Informal Settlers in decision making bodies yielded better result for the identification, verification and recording of landless and informal settlers at local level. Complete information of landless and informal settlers would be obtained when there is a participation of landless and informal settlers in the facilitation committees.
- Mobilization of experts and technical persons to address the pertinent challenges became crucial so that they can present evidences among the stakeholders to generate effective ideas to address these problems. Mobilization of geologists, civil engineers, geomatics engineers in landslide and flood affected areas became helpful to generate such evidences which led to mitigation of anticipated disasters in local level.
- Mobilization of youths in land and agrarian campaign for IVR process results in reduced hurdles/positive outcomes. The mobilization of social facilitators in certain local governments became supportive in getting required data from each households of landless and informal settlers.
- Linking the issues of landlessness to the global issues such as climate change, disaster risk reduction and livelihood becomes supportive to address the pertinent challenges being faced by landless and informal settlers.
- The issues of landlessness are directly linked to failure of government's social security schemes. For example, if a landless family does not have registered land, they do not have easy access of electricity facility, allowances and other social security schemes. CSRC linked together the land issues with social security and facilitated to obtain necessary credentials to claim social security schemes.

Financial Status of 2022

S.N.	Name of Project/Program	Partner	Duration	Total Budget (RS)	Budget Utilization in 2022	Status of Programme
1	Support to Upscale Fit for Purpose Land Administration Country Strategy Implementation, Policy Support and Capacity Development (FFPLA)	UN-HABITAT	22 Feb 2022 31 December 2022	4,425,000	4,347,592	Accomplished
2	Climate Resilience Initiative (CRI)	WJR	15 February 2022 31 December 2022	5,638,558	5,624,890	Accomplished
3	Land Governance LGWG/ NLC	ILC / IFAD	Nov 2022 to Dec 2022	3,238,500	3,238,500	Accomplished
4	Strengthening Land Governance - Ensuring Land Rights	AAN	Sep 2022 to Dec 2022	1,590,000	1,128,858	Accomplished
5	Durable Solution III	PIN	July 2022 -Dec 2022	10,543,176	9,631,327	Accomplished
6	CBI	ILC/ ANGOC	16 May 2022 to 30 Nov 2022	423,723	423,723	Accomplished
7	TOT & frontline leader learning sharing workshop	IM Swedish	15 sept 2022 - 31 Dec 2022	480,000	472,969	Accomplished
8	Earthquake Affected Landless Haliya Rehabilitation Initiative in Bajhang	WJR	December 2022- March 2023	2,623,000	-	Ongoing
9	FPIC Implementation in the Upper Trishuli 1 Hydroelectric Project	OXFAM Novib	15 Oct 2022 31 March 2023	3,595,000	356,996	Ongoing
10	People Landscape Approach	OXFAM	July 2022- March, 2023	3,698,889	1,513,852	Ongoing
11	Safe Evacuation in Landslide affected hill areas (MFA Ministry of the foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic)	MFA	15 Sept 2022 Feb 2023	20,674,559	3,762,190	Ongoing
12	Together for Disaster Preparedness and Early Action in Landslide Affected Hill Areas of Nepal (PRATIBADHA II)	PIN	1 July 2022- 30 June 2024	41,483,129	11,880,173	Ongoing
Total				98,440,534	42,381,070	





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

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

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

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

2022



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