



Reflections 2023

LAND AND AGRARIAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

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CSIC
आत्मनिर्भर केन्द्र

Reflections 2023

Supporting Organizations

AAN, care Nepal, Oxfam, People in Need, World Jewish Relief, UN-Habitat, Habitat for Humanity, Forum Asia, SEI, ILC, NHSRP, FDF, ANGOC, Asia Nepal, Start Fund Nepal

Disclaimer

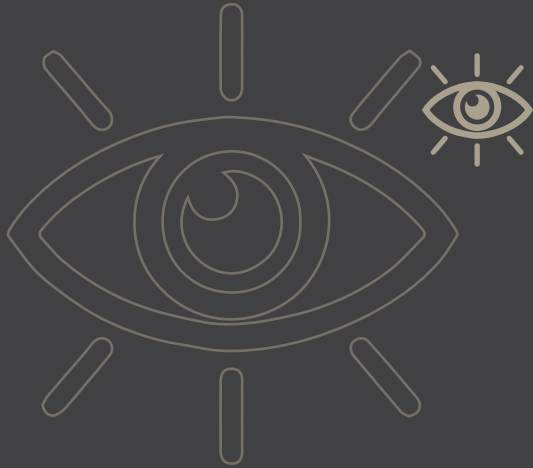
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Photo

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and CSRC

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Our Vision

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



Our Mission

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



Our Core Values

-  Social Justice and Environmental Justice
-  Non- violence
-  Simplicity and Mutual Respect
-  Empathy and Solidarity
-  Self-reliance and Interreliance
-  A Focus on Value-driven Results

CSRC REACH IN 2023

For over three decades, CSRC has been involved in facilitating land rights movement. Our journey in the Land Rights Movement has been closely intertwined with land-poor communities across various regions of the country.



26

Rural/Municipalities

15

Districts

7

Provinces



4,44,813 People



1,01,094 HHs

Strengthening Land & Agrarian Rights Movement

Contributing to Knowledge Production

Generating Policy Discussion

Promoting Sustainable Farming Collaborative, Agriculture System for Secure Livelihood

Taking the movement to the world

1

STRENGTHENING LAND & AGRARIAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT

CSRC is unwaveringly dedicated to protecting the land rights movement for marginalized communities, encompassing landless Dalits, squatters, and informal settlers. Beyond mere support, our primary focus is on actively strengthening people's organizations, such as the National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) and District Land Rights Forums (DLRFs). CSRC coordinates with NLRF and other organizations striving for social justice and land rights. It ensures the empowerment of marginalized communities, making a substantial contribution to the ongoing movement for secure land tenure and the broader struggle for equitable land rights.

1
National Level Conference

7
Provincial Level Conference

42
District Level Conference

6
Training on leadership, self-mobilization,
and social movement

LAND OWNERSHIP



940

Total number of HHs
who have secured land Ownership



251

Total number of households
who have obtained joint land ownership





CSRC successfully facilitated the issuance of 940 land ownership certificates, marking a significant impact on individuals and communities. These certificates play a crucial role in establishing legal ownership of land, providing a foundation for economic empowerment and social stability. Within this initiative, CSRC demonstrated a commitment to gender inclusivity by facilitating the joint land ownership certificates, involving both women and men. This approach not only contributes to securing individual land rights but also fosters a more inclusive and gender-sensitive approach to land ownership.

Identification Verification Recording of Landless and Informal Settlers (IVR)

CSRC facilitated local governments to identify, verify, and record the detailed lists of landless Dalits, landless Squatters, and Informal Settlers. As of December 2023, 16 local governments completed the data collection 96,564 landless Dalit, squatters, and informal settlers. Of them 86,019 data of landless Dalits, landless squatters, and informal settlers have been inputted into the system. A total of 82,841 landless Dalits, landless squatter, and informal settlers have received Nissa (Temporary Land Certificate).

"We have obtained joint land ownership certificates of the land which means we have now equal rights and responsibilities on our land."

Govinda Yogi & Manamaya Yogi,
Kanakai Municipality-08, Jhapa

Progress of 2023



7155
HHs Data
Collection



7533
Data Entry into
System



38138
Measured Land
(Parcel)



4314.16
Measured Land
(Hectare)



940
Land Ownership
Certificate



11428
Temporary
Certificate (Nissa)

2

CONTRIBUTING TO KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

CSRC significantly contributed to advancing knowledge on land related issues. These resources are helpful to land poor people and serve as crucial references for researchers, students, and advocates, offering valuable insights into land tenure and land rights. The regularity and specificity of these publications enrich thematic discourse and empower the readers to address and improve land related challenges.

Publication



“I have used CSRC’s publications as reference materials for my research. I find these publications to be highly informative, with a wealth of content that proves instrumental for academic studies. As a suggestion for further enhancement, considering CSRC’s role as a resource organization in land sector, it would be beneficial for them to incorporate primary data directly into their study reports. This addition would not only infuse a sense of freshness into the reports but also render them more self-reflective, contributing to the overall quality and depth of the research findings.”

Jibnath Sharma, PhD scholar, TU

Diagnostic Report Submitted to the Stakeholders

CSRC together with Habitat for Humanity and Landesa submitted a comprehensive study report to the MoLMCPA, NLC, and other concerned stakeholders with detailed recommendations for providing land certificates to the landless and the informal settlers. The study explored major issues through Focused Group Discussions (FGD), Key Informant Interviews (KII), and Case Studies in 12 local government levels. As per the recommendation of the report, the NLC revised the guideline and the government is working to amend some laws such as Forest Act, 2019 and land regulations to address the issues of landless and informal settlers.

3 GENERATING POLICY DISCUSSION

CSRC strategically engages in substantive policy discussions and advocating for land rights. This approach directly influences the formulation of land-related policies, ensuring fairness and inclusivity.

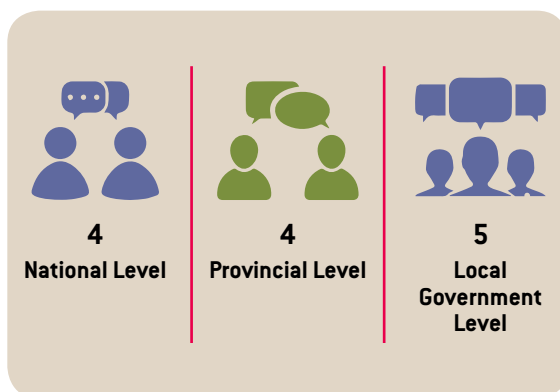
Land Use Plan at Local Level

CSRC facilitated to complete detailed land use planning in four local governments namely Bedkot, Kanakai, Kalika, and Panchpokhari Thangpal, in 2023.

14 local governments are working on the preparation of a baseline paper, and vision paper developing land classification criteria for land use planning.

POLICY DIALOGUE

CSRC organizes dialogues with national, provincial, and local stakeholders to discuss the prevailing issues of landless and informal settlers in Nepal with possible solutions. Such dialogues bring some unique results amending national legislation of Nepal in support of landless and informal settlers.



HIGHLIGHTS

-  Initiatives have been rolled out to address the issues related to the localization of land governance, land mapping, the utilization of government and public lands, land-use planning, and land categorization.
-  A collaborative workshop on the Integrated Land Act has been coordinated, marking a pivotal step in clarifying its focus and initial provisions.
-  Identified the problems created due to the absence of separate Agriculture Act.
-  The MoLMCPA initiated discussions to collect recommendations for the formulation of the integrated land act from relevant stakeholders.



These dialogues influence national land policies and regulations collaborating with different authorities. Localized discussions directly engage communities and local governments, ensuring policies resonate with the needs of vulnerable communities like landless Dalits, squatters, and informal settlers. This multi-

level approach aimed to create policies that promote fair land governance and secure land tenure for all.

The Indigenous Peoples Development Plan Implementation (IPP) Guideline was finalized and approved by the IPP board right after the endorsement of the Advisory Council members at the community level. This guideline was formally handed over to the CEO of Nepal Water and Energy Development Company (WEDC). CSRC played a crucial role in drafting the guideline, collecting feedback, and incorporating feedback from members and the approval process. The guidelines were developed with the participation of the IPP board, community members, local government representatives as well as the administration of the company.

“A complex web of issues contributes to landlessness in Nepal, including associations with disasters, high-interest loans, and elite-centric policies and programs. Despite the prevalence of corporate agriculture globally, the Nepalese government prioritizes the peasant economy, enacting progressive legal provisions for their tenure security. Resolving the issues of landlessness requires consensus among political parties, civil society organizations (CSOs), and people-led organizations.”

Hon. Narayankaji Shrestha, Minister of Deputy and Home Affair.

4 PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FARMING COLLABORATIVE, AGRICULTURE SYSTEM FOR SECURE LIVELIHOOD

CSRC is committed to fostering resilient and sustainable agricultural practices for the betterment of livelihoods and promoting climate resilient agriculture practices. In recognizing the pivotal role agriculture plays in the lives of communities, particularly in ensuring food security and economic stability by using barren/fallow land, CSRC aims to champion collaborative approaches that promote long-term sustainability.

By advocating for sustainable farming methods and fostering collaboration, CSRC seeks to empower communities to build a robust and secure foundation for their livelihoods, ensuring not just immediate prosperity but a sustainable and resilient future.





CHANGE STORY

In Nayabasti, Gaushala Municipality, Mahottari, Nepal, the marginalized community faced water scarcity and various challenges. With support from the CSRC and World Jewish Relief (WJR), a borehole was installed in October 2022, transforming the community.

The borehole not only addressed drinking water shortages but also enabled irrigation, turning barren land into a thriving agricultural area. The community, once reliant on market purchases, became self-sufficient, selling surplus produce in nearby markets and generating income. In 2022, some families earned Rs 20,000 from vegetable sales, aiding in purchasing essentials from 0.85 hectare of land.

Dalit women, previously mistreated while fetching water, found empowerment as the borehole eliminated dependence on public sources. Manju Devi Sada, a community member, expressed joy at no longer facing mistreatment and shared how the borehole made them self-reliant for both water and vegetables. Phulo Sada highlighted reduced workload for women, emphasizing increased time for agriculture.

Subsequent visits by CSRC led to form a water management committee. This committee aims to ensure equitable borehole access, implement a usage schedule, and raise awareness of water management practices, emphasizing the community's newfound self-sufficiency and empowerment.



102

Supported HHs



4

Supported Cooperatives



NRs. 15,50,000

Generated Income by the community

5 TAKING THE MOVEMENT TO THE WORLD

CSRC's strategic priority of "Taking the Movement to the World" emphasizes our commitment to expanding the advocacy for land rights globally, with a particular focus on vulnerable and marginalized communities who have been unjustly deprived of these fundamental rights. Recognizing that land rights are intrinsic to human dignity and socio-economic empowerment, CSRC seeks to internationalize its movement, addressing these issues on a global platform.

CSRC organized two regional conferences related to the land rights of women and indigenous peoples in the face of climate change in South Asia and nonviolent land agrarian movement around the globe.



“We are happy to share that CSRC is also part of Jay Jagat movement led by Ekta Parishad. This non-violent movement is the sole path to achieving results, contingent upon the leader’s embodying peace and honesty. The Jay Jagat march stands as an example of a non-violent movement, successfully connecting peasants worldwide.”

Rajagopal P.V.
Founder of Ekata Parisadh, India

“The MoLMCPA, is tasked with ensuring equitable treatment for both landholding and landless individuals. Its focus extends to addressing key issues related to land and land revenue. The Government of Nepal is dedicated to resolving the challenges associated with landlessness through collaboration with national and international organizations. Respecting best practices is paramount to ensuring the tenure security of landless and informal settlers.”

Damodar Regmi, Former Secretary,
MoLMCPA

6

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

CSRC engages in disaster management of landless, marginalized, and poor farmers in the working areas. CSRC in collaboration with WJR, European Union, People in Need (PIN), and local governments of affected areas by providing relief and recovery support in disaster affected communities of Bajura, Rasuwa, and Sindhupalchok.



“I can't thank enough for the relief package we received. Along with the basic food items we also received winterization kits, and even CGI sheets. With the help of CGI sheets, we'll be able to build a temporary shelter, which will protect us from harsh winter and upcoming rainy seasons. This support has lifted a big weight off from our shoulders in these tough times.”

Dhan Bahadur Chadara,
Gaumul 2, Aagar

TEMPORARY SHELTER SUPPORT



23

HHs in Gaumul - 2, Aagar, Bajura

FLOODS/LANDSLIDES RESPONSE

“I lost my house due to landslide. I was aware of the grant I could receive, CSRC staff guided me on how to claim the grant that was rightfully mine also assisting in interactions with the local government. Then, I received the first installment of Rs. 50,000. I purchased 8 ana (254.37 sq.m.) of land.”

Prem Das Shrestha, Bahrabise 5, Jambu



6

Total Local Governments



65 HHs

Reconstruction and Relocation



441 HHs

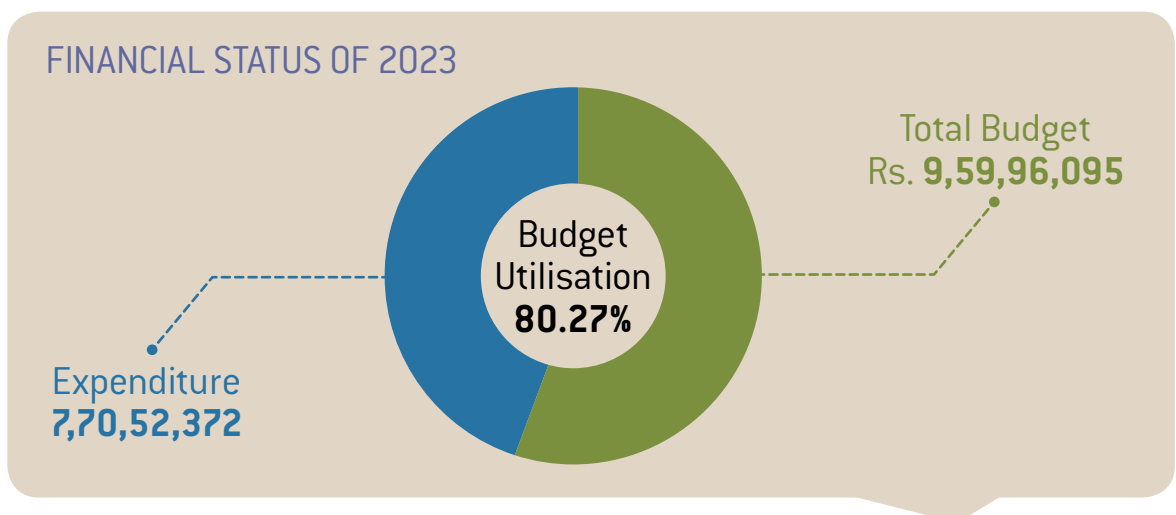
Land Acquisition

7 ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CSRC diligently upholds both internal and external legal compliance pertinent to civil society organizations. It is committed to good governance, consistently revises its policies to align with evolving national and international contexts as well as amendments in government policies.



CSRC's Executive Board, during its General Assembly on October 13, 2023, has decisively approved a series of crucial policies aimed at enhancing the organization's operational framework.





REVIEW OF LAND AND AGRARIAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT

CSRC, in collaboration with NLRF reviews the progress, learning and challenges every year with the participation of land rights activists across the country. A Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) was held from 30 to 31 December 2023 in Nawalpur with the participation of 47 land rights activists.

SOCIAL AUDIT

CSRC always believes in transparency and accountability in all levels of program implementation. It conducts regular social audits with stakeholders and experts of land and agrarian rights movement. The 16th social audit was organized on 13th October, 2023 in Kathmandu with 101 participants from diverse backgrounds.





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