



## Community Self-Reliance Centre



**MONTHLY COMMUNIQUE**

Volume II

November 2024

**LAND AND  
AGRARIAN  
RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN  
IN NEPAL**

## November Highlights

November was a significant month for our land and agriculture campaign. A range of activities took place, marking significant progress in our programs. Notably, we successfully hosted a Resource Generation and Mobilization Workshop, supported by the Partner's Investment Fund (PIF), which empowered participants with strategies for resource management.

Our land rights campaign saw a boost as we initiated a comprehensive campaign across 11 districts. This initiative aims to strengthen community engagement and advocacy for land rights, ensuring our continued momentum in advancing these crucial issues.

Here are a few highlights from our campaigns of November 2024.

## Local Journalists Enhance Awareness on FPIC

An interaction program on the implementation status of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and local issues related to the Upper Trishuli-1 Hydroelectric Project (216 MW) was conducted on 21 November 2024 at Bhumi Ghar, Kalikasthan, Rasuwa. The program was attended by 16 local journalists from different media outlets. The journalists gained insights into the FPIC concept, the Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), its current implementation status, and the key issues impacting 13 project-affected villages. The session was led by Raghunath Lamichhane, a writer and journalist; Lakpa Tamang, Chairperson of the IPP Governing Board; and Bishwash Nepali, Project Coordinator of CSRC.

This program emphasized the pivotal role of media in raising awareness, amplifying the voices of affected communities, and holding stakeholders accountable. It successfully strengthened collaboration with journalists, equipping them to better address local concerns and support the effective implementation of FPIC and IPP in future initiatives. As a result, journalists are now better prepared to advocate for the rights of indigenous people and ensure transparent communication between communities and stakeholders.



*Journalists gather for a group photo after the program | Photo: CSRC*

## Formation of Farmer Groups

The MAFRA-CSA program has recently been implemented in four municipalities/rural municipalities in the Deukhuri Valley, Dang: Gadhawa RM, Rapti RM, Rajpur RM, and Lamahi Municipality. The primary beneficiaries of this program are the landless Dalits, Sukumbasis, and sharecroppers residing in these areas. A total of 29 farmer groups have been formed: ten in Rapti Rural Municipality, four in Lamahi Municipality, ten in Gadhawa Rural Municipality, and five in Rajpur Rural Municipality. Additionally, 49 Land Rights Forums have been identified as beneficiaries. During these gatherings, key topics such as

climate change, its impact on agriculture, the importance of climate-smart agriculture, and the project's objectives and activities were addressed.

To ensure community perspectives are well-represented, core committee members were selected to lead the farmer groups. Regular monthly meetings were also scheduled to provide a forum for members to share knowledge, discuss issues, and develop collaborative strategies.



farmer Group Formation in Baki, Gadhwara-5 | Photo: CSRC

## Community Transformation in Lamchedhunga through Bio-Engineering

Lamchedhunga Ward No. 2 of Uttaragaya Rural Municipality is home to 30 families and 150 people, with agriculture and animal husbandry as their main livelihoods. According to a geohazard assessment report, Lamchedhunga is categorized as CAT II, indicating a need for landslide mitigation. Previously, the lack of proper drainage in the community left them vulnerable during the rainy season. Water flowing from weak and steep land caused cracks and seepage, leading to sleepless nights for residents on both sides of the settlement. The fear of landslides and falling stones kept everyone on edge. In 2023, with the technical support of the Pratibaddha team and the active participation of local Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) members, bio-engineering measures were implemented. Locally available species like Bamboo, Salimmo, Nigalo, and Amriso were used to stabilize the land.



According to community members, the 2024 monsoon season passed without any cracks or falling stones. The bio-engineering work effectively prevented landslide risks. Local resident, Tulsi Poudel shared, "*In the past, we could not sleep at night due to fear of landslides or falling huge stones. But after planting these plants, the falling stones stopped, and my fear disappeared. Now we can sleep safely during the monsoon. Thank you to the team who assisted in this work.*"

## Successful Social Accountability Events

Thirteen Social Accountability Events were organized under the Grassroots Resilient Organizations Empowering Women, Youth, and Marginalized (GROW) program across eight districts: Rautahat, Sarlahi, Dhanusha, and Saptari in Madhesh Province, and Banke, Dang, Rolpa, and Kapilvastu in Lumbini Province. The program aims to foster collaboration among human rights organizations to ensure sustained engagement in promoting human rights, civic space, and democracy.

These events provided a platform for direct interaction between women, youth, and marginalized groups and local representatives, authorities, and key stakeholders. They empowered these groups to hold local governments accountable for addressing their concerns. As a result, local wards and governments appreciated the initiatives and expressed their willingness to support the communities. Furthermore, local authorities requested formal proposals from grassroots organizations to address prevalent community issues and suggest possible solutions, ensuring these are prioritized and included in local government plans.



*Youth Participants of GROW | Photo: Anita Kharel, CSRC*

These events significantly strengthened the network and collaboration among human rights organizations, empowering community leaders and promoting active civic engagement.

## Resource Generation and Mobilization Workshop



*Participants of Resource Generation and Mobilization Workshop | Photo: CSRC*

CSRC, with support from Oxfam, organized a Resource Generation and Mobilization Workshop. The workshop invited participants from twelve different Partner Investment Fund Partners. The event was facilitated by the resource generation expert Dr. Tatwa Prasad Timsina and Ishu Subba. The objective of the workshop was to capacitate organizations to develop sustainable resource generation strategies and enhance their understanding of long-term resource generation techniques. The facilitation team provided guidance on identifying different sources, categorizing the types of resources available within the organization, and applying techniques to enhance these resources, enabling the development of additional resource sources.

The event also focused on sharing innovative practices for resource generation and mobilization followed by national and international CSOs/NGOs. Guest speakers from Ekta Parishad India, OXFAM GB, and TEWA Nepal shared their ideas and experiences virtually, contributing valuable insights to the participants. All 13 organizations prepared a draft plan for resource generation and mobilization.

## Productive Dialogue on Land and Agriculture in Gadhawa Rural Municipality

On November 25, 2024, Gadhawa Rural Municipality Chair Yam Narayan Pokharel led a dialogue with stakeholders on land policy, land use planning, and contract farming. The focus was on mapping unused land and promoting sustainable agriculture. Key points included progress in contract farming, the need for coordination, and technical support from the CSRC. The Chair emphasized collaboration to ensure the success of land-agriculture programs and the rights of marginalized communities.

## Empowering People's Organizations for Land Rights Advocacy

A campaign for organization strengthening and orientation on new legal provisions was launched in the districts of Nawalpur, Nawalparasi, Kapilvastu, Rupandehi, Bara, Parsa, Siraha, Saptari, Dhanusha, Mahottari, and Bardiya. The program was implemented in a leadership of National Land Rights Forum and supported by CSRC and National Land Coalition (NLC). Through a series of orientation programs, 452 frontline leaders were equipped with essential knowledge on land policies, the mandate of the Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC), and organizational strategies. This campaign aimed to revitalize people's organizations and movements by addressing issues such as mobilisation of Land Rights Forums, inadequate documentation, and declining membership. By providing targeted training and technical assistance, the program empowered community leaders to actively advocate for their rights.

As a result, participants gained a deeper understanding of land-related policies and the processes for acquiring land through the LIRC. The campaign successfully strengthened the capacity of community leaders, enhancing their ability to mobilize and support their communities in the fight for land rights.



Participants of a Program | Photo: CSRC

## For Fallow to Fertile: Climate-Friendly Farming Training in Gaushala Municipality

In November, a series of impactful training sessions on climate-friendly vegetable farming, including tunnel construction and nursery management, were conducted for landless and smallholder families in Gaushala Municipality's Ward Nos. 10 and 12, Thapa Tole, and Nayabasti Mushahari. Led by agroforestry expert Ramji Dhakal, the training focused on practical sessions covering the formation of arched and *gumuz* nurseries, soil manure, and sand mixing (soil preparation for nurseries and farming areas), poly bag filling methods, nursery bed preparation, seed sowing in poly bags, pest management and plastic tunnel construction.



*Participants from Nayabasti preparing gumuz nursery using local materials (bamboo).*

Over three days in Thapa Tole and two days in Nayabasti Mushahari, 56 participants (37 women and 19 men) enhanced their skills and knowledge in environmentally friendly agricultural practices including nursery management and tunnel construction. These trainings empowered them, leading to improved agricultural productivity and sustainable farming methods. As a result, approximately 8 *kattha* (2709.05 Sq.Mt.) of previously unused land in Gaushala Municipality Ward No. 12, Nayabasti Mushahari Tole was brought into productive use, which significantly helped improve the livelihoods of these landless families. The initiative promoted sustainable farming methods, contributing to long-term environmental benefits and food security in the community. Participants applied their new skills to improve agricultural productivity, leading to better crop yields.

