

MONTHLY COMMUNIQUE

April 2025



**LAND AND
AGRARIAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN
IN NEPAL**

95-year-old Khedaru Safi from Jaleshwar Municipality-9 receives Village Block land ownership Certificates

CSRC in April

This month, CSRC saw a monumental achievement, as 1,421 land rights certificates were distributed in the village block land area in Mahottari. After generations of struggle, the residents finally have legal ownership of the land and house they had been residing in.

Similarly, two land influencing training courses were held which were significant in taking the land rights movement forward. By bringing together activists from different districts, these sessions encouraged collaboration and strategic planning, ensuring that the process of land certificate distribution continues efficiently. The momentum gained from these efforts will likely accelerate further progress in securing land rights for marginalized communities.

1,421 Families in Mahottari Finally Secure Land Ownership

For decades, over a thousand families in Gaushala, Jaleshwar, Balawa, and Bardibas of Mahottari district lived on land known as *Gaun Block* (Village Block). Though these families had resided there for generations, their land was never officially registered in the government survey. As a result, they were denied landownership certificates (*lalpurja*), leaving them without legal recognition of their land and house.

Without proper documentation, the families faced injustices. Outsiders and other landowners encroached on their land, destroyed their crops, and even constructed roads through their fields without consent. When they sought justice, they were met with rude responses, “You have no rights here, this is *Gaun Block* land.” Even local authorities were unhelpful, claiming that it was the responsibility of the District Land Rights Forum (DLRF) instead of addressing their grievances.



In 2015, the District Land Rights Forum (DLRF), Mahottari initiated a campaign to secure legal rights for these families. Collaborating with the Survey Office, they began measuring the land and securing legal documentation. Just as they began to make progress, the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted their progress.

Undiscouraged, the Forum and CSRC revived the campaign in 2023, despite the challenges of many old land records being unavailable. They repeatedly lobbied the Survey Office to reassess the land, conducted repeated visits to the Jaleshwar Land Survey Office, and kept pushing for a resolution.

With the persistent advocacy of DLRF and the Village Land Rights Forum (VLR), 1,421 families across five municipalities finally received their land ownership certificates. The long-awaited moment was filled with pride and emotions for the entire community.

"Today marks a new beginning for our village," said 86-year-old Dev Narayan Singh Danuwar. He further added, "After generations of struggle, we finally have legal ownership of our homes and land. This victory brings us immense joy and relief. The years of injustice, pressure, and disputes are finally over."



Influencing Training on Land Rights

The Influencing training for land rights was successfully held at Bhumighar, Thimura, Chitwan, from April 17 to April 20, 2025. The training saw the participation of 40 land rights campaign leaders and activists, comprising 23 women and 17 men from 24 districts across seven provinces. The training was jointly organized by CSRC and NLRF with the support of Oxfam. The training primarily focused on discussions related to landless Dalits, landless Sukumbasi, and informal settlers. Participants engaged in an in-depth analysis of policies concerning land management, the steps and processes involved in acquiring land, and the roles of organizations and leaders in this campaign. Additionally, mapping of local, district, provincial, and national-level conditions related to the commission's activities was conducted alongside an assessment of the structure of the Land Rights Forum at municipal and district levels.



Participants after the certificates distribution

Hari Prasad Rijal, Chairperson of the Land Issues Resolving Commission, along with expert member Dr. Jagat Basnet and member Anil Krishna Prasai, participated in the session. They presented the commission's progress, processes, future strategies, and plans.

Following the training, campaign leaders developed district-level plans to further advance their initiatives. Various District Land Rights Forums have conducted meetings and finalized plans in the districts of Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet, Morang, Sunsari, Kaski, Rupandehi, Mahottari, and Makwanpur.

Influencing Training in Madhesh Province



The province-level training for the land acquisition campaign for landless and informal settlers was successfully held in Lalgadh on Baisakh 12 and 13. This program was supported by the Climate Resilience Initiative funded by the World Jewish Relief. The training saw the participation of 39 land rights activists and campaigners, including 16 women and 23 men, from all eight districts of Madhesh Province. The training was jointly organized by CSRC and NLRF with support from WJR.

The training focused on discussions about land-related policy arrangements, the commission's procedures, phases, organizational structure, and the role of leaders. Additionally, the status mapping of the work done by the organization and the commission was conducted. Success stories of various campaigns and movements from different locations were studied and discussed. Furthermore, a decision was made to mobilize rights activists in Madhesh Province and launch the land rights campaign called Madhesh Awakening Campaign.

Submission of the Mohi Declaration to the Ministry and Department of Land Management

The Mohi Declaration, passed during the Mohi Conference held in Chandrapur, Rautahat, on Chaitra 15 and 16, 2081, has been submitted to the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives, and Poverty Alleviation as well as the Department of Land Management and Archive. After detailed discussions at the conference, a declaration containing 12 demands

and a 4-point commitment letter was issued. The declaration has been presented to the ministry and department, requesting facilitation for the fulfillment of the demands mentioned within it.

Shiv Prasad Regmi, the Director General of the Department of Land Management and Archive, stated that instructions have been given to the land revenue offices to speed up Mohi land distribution. He further mentioned that if there are any procedural or governance-related issues, he will immediately follow up on them. Additionally, he assured that the submitted demands will be studied, and necessary efforts will be made to resolve the issue in a simple and effective manner.



CSRC and NLRG submitting the Mohi Declaration to the Director General of the Department of Land Management and Archive

Strengthening Disaster Preparedness in Kedarsyu Rural Municipality

Kedarsyu Rural Municipality is highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods, landslides, fires and earthquakes. Communities across the municipality have been repeatedly affected by these hazards underlying the urgent need for local preparedness and risk reduction.

In response to the recurring disasters Pratibaddha III Project initiated targeted intervention in Wards 1, 2, 3, and 6. As part of this initiative, three Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs) were formed and mobilized at the local level. Each committee includes dedicated taskforces for Early Warning, First Aid, and Search & Rescue, all aimed at supporting the local people to take shared responsibility for disaster preparedness.

The formed CDMCs have started holding regular monthly meetings to identify risks and take small, meaningful actions. In Rotagada, community members raised the need for Go Bags. This led to discussions about its importance and past earthquake experiences. Then, CDMC has decided to run a Go Bag making workshop, demonstrate samples and spread the idea to every household. They have also agreed to start saving Rs 50 each for a disaster fund.

Tulsi Bhandari, a CDMC member, stated, “*I am encouraged to prepare a Go Bag. It will hopefully give me peace of mind.*” This proves that step by step, communities of Kedarsyu Rural Municipality are realizing that building resilience doesn’t need big money, just awareness, small actions and shared commitment are needed.



CDMC members of Rotagada, participating in monthly meeting discussions on community disaster preparedness

Linking landless farmers with Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

A ‘Training on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Climate Smart Agriculture’ was conducted for the leader farmers of farmer groups/Land Right Forum of the four municipalities/ rural municipalities of Deukhuri valley, Dang district (Rapti Rural Municipality Gadhawa Rural Municipality, Rajpur Rural Municipality and Lamahi Municipality). The landless farmers face challenges like technical knowledge, lack of timely information, and poor market connections. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) focuses on helping farmers adopt better farming practices that can improve productivity, reduce risks, and help them adapt to climate change. The positive adoption of digital tools such as mobile phones can further enhance implementation of CSA tools at farmer-level via efficient access of information.

Altogether 122 (90 farmers of Self-Help Group and 32 including government officials and local government representatives) received training on Information and Communication Technology for Climate Smart Agriculture. The farmers enhanced their skills in using the Geokrishi Farm Application for accessing Climate Smart Agriculture Practices, real-time weather updates, crop health checks and disease detection. They improved their knowledge of best management practices including efficient fertilizer use, pest management, and climate change adaptation, to increase productivity and sustainability.

Anjana Chaudhary, Secretary, Lokharpur Land Rights Forum, Gadhawa-05 said, *"I really like the training, I got the opportunity to learn about the weather information, because of lack of knowledge of the weather, we are facing crop losses, now I can get the information of the weather from my own mobile phone".*

Shanti Chaudhary, Secretary, Baki Land Right Forum, Gadhawa-05 expressed *"I have attended many training programs before, but this is the first of its kind for me. I practice agriculture on 8 katha of land through leasehold farming and sell vegetables. However, I have always been unaware of the market rates for my produce. Now, with access to market information, I am better equipped to make informed decisions."*



Farmers getting information on ICT use, Rajpur Rural Municipality

Bir Bahadur Aale, Ward Chairperson, Gadhawa-06 said, *"The training was really fruitful, It is very important for those who are engaged in agriculture, the technical information can be received from the mobile phone, the immediate solutions can be identified, nowadays people have mobile phones in their hands, so I request everyone to use the mobiles phones for accessing more information in agriculture."*