



MONTHLY COMMUNIQUE

May, 2025

CSRC in May

The Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) advanced key actions to strengthen land rights, promote sustainable agricultural, and enhance disaster preparedness. CSRC published its 65th Land Rights Bulletin and empowered land rights activists and frontline leaders through influential training sessions. To support climate resilient agriculture, CSRC trained farmers in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and compost manure, while also introducing improved groundnut varieties to improve livelihoods of land poor individuals.

Publication of CSRC's 65th Edition of Land Rights Bulletin

The "Bhumi Adhikar Bulletin", Land Rights bulletin, a consistent publication of the CSRC, has released its 65th issue. This marks its 21 years of continuous publications, highlighting its enduring commitment to land rights advocacy. This bulletin is an essential resource for land rights activists, community leaders, who are actively engaged in or concerned with the land rights campaign.

The 65th issue delivers crucial information on the stages, provisions, and procedures of land entitlement for landless Dalits, Sukumbasi, and Informal Settlers. It provides practical insights into the relevant laws, policies, and operational guidelines. Additionally, the bulletin features a compelling account of the 51-day sit-in protest by tenant farmers from the Dang Swargdwari Guthi (trust) at Maitighar, Kathmandu. This bulletin details their experiences, struggles, and the subsequent agreement reached with the government of Nepal.



A Land Rights Activist Reading Bulletin | Photo: Bishwash Nepali, CSRC

Building Knowledge through Land Rights Influencing Training



Participants of Dang | Photo: Remant Chaudhary, CSRC

CSRC has conducted influential training sessions for land rights at nine locations: eight district-level trainings in Sundarharaicha (Morang), Tarahara (Sunsari), Jangalkuti (Dang), Mahilwor (Rupandehi), Banganga (Kapilbastu), Masuriya (Kailali), Dipnagar (Kanchanpur), and Pokhara (Kaski), along with one national-level training session at Bhumighar in Thimura, Chitwan.

These training sessions involved participatory discussions and presentations focusing on policy provisions for land management, stages and procedures for land entitlement, and the crucial role of land rights forums and frontline leaders in land rights campaign. Participants included landless Dalits, Sukumbasi, and Informal Settlers. Furthermore, district and municipal level mapping was conducted, assessing the status of local government and district progress related to the Land Commission, as well as the organizational status of the Land Rights Forum.



Participants of the Influential Training | Photo: Sushma Neupane, CSRC

A total of 347 (170 women and 177 men) land rights activists and frontline leaders participated and gained knowledge on land-related policy provisions for land management, procedural stages for land certificate acquisition, the Land Issue Resolving Commission (LIRC) Guideline, and the crucial role of the land rights forum and frontline leaders in the land rights campaign.

Following the sessions, the participants have become self-motivated, continuously facilitating land entitlement processes, collaborating with local governments and the Commission, and raising awareness within their communities.

CSRC Trains Farmers on IPM and Compost Manure

A series of "Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Compost Manure Training" were conducted across four local governments in Dang: Rajpur, Rapti, Gadhawa Rural Municipalities and Lamahi Municipality. The sessions trained 1,333 participants' (185 men, 1,148 women) on pest identification, environmentally sound management, and proper compost preparation. Many participants committed to adopting these practices on their fields.

Bintiram Yadav from the Basantapur Land Rights Farmer Group exemplified this impact, stating he'll now use only fully decomposed compost instead of fresh cow dung.



*Participants
of the
Training*

*Photo:
Neelam
Tripathi,
CSRC*

Promoting Improved Groundnut Farming

For decades, farmers in Dang have cultivated groundnuts, a vital cash crop. However, many remained unaware of improved varieties released by the National Oilseed Research Program (NORP), Nawalpur, Sarlahi. In this regard, the CSA program initiated to promote improved groundnut farming in Kholigaun and Baghkhohli riverbeds of Lamahi-8 in order to increase productivity and enhance landless farmers' livelihoods.

Six NORP varieties: Vaidehi, Rajarshi, Jayanti, Samriddhi, Nawalpur Badam-1, and Badam-4; were introduced in Kholigaun and Baghkhohli across approximately 8 and 3 hectares, respectively. Eighty-nine farmers from four Self Help Groups (Ekata, Smart, Sayapatri, and Baghkhohli Land Right Farmer Groups) received practical training on cultivation technologies, including 20 cm plant-to-plant and 40 cm row-to-row spacing. This initiative focused on enhancing access to quality seeds and knowledge of improved varieties.



Varieties of Groundnuts

Weather Forecast and timely SMS alerts Reduce Disaster Risks in Thalara

Thalara Rural Municipality in Bajhang District has adopted to forecast-based disaster risk reduction, a practical response to the past monsoon-related landslides and floods that claimed 23 lives and displaced hundreds of families across communities like Dikla, Thingtoli, Biskhet, and Listada.

To prevent future damage, the municipality now prioritizes timely risk communication. Ahead of this monsoon, Thalara got 20,000 SMS alerts through its TRM Alert system, leveraging weather forecasts from the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology. This information is also disseminated via local FM radio, social media, and Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs), ensuring widespread reach. The system's effectiveness is already evident: Shyam Bahadur Nepali, Chairperson of the Biskhet CDMC, confirmed that early municipal warnings enabled them to protect their wheat harvest, significantly easing work against unpredictable rainfall.

Ashok Nepali, the secretary of CDMC, said he informs other members as soon as he receives any alerts. "We get the message before it rains, so we know what steps to take and can prepare accordingly," said Nepali.

Prakash Bhandari, the municipality's disaster focal person, stated "We are now prioritizing and promoting the preparedness before the rain starts - not after the hazard hits. The TRM Alert system will be used regularly as a core component of our early warning system".

Prakash Bahadur Rokaya, Chairperson of Thalara Rural Municipality, emphasizes that disaster plans must become tangible action, not just documents. By providing precise, timely weather and information directly to the community for protecting lives, property, and livelihoods.

New Water Canal Transforms Agriculture



Community People Digging Water Canal | Photo: CSRC

In a collaboration with WJR, the CSRC has constructed a water canal in Barjetol, Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality, Sindhupalchowk. This crucial infrastructure, supported under the Climate Resilient Land-Agri Program (CRI), is now serves as an essential resource; and increases agricultural productivity for 131 households, directly benefiting 544 individuals and irrigating approximately 61.29 hectares of agricultural land in Barjetol and its neighboring communities.

Previously, farmers in this region faced constant challenges, often cultivating only seasonal crops and leaving fields fallow due to persistent water scarcity for irrigation. Recognizing this critical issue, CSRC initiated a truly community-led solution. CSRC facilitated the formation of a seven-member community committee specifically tasked with the ongoing construction, management, and maintenance of the canal, ensuring its long-term viability.

Upholding its core principle that "local ownership is paramount," CSRC facilitated the formation of a seven-member community committee. This committee is specifically tasked with the ongoing construction, management, and maintenance of the canal, ensuring its long-term viability. As a testament to this commitment, the community itself contributed a significant 30% of the project's labor.