



JUNE MONTHLY COMMUNIQUE

CSRC in June 2025

CSRC continued its dedicated work on land rights and community empowerment work throughout June 2025. In a major milestone, 23 landless families in Lamahi Municipality, Dang received land ownership certificates, marking the end of a struggle that spanned over four decades. This achievement garnered wide media coverage and public recognition. With the onset of the monsoon season, community-led disaster preparedness efforts have intensified, showcasing grassroots resilience and proactive planning. As part of the ongoing climate resilience initiative, tea farmers from Sindhupalchok visited tea farm of Ilam to work and learn.

WITH A HISTORIC DAY FOR LAND RIGHTS, A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS IN KANCHHITOL

June 25, 2025, marked a significant turning point for 23 landless families in Kanchhi Tole, ward no.3, Lamahi Municipality Dang. After nearly four decades of uncertainty, they are now proud landowners, with official land ownership certificates for the first time.



20 couples from Kanchhi tole received Joint Land Ownership Certificates

The program ‘A safety net of innovative land tenure solutions for near landless and sharecroppers and for a greener rural Nepal L4ACT is currently being implemented by UN-Habitat with funding from Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) of Republic of Korea and in collaboration with Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA) Government of Nepal is under implementation in Deukhuri Valley of Dang district and supported by Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC), Good Neighbors

International (GNI) Nepal, and South Korea based organizations – Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI) and Korea Land and Geospatial Informatix Corporation (LX).

This milestone has been made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Lamahi Municipality, the Land Issues Resolving Commission Committee, Dang District, the ward office, District Survey Department, and the Land Service Centre with support from the program ‘A safety net of innovative land tenure solutions for near landless and sharecroppers and for a greener rural Nepal L4ACT’.

As Sarita Chaudhary who now owns Joint Land ownership with her husband Ram Prasad shared: *“We used to face constant discrimination for having nothing. Now, no one can dominate us, we have our own land.”*

This is also the first land ownership certificate distribution in Dang district, a milestone in the journey toward dignity, inclusion, and land justice.

MADHESH JAGARAN YATRA: MOBILIZING VOICES FOR INCLUSIVE LAND RIGHTS

The Madhesh Jagaran Yatra, conducted across Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, and Mahottari districts, marked a significant advocacy initiative to elevate land rights discourse in Madhesh



Participants of Jagaran Yatra

Province. Jointly organized by CSRC and National Land Rights Forum. It was conducted from 9th to 18th June 2025. Despite widespread landlessness across Nepal, the issue is particularly acute in Madhesh, home to many landless Dalit communities.

Alarming, data from the ongoing registration process reflects a disproportionately low number of landless Dalit registrants. Of the 136 local governments in eight Madhesh districts, 93 have yet to initiate registration. Even in areas where data collection has begun, exclusion persists, worsened by the fact that many Dalits lack citizenship, disqualifying them from participation. This is especially troubling given the Commission's announcement that this will be the final round of registration.

While the Commission and District Committees have essential roles, the primary responsibility for ensuring inclusive registration rests with local governments. The Yatra was organized to raise awareness, galvanize local leadership, and amplify community voices to secure land rights and prevent further marginalization.

The campaign reached 15 local governments across four districts, engaging in discussions and assessments regarding the progress, roles, and planning of local governments under the land acquisition process for landless and informal settlers. Along with this, memorandums and formation directives of the Commission were submitted to draw attention to the issue.

REFLECT TRAINING HELD

In collaboration with CARE Nepal, CSRC, and Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj, a REFLECT training was organized from June 2 to 4, 2025 at WOREC office, Udaypur where there were 23 participants from Siraha (19 women, 4 men, including 13 Dalits, 6 Janajatis, and 4 others). Through the REFLECT methodology, participants were facilitated through exercises such as governance problem mapping (social map), issue prioritization, and stakeholder power and access analysis

The discussion highlighted the systemic exclusion faced by landless individuals, Dalit communities, and single women within these communities. Local authorities deny their existence, reject their claims, and block access to justice through fees and flawed documents.



Participants of REFLECT Training

Legal IDs remain out of reach. Services like water, health care, and agricultural support bypass the marginalized, while development plans and budgets ignore their needs, leaving them vulnerable to eviction and ongoing neglect.

Discussions were held around the pillars of good governance, legal frameworks, budgeting and planning processes, land-related policies, and the formation order of the Land Issues Resolving Commission

As a result, participants drafted a memorandum to promote good governance at the local level and developed plans for future advocacy campaigns.

Sanjudevi Mukhiya, Lakshmipur shared, *"I learned about the rights of landless Sukumbasi and Dalits. Now I'll go back to my own community and share it with everyone. I feel much more courageous now, I've realized so many things."* Similarly, Savitridevi Ram, Dhangadhimai also agreed and said, *"I got to learn about how landless people can obtain land, and about citizenship matters. Now we'll go to the ward and municipality offices to discuss how to get land and address other issues too."*

LAND AND AGRICULTURE PRIORITIES FOR FY 2082/83

As part of our ongoing advocacy efforts, detailed priority work on Land and Agricultural Issues was prepared and submitted as a recommendation for the Policy and Program formulation of the Fiscal Year 2082/83. This document was shared via email with all 753 local governments across Nepal. This initiative was carried out in close coordination with NARMIN (National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal) and MuAN (Municipal Association of Nepal). Both organizations also shared this document from their formal channel. The main objective of this submission is to encourage the development of inclusive, responsive, and locally grounded policies that address the real needs of landless, marginalized, and farming communities across Nepal.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ACTION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY

MEMBERS

After the proposal call from the Internal Ministry of Law and Affairs, Bagmati Province for the Volunteer Bureau, Barhabise Municipality and Bhotekoshi Rural Municipality submitted their request, and they received 5 lakhs each. After receiving the funds, Barhabise Municipality announced a call for applications. Out of the applicants, 24 members were selected, with priority given to individuals who had received training in previous year and others from high disaster risk areas, On 25th and 26th May, Barhabise Municipality conducted a two-day program on First-Aid Light Search and Rescue (FALS&R) training in coordination with APF (Armed Police Force) and Redcross in the presence of 32 participants, with 6 women and 26 men, and remaining funds were used for providing the essential materials, torch light gum boots, raincoats to the participants to be safe in case of emergency.



Community level Engagement

In preparation for monsoon season, Barhabise Municipality saw proactive engagement led by CDMC members. On June 17, community members in Amading participated in a drainage-

cleaning initiative that benefited 40 households. Similarly, on June 14, a parallel effort in Dadagoun enhanced drainage systems for 45 households for efficient management of water and debris. Similarly, in the western provinces, community-led preparedness and early actions were actively carried out through the mobilization of CDMCs across each local government. In Nalgad Municipality, four CDMCs from wards 1, 2, 3, and 4, along with community members with 35 women and 49 men, collaborated to build and maintain roads, drainage systems, and flood diversion channels. They also planted native trees as part of nature-based solutions, enhancing biodiversity. These initiatives are expected to enhance emergency access and reduce the risks of landslides and floods, benefiting over 500 households across the four wards.

Community members of Nalagadh Municipality- 3 involved in drainage management

Meanwhile, in Mandavi and Thalara Rural Municipalities, forecast-based action plans guided disaster preparedness activities. Around 55 residents, mostly women, were mobilized to improve drainage, repair roads, and construct flood-control structures ahead of the monsoon season, benefiting more than 125 households in the area.

IRRIGATION RESTORED; HOPE REPLANTED IN BARJETOL

For years, farmers in Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality ward no 1, Barjetol struggled to grow their crops. The absence of a reliable irrigation system forced them to rely entirely on rainwater. “We used to wait and pray for rain,” recalls Babudo Tamang. “Some seasons, I couldn’t plant even a single crop.”

The situation was so dire that farmers would often leave their fields fallow. When they attempted to plant, they faced low germination, weak seedlings, and failed harvests. Damai Tamang shared, “*During planting season, we would rush to bring water. But if it didn’t rain, we would have to stop the work altogether. Even the hired laborers would leave.*”



Kanchhi Tamang and her friend planting rice paddy

Accessing water meant risk and hardship. Manish Tamang explained, “We had to walk risky paths to repair the canal during planting time. Often, we wouldn’t even know if our family members would return safely

Now, it has changed with the introduction of the Climate Resilient Land and Agriculture Initiative by the Community Self Reliance Centre, with support from WJR, in Barjetol. The program focused on climate-friendly agriculture techniques like tunnel farming, organic vegetable production, and seed preservation. But the community voiced an urgent need: irrigation.

With a joint effort, including 30% voluntary contribution from local farmers, the Barjetol irrigation canal was finally repaired and revitalized. Today, over 214 farming households are directly benefiting from improved irrigation water access.

Babudo Tamang shares emotionally, *“Since the water started flowing, even our cows and birds have found relief. I saw birds gather joyfully around the canal to drink and bathe- it brought tears to my eyes.”*

"This year, we completed three Ropai (paddy planting) in a single day," shares Kanchhi Tamang. "Earlier, we struggled to complete even one."

Another remarkable impact is the resumption of the Pani Ghatta (traditional watermill), which had remained closed for years due to a lack of water. Farmers, especially women, previously had to walk 3 hours some time whole days, just to grind maize or millet. Now, the watermill is working again- saving time and reducing physical burden, particularly for women.

Vegetable farming has expanded, and kitchen gardens now provide fresh, healthy food right at home. Women no longer walk hours to grind grain; the nearby watermill saves time and labor. Fresh, healthy produce is now available right at home. Barjetol is not only growing food again - it is growing stronger, more self-reliant, and more climate-resilient.



We used to be completely dependent on rainwater for our rice paddies, but we're planting already this year! because we have water canals to irrigate the whole farm. All our paddy fields get enough water now."

-Kanchhi Tamang



As part of the Climate Resilience Initiative, six tea farmers from Banskarka, Ward No. 1, Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality, visited Ilam from June 24-28 to learn best practices in tea cultivation and marketing. *"This visit has inspired us to make tea farming more professional and efficient,"* shared Mr. Dorje Lama, Chairperson of the Tea Producer's Group.

Samjhana Shrestha is currently cultivating tea on a leased 0.10-hectare plot of land. She learnt about the best practices in tea cultivation and marketing during her travels to Ilam with other farmers.

