



CSRC in August

In August, CSRC marked a significant facilitation in the land rights movement; 157 families, including landless Dalits, Sukumbasi, and informal settlers, finally received their long-awaited land ownership certificates.

CSRC and its allies conducted media outreach and strategic conversations through community voices. Participatory social audits unfolded across local levels, turning transparency into action and accountability into shared ownership. From grassroots mobilization to policy corridors, August was a reminder: *change happens when communities lead.*

Getting land ownership certificates is boosting the energy of leaders, organizations, and the campaign.

A total of 157 families: 101 in Nawalparasi Bardaghat, 47 in Kapilbastu's Banganga and Bijaypur, and 9 in Dang's Gadhwā have received land ownership certificates. These include 4 landless Dalits, 6 Sukumbasi, and 147 informal settlers. The Land Rights Campaign team of CSRC is also providing support and cooperation to the LIRC and local governments in their efforts for land ownership to the landless and informal settlers.



A Context Analysis of the Haruwa-Charuwa Community and Land Rights Initiatives

Community meetings were held in the Baharwa, Musahartol, Paswantol, Jhojhikataiya, and Khatbe Mandatol of Dhanauji Rural Municipality. The meetings involved detailed discussions on the 35-day notice published by the LIRC for data collection, land issues in the communities, and the process for land ownership. Additionally, the meetings discussed context analysis, IVR, and influencing training. Thirty frontline leaders have been selected during the community meetings.

In the next phase, a workshop was held to finalize the context analysis for all five Haruwa-Charuwa communities in Dhanauji. Six representatives from each community where preliminary data had been collected were selected. They were informed about the importance and utility of context analysis. The information collected was made public and revised and verified based on suggestions received from the participants. The workshop also included social and resource mapping, mobility mapping, power analysis, and tree analysis exercises. Pragya Shah from Forum-Asia also participated in this workshop.



Participants of Context Analysis, Dhanusha

Antyodaya Camp for Land Rights

It was held in collaboration of the Swadhin Madhesh Jana Abhiyan, Nagarik Pratham Abhiyan, CSRC, and the Land Rights Forum, an 'Antyodaya' camp on land rights was held in Lalgadh and Birgunj of Dhanusha and Parsa districts respectively.

The camp in Lalgadh had 37 participants (15 women, 22 men) from Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, and Mahottari districts. Similarly, in Birgunj camp had 60 participants (16 women, 44 men) from Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara, and Parsa districts. The camps included in-depth discussions on the campaign for landless Dalits, sukumbasi, and informal settlers, as well as the legal provisions, procedures, and the role of the LIRC and local governments.

The frontline leaders committed to being active in the campaign and developed action plans. Representatives from the LIRC updated participants on their progress and future plans. This camp has given the Madhesh province a new sense of purpose and has guided toward more results-oriented efforts regarding land rights. The community leaders who participated in the camp are now actively engaged in the land allocation campaign in Madhesh.



A participative discussion on land rights and acquisition procedures for landless and informal settlers in Lalgah, Dhanusha

Annual Review and Social Audit of the Land Rights Campaign

The Sarlahi and Rautahat District Land Rights Forums have completed their social audits for the fiscal year 2081/82. During the audit, the forums presented a detailed overview of their major activities, achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and budget utilization for the year.

In Rautahat, 59 (17 women, 42 men), including Akhileshwar Chaudhary, District Chairperson of the LIRC; Santalal Prasad Chaudhary, Mayor of Gujara Municipality; and Ramjit Chaudhary, Ward Chairperson of Gujara Ward No. 1 participated in the Social Audit.

Similarly, the Sarlahi audit had 53 participants (31 women, 22 men), and the program was attended by the Acting Mayor of Bagmati Municipality, Krishna Kumar Lama. In both districts, participants and guests praised the forums' initiatives and suggested that they should be even more active, strengthen their organization, and expand their work.

Our lives are about to end, being landless. How much longer will we live? We've joined this movement so our children don't have to experience the same pain, hardship, and humiliation that we have. We want to be able to die with the land ownership certificate for our home in hand. Now, we have hope that we might actually get it.

- Phulkumaridevi Sada, Rautahat



Land Bill Passed by House of Representatives

The passage of the Land Bill by the House of Representatives has raised hopes for resolving the issues of landless and informal settlers living in forest areas and buffer zones.

In response, there has been continuous follow-up and discussion with key political party representatives, ministers, government officials, experts, and various committees to address the issues, misconceptions, and realities surrounding this issue. Suggestions and reasons for the amendment provided to the ministry.

The organization's stance was also publicized through various media outlets, including articles, interviews, and letters to the editor, while leaders were kept continuously informed.

Amendment to the Birta Abolition Regulations

After a long period of lobbying and follow-up by the District Land Rights Forum, Rasuwa, and the CSRC, the Birta Abolition Regulations have been passed by the Council of Ministers on 28th August 2025. The Kantipur newspaper also continuously published follow-up stories on the Birta issue. This amendment is expected to help resolve some of the problems faced by farmers who are cultivating Birta land.

Dikla Village: Building Resilience Through Preparedness



Monthly Meeting of Dikla CDMC

Dikla village in Thalara Rural Municipality is becoming stronger in disaster preparedness and response. A 13-member Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) has been formed, which has also established three taskforces: First Aid, Search & Rescue, and Early Warning. Roles and responsibilities have been clearly defined for each taskforce. Four members, each from the First Aid and Search & Rescue taskforce, have received basic training. The committee now has four first aid kit boxes, basic search and rescue equipment and early warning materials in stock.

The villagers are taking charge of their safety, with 41 households creating a community emergency fund of nearly NPR 16,000 and clear guidelines to manage it effectively. The landslide-affected land is slowly recovering.

With the support of the local government, 50 ropani of affected land has been fenced and planted with 760 fruit trees like lemons and oranges, along with grasses such as Napier and Amriso that help stabilize the soil. These efforts are not only protecting the land but also giving hope for future income.

The community holds regular planning meetings, cleaning campaigns, and seasonal activities like flood diversion, tree planting, and fire line creation. Recently, the community has installed a rain gauge, enabling them to track rainfall and decide when it's time to move to safe locations.

These efforts have made a real difference. Local Ward Chair Ramchandra Joshi expresses pride in the villagers, saying their dedication and organized approach to disaster preparedness set an example for others.

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Back in the 2078 disaster, we had nothing, no trained people, no rescue tools, not even food. A massive landslide swept through the area, taking 23 lives, destroying homes. If we had been prepared like now, the losses would not have been so great. Today, we are ready to respond.

- Gambhire Dikli, CDMC Chairperson, Dikla, Thalara RM

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Voices of Accountability: Participatory Social Audit at the Local Level

In August, participatory social audits were conducted at both the Ward and municipal levels in Wards 1 and 2 of Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality, Sindhupalchok, and Wards 10 and 12 of Gaushala Municipality, Mahottari. These inclusive events brought together over 140 participants (64 women and 76 men)-including farmers, ward officials, community leaders, and members of the DLRF and VLRF.

More than procedural events, these audits served as open platforms for dialogue, reflection and community-led evaluation of the Climate Resilient Land Agri Initiative (CRI) where community members share their experiences, raise concerns, and assess our work through their own lens of accountability.



Facilitating the ward level Social Audit In Panchpokhari Thangpal RM 2 Baruwā

If some farmers are not using the materials, they should be reallocated to others who will. Cost-sharing was effective and must be made mandatory.

- Manish Tamang, Panchpokhari Thangpal RM ward no 1



Leadership Response: Promises and Plans

Municipal leaders responded with renewed commitments. Mayor Dr. Dipendra Mahato from Gaushala Municipality emphasized the health and economic benefits of organic farming: “Even if pesticide-grown vegetables earn more, they don’t save us money, because we spend it on treatment for the diseases they cause.”

He pledged to promote pesticide-free produce. He shared that the municipality is electrifying 90% of farmland by January 2026 and investing in bio-fertiliser initiatives. “We’re ready to invest,” he said. “If a farmer avoids pesticides, I’ll personally buy their vegetables and help promote them in the market.”



Social Audit of CRI Program at Gaushala Municipality.

Transparency and accountability aren’t just technical requirements; this is a moral responsibility. When farmers stand up and ask, “Where is the follow-up?” or “How are these supports being tracked?”

They are not complaining, they’re reminding us why we’re here. They must be built into every stage of program design, implementation, and follow-up. Communities are demanding better coordination, improved seed, structured market support, and evidence-based monitoring. By aligning budgets, strengthening



Yearly sharing and social audit session in Ward No. 10, Gaushala



Yearly sharing and social audit session in Ward No. 12, Gaushala Municipality.

Interaction Program With Newly Elected IPP Governing Board

An Interaction Program and Orientation for the newly elected members of the IPP Governing Board on 27 August 2025 at Aamachhodingmo Rural Municipality-1, Hakubensi. The program was jointly organized with the IPP Governing Board and attended by newly elected members, representatives of the local government, and the NEFIN District Chapter. In total, 43 participants (16 women, 27 men) all from indigenous communities) took part.

Mr. Lakpa Tamang, Chairperson of the NEFIN District Committee, facilitated the orientation on the key provisions of the IPP Implementation Guidelines. During the interaction, the newly elected members and leadership expressed their commitment to ensuring proper implementation of the IPP with adequate transparency and effective utilization of resources.



Participants of Interaction Program, Rasuwa