

Reflections 2024

LAND AND
AGRARIAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN
IN NEPAL



Supporting Organizations

ActionAid Nepal, CARE Nepal, Oxfam Nepal, Oxfam Novib, People in Need, World Jewish Relief, UN-Habitat, Habitat for Humanity Nepal, Good Neighbors International Nepal, Forum Asia, International Land Coalition, Catholic Relief Services CRS, Fondation de France, Asian NGO Coalition ANGOC, Asia Nepal, Landesa, Start Fund Nepal, Microkrediet voor Moeders (MVM), Meals Association

Graphic Design: Bikram Chandra Majumdar

Cover Photo: National Conference of Guthi Farmer by Kumar Thapa

Foreword

Community Self-Reliance Centre (CSRC) is dedicated to securing land rights for landless communities including landless individuals, tenants, former bonded laborers, and smallholder farmers. For over three decades, CSRC has been at the forefront of land rights advocacy, influencing policies, building grassroots movements, and promoting community-led land reform models.

CSRC also engages in agroecology, working primarily with landless and small farmers to enhance agro based livelihoods. As a strong advocate for women's land rights, CSRC has facilitated Joint Land Ownership (JLO), empowering women and strengthening their economic and social status.

In disaster-prone Nepal, CSRC enhances community resilience through Disaster Risk Management (DRM), ensuring the participation of vulnerable groups in preparedness and response strategies and facilitating for risk sensitive land use planning and facilitation for reconstruction and relocation process.

As in the previous years, it gives us immense pride and joy to present *Reflections: Land and Agrarian Rights Campaign in Nepal (2024)*, a testament to the tireless efforts of CSRC in advancing the cause of land rights and social justice. This publication captures the achievements and learnings of 2024.

This year's key progress includes the expansion and strengthening of land rights organizations, leading to more effective grassroots mobilization and movement-building. Advocacy efforts have become more dynamic, with increased local engagement. Several local governments have initiated the formulation of local land laws and land lease guidelines to enhance land governance. Communities have also strongly resisted forced evictions, and have consistently called for ensuring the human rights of people forced to be in vulnerable situations including landless and informal settlers in the urban settings. Additionally, the formation of the Land Issues Resolving Commission marks a significant milestone in addressing land tenure issues in Nepal. CSRC has continued to scale up its resources, further strengthening the land rights movement.

Land is not merely a physical asset; it is a source of dignity, identity, and livelihood. In Nepal, landless and marginalized communities—Dalits, bonded laborers, women, and indigenous groups—have long endured inequities in land tenure systems. Their struggles underscore the urgent need for transformative action in land governance to ensure inclusion, equity, and sustainability.

We are planning to strengthen our land rights campaign in the coming days with a more strategic and critical engagement at all levels of government. Based on a thorough mapping of the current landscape, challenges, and opportunities, CSRC will prioritize the Land Allocation Program in 2025, ensuring that landless and marginalized communities gain secure land tenure.

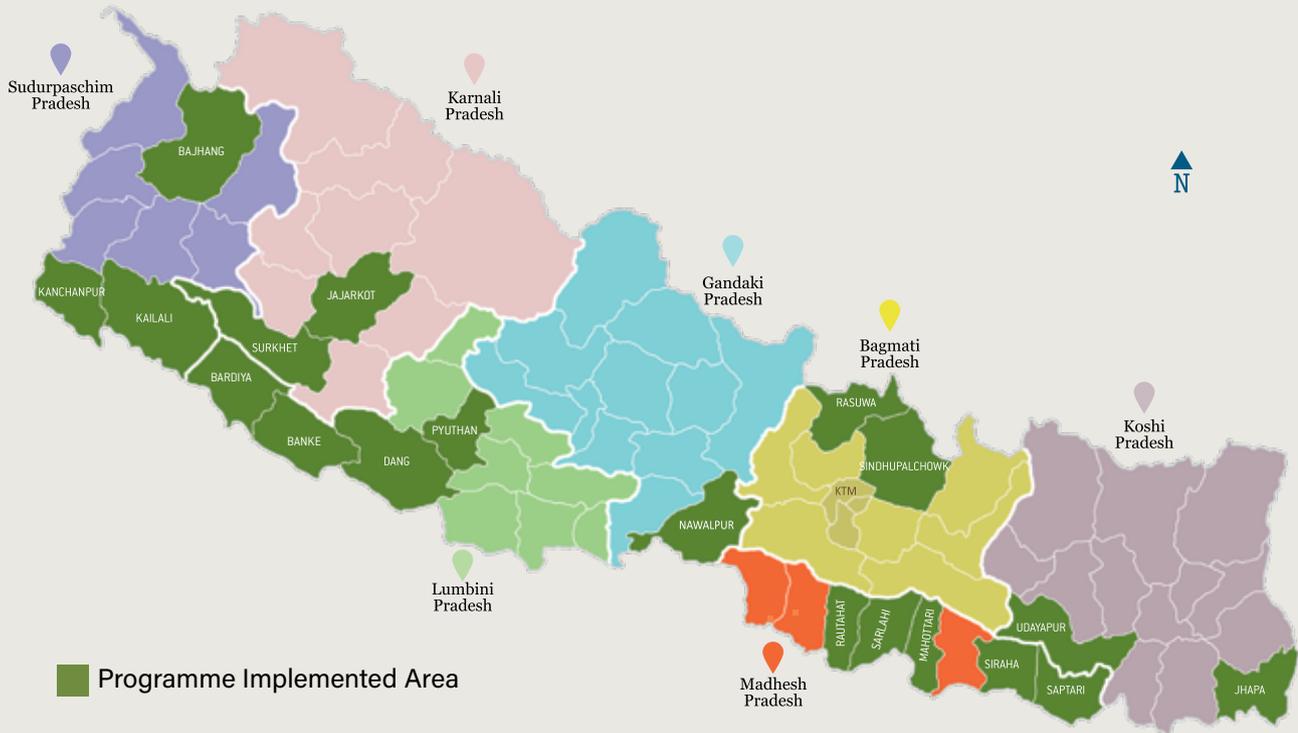
On behalf of CSRC, I extend my deepest gratitude to our Land Rights Forum, partners, allies, and communities who have walked this journey with us. Your solidarity and support remain the backbone of our efforts. Together, let us build on this foundation to achieve our shared goals.

In solidarity,

Uma Aryal
Chairperson

Jagat Deuja
Executive Director

OUR WORKING AREAS IN 2024



67
Rural/Municipalities

19
Districts

7 Provinces



2,33,369 People



51,171 HHs

1

STRENGTHENING AND CONTINUING LAND AND AGRARIAN MOVEMENT

Through participatory context mapping, capacity building of land poor communities, influencing and campaigning, CSRC has been active in advancing the land rights agenda and ensuring social justice together with land rights forums.

Empowering People's Organization



DLRF Nawalpur Orientation, 2024

A campaign for organization strengthening and orientation on land related 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. 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 land rights forums by renewing membership and formulating campaign plan in district level. The orientation program empowered community leaders to actively advocate for their land agenda. The campaign successfully strengthened the capacity of community leaders, enhancing their ability to mobilize and support their communities in the fight for land rights.

Land Allocation Program

CSRC has implemented 'The Land Allocation' program in Bardiya district of Lumbini Province and Kailali of Sudurpaschim province as a pilot initiative aimed at supporting government of Nepal in allocating land and land certificates to landless Dalit families including *Sukumbasi*. The program collaborates with four local governments including Bansgadhi Municipality, Badhaiyatal Rural Municipality, Janaki Rural Municipality, and Lamkichuha Municipality to strengthen local governance system for managing land allocation processes effectively. Prioritizing gender equity, it focuses on registering land in the names of women or jointly with their husbands. The initiative also emphasizes system strengthening by building the capacity of local government in their respective roles, facilitating coordination among various committees under the Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC). Additionally, the program involves enhancing data collection, verification, and recording processes, empowering marginalized communities to access essential government services, as well as developing human resource capacities in collaboration with the Land Management Training Centre (LMTTC). By targeting 1000 landless Dalit families, the program aims to increase livelihood resilience through a replicable and systematic land allocation model. The program also focuses on providing land rights training to new landowners, evaluating the pilot's effectiveness, and documenting lessons to scale the approach nationwide.

L4ACT Program

The "Safety Net Innovative Land Tenure Solutions" L4ACT program, focuses on empowering vulnerable communities of Lamahi Municipality, Gadhawa RM, Rajpur RM, and Rapti RM in Dang, Lumbini Province. The major outputs of the program are Strengthen the capacity of municipal stakeholders to implement inclusive, gender-responsive and fit-for-purpose (FFP) land tools, Land tenure Security of landless and informal tenure-holders; and sharecroppers/informal leaseholders/ contract farmers are documented, mapped and registered, Improved strategies and tools to support Project Municipalities to reduce landlessness and Knowledge Sharing and dissemination of learnings to the local, provincial and the national governments. Through the program, the local land act and land lease guideline of Rajpur Rural Municipality is prepared and the land lease guidelines for Gadhawa and Rapti Rural Municipalities have been updated, establishing a strong regulatory framework for local land management.

CSRC Successfully coordinated the mission visit of UN Resident Coordinator.

Ms. Hanaa Singer Hamdy visited the program areas with the team of UN- Habitat on 13th June 2024.



UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Hanaa Singer-Hamdy interacting with locals at a community at Gadhawa rural municipality.

“From Struggle to Self-Sufficiency: Shantarami Chaudhary’s Journey”

Shantarami Chaudhary, 37, resides in Gadhawa Rural Municipality in the Dang district. The Tharu people of Nepal traditionally live in joint families, sharing houses, livestock, and land passed down for generations. Shantarami’s family followed this tradition, living with 25 members from five siblings. However, their 0.047 hectares of land was insufficient to support such a large family. Three brothers tried to make it work, but the other two had to find small plots of land nearby. Living on such a small piece of land was a constant struggle.



The lack of land hindered Shantarami's passion for raising goats and pigs. While land is essential for growing crops, it is equally important for raising livestock. She explained, "You can't just have a passion for animals without land. It provides grazing space and natural fertilizers for crops. Leasing land for grazing is pointless without a place to build barns and shelters."

Limited to farm work, Shantarami and her husband, Jallu Chaudhary, faced brutal struggles. Their confined living conditions offered little comfort, and food security was a constant worry. Desperate, Shantarami became a bonded laborer, earning only NPR 2,000 and a single pair of clothes per year.

Shantarami and her husband were the descendants of farmers, yet landless themselves. Their only option was to toil on someone else's land just to survive.

Today, Shantarami's life has transformed. Her once-empty storage containers, made of bamboo for storing crops and grains, are now full of a bounty of paddy rice, wheat, and corn. The hands that once gathered grain from the landlord's field are now busy drying their own harvest. Shantarami remembers longing for the day she'd have a full container and her own drying harvest. Today, that dream is a reality. "Our crops of paddy rice, corn, and wheat are flourishing," she beams. "Once the grains and crops are enough for our family, we sell the surplus and store some for later."

Products such as rice, corn, wheat, and a vibrant vegetable garden have transformed her kitchen. The extra vegetables find a ready market at Lamahi bazaar and nearby villages. She even raises goats and pigs now.

The land became a lifeline for Shantarami's family. Today, through the income from selling grains, livestock, and poultry raised on this land, her children are receiving quality education at school.

In 2018, Shantarami joined forces with 26 other farmers. Together, they saw potential in the neglected river terrace land along the Rapti River. Through years of dedicated work and regular plowing, they transformed the barren, sandy land with sand into fertile soil. It was a six-year journey, but their perseverance paid off. Today, this land they brought back to life is their lifeline – a productive hub that sustains their livelihoods.

Struggle of Guthi Tenant Farmers

The Swargadwari Guthi Pudit Mohi Kisan Sangharsh Samiti, organized a movement from 20th February to 13 March 2024, during which more than 1000 Mohi tenants staged demonstrations in front of the District Administration Office and the Land Revenue Office. It was a historical movement as the tenants peacefully protested in front of the District Administration Office for 31 days for 24 hours. The local government gave them the facility of medicine, water and toilets. For all those days, the farmers cooked and slept there. One major challenge was that they faced hailstorms in February.

Bharat Giri, Secretary, Swargadwari Guthi affected Committee stated, ' The Swargadwari Ashram in Pyuthan has 12 areas, affecting 3,000 households and 15,000 people who have been cultivating guthi land for generations. We paid the land revenue to the government, but as our families grew, it became challenging to continue payments, leading to a halt. The struggles of those affected by guthi land issues have driven movements to seek solutions. 'Achievements of this particular movement include the guthi seminar, activists being able to express their suffering and build closer bonds, leaders realizing that protests can be self-funded, and the publication of a book featuring the people involved in these movements.



Tulsi Chaudhary, Treasurer at DLRD Dang states that they actively assisted in the Guthi movement. She further added that this movement promoted delivering the message in depth across the communities.



National Conference of Guthi Farmers

The 31-day movement led to a successful two-day national conference. The Swargadwari Guthi Pudit Mohi Kisan Sangharsh Samiti, the National Land Rights Forum (NLRD) and CSRC, successfully organized a two-day national conference of Guthi tenant farmers in Ghorahi, Dang from 8th to 9th April 2024. This significant event brought together over 2,000 farmers from 14 districts, creating a powerful platform for collective action and advocacy.

"This land, falsely held in the name of the 'Swargadwari Guthi,' is not just land to us. It is the very essence of our existence, nourished by the tears and sweat of our ancestors. To deny us its ownership is to deny our very dignity and existence. The government cannot ignore our plea."

- Sarita Chaudhary, 38, Dang



The conference facilitated in-depth discussions among farmers to identify and address their specific Guthi land issues. As a result, issued a nine-point declaration, outlining key demands such as the enactment of the Guthi Act and the issuance of land ownership certificates. To strengthen their collective voice, the farmers organized a large-scale rally to demonstrate unity and strength. Additionally, the declaration was submitted to the Minister of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation, Balram Adhikari, who was also the chief guest of the conference. CSRC facilitated discussions between the Guthi Bill draft working group and Swargadwari Guthi farmers at various stages.



Land Use Planning

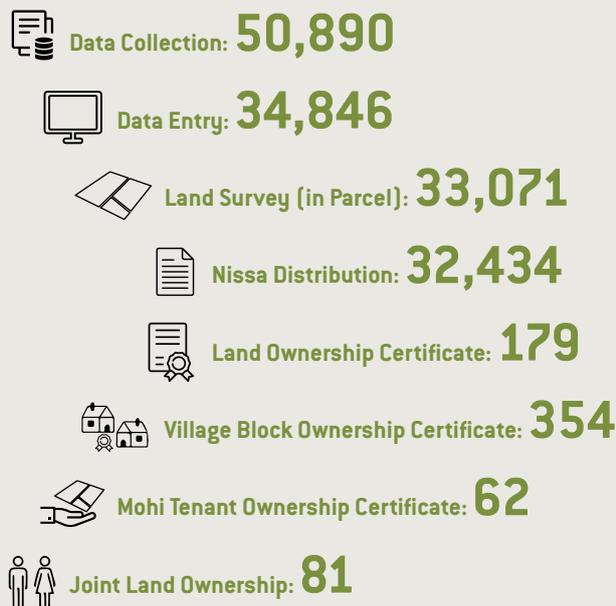
CSRC has actively supported the development of Land Use Plans for three local governments: Barhabise Municipality, Bhotekoshi Rural Municipality, and Tamankhola Rural Municipality. CSRC facilitated the orientation session to LG stakeholders on Land Use planning; collection of field data from various communities to assess the current state of land use and updating the Land Use database. This effort was crucial in addressing the existing land use and aligning future land use planning with the evolving needs of the Local Governments (LGs).

Members of the local Land Use Council and relevant technical staff of the local government were oriented about the legal provisions and work model for Land Use planning as directed by the Land Use Act and Regulation. CSRC supported the process of gathering detailed data directly from the ward within the LGs. CSRC assisted in creating or refining local land use zoning criteria. The final aspect of CSRC's support involved updating the Land Use Zone Database. By integrating field data into this database, CSRC helped ensure that the zoning classifications reflect current conditions and future expectations for each local government.

A Significant Progress in Securing Land Rights

The collaborative efforts between the CSRC, DLRG, and local governments have yielded significant progress in addressing land-related issues for landless Dalits, landless Sukumbasis, and informal settlers. In 2024, a wide-ranging database of 50,890 landless Dalits, Sukumbasis, and informal settlers have been collected, out of which 34,846 data have been entered in the National Land Commission Information System (NALCIS). Land surveys have been completed for 33,071 parcels of land, marking a crucial step towards formalizing land ownership.

Subsequently, 32,434 individuals have received Nissas (temporary card). While the number of formal Land Ownership Certificates issued is currently at 179. Additionally, 354 Village Block Ownership Certificates have been issued while 62 Mohi Tenant farmers have been facilitated for the ownership certificates. Similarly, 81 families of Joint Land Ownership (JLO) have been recognized.





“From Struggle to Triumph: Ani Kumari BK’s Journey to Land Ownership”

Ani Kumari BK, at the age of 74, has finally become a landowner. Her happiness knows no bounds as she shares, “I was born landless; my parents did not have any land.” Married at 12 into another poor family of Sukumbasis, Ani and her husband struggled to make ends meet, working as laborers to feed their five sons and two daughters.

Life was harsh in their small roadside hut in Bardaghat, where feeding their children was a daily challenge. In 2003, Ani and her husband learned about other Sukumbasis living in Nawalparasi (now Nawalparasi Bardaghat Susta East, Nawalpur). Driven by the dream of cultivating their own land, they decided to move. Leaving their meager possessions behind, they settled in Setapani, Nawalpur, facing the fear of wild animals and the daunting task of building a home from scratch.

With determination, they cleared the bushes and thorns, constructing a small house and cultivating 0.13 hectares of land. Ani recalls the sorrow and fear they endured, facing not only natural threats but also the humiliation and oppression from others. Despite being labeled as



Ani Kumari with her family in front of her house

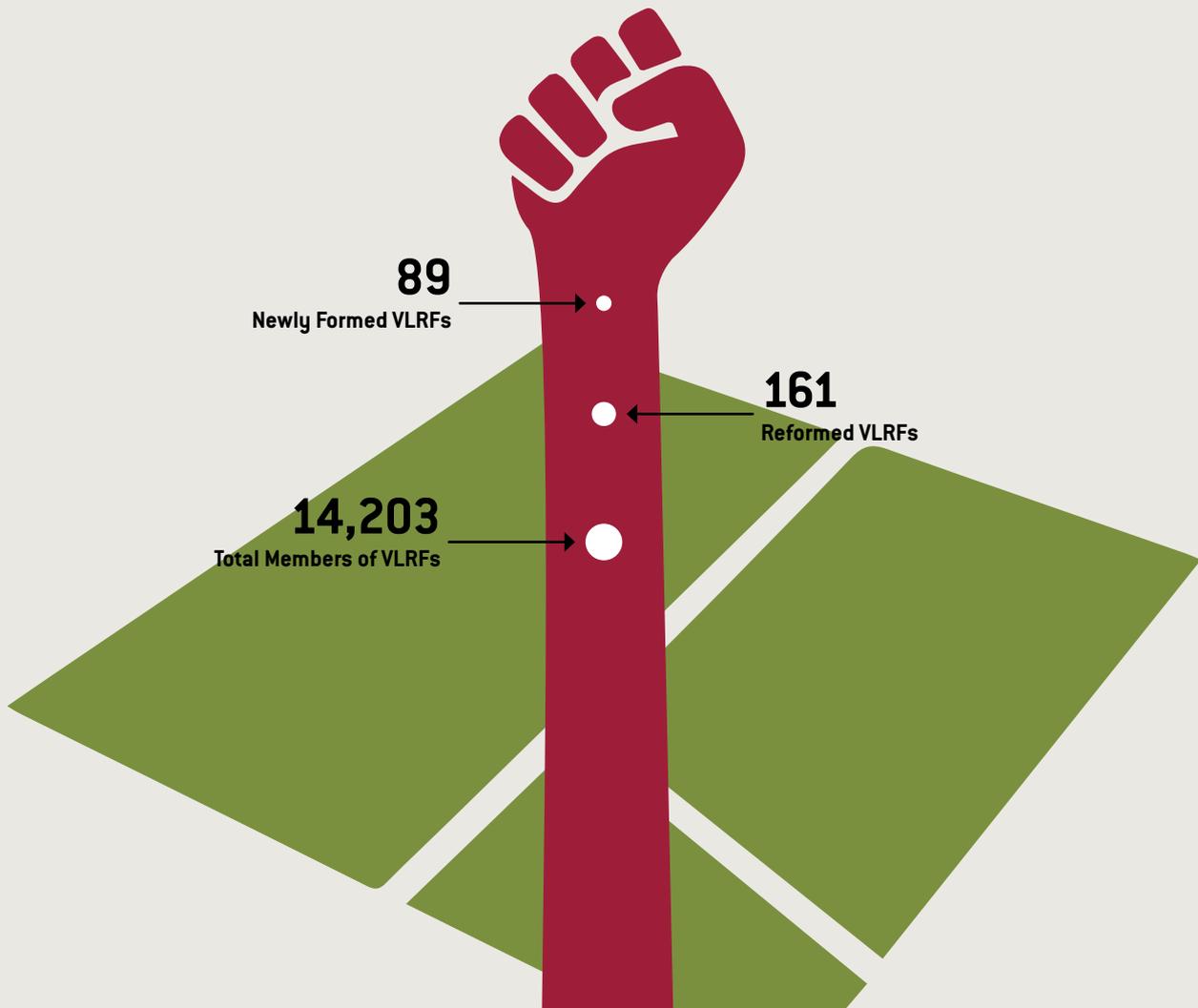
“jungle people,” they persisted, with Ani stating, “We had nowhere else to go, so we stayed.”

In 2020, Manrupa Kumal of the District Land Rights Forum formed the Village Land Rights Forum (VLRf) in Ani’s village, giving hope to landless people like her. United and courageous, they received information that they could obtain land by submitting applications. In February 2021, they applied, and after showing their documents to local representatives, their persistence paid off.

In April 2024, Ani Kumari and 90 other landless Dalits of Setapani, Madhyabindu Municipality-1, received their land certificates. “I came home dancing on the day I got the certificate,” Ani shares, smiling at the red book in her hand. “I feel like I have everything now. Those who tried to demolish my house can no longer harm me.”

Ani’s family has also benefited, with her sons receiving ownership of 0.045 hectares of land each. Though her husband passed away in 2021, Ani wishes he could have shared in the joy of their newfound security.

Strengthening People’s Organization



2.

CONTRIBUTING TO KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION



CSRC has been at the forefront of advancing knowledge and learning in land rights and governance. It publishes research reports, bulletins, infographics, and learning reports, widely disseminated to inform policy deliberations, empower communities, and strengthen advocacy efforts. In 2024, CSRC has published the 'Land Conflict Monitoring Report,' 'Land Tenure Security in Nepal: A Discussion Paper for ADB,' 'Lalmani Bhandari, the Warrior of the Labor Movement,' 'Postharvest Management,' and land rights bulletins.

An exploratory study on the 'Land Tenure Security-Climate Change Nexus' addressed land tenure issues in Nepal, challenges in recognizing and securing various types of land tenure, and gaps between land policy and environmental policies. Secured land tenure is critical in combating climate change, mitigating adverse impacts, and fostering resilient communities.

Writing Workshop Strengthens Land Rights Advocacy

A three-day writing workshop titled '**Matoko Akshar: Lekhanshaala**' was conducted from 24th-26th July. It brought together 19 land rights activists from CSRC and NLRP to enhance their writing skills and strengthen their advocacy efforts. Participants engaged in intensive training sessions focused on developing clear, compelling, and impactful writing techniques. Through the event, activists enhanced their ability to articulate land rights issues effectively through various forms of writing, including reports, articles, and letters. The participants also produced well-crafted advocacy documents, which will be used to support campaigns and influence policy changes. As a result of the event, twenty articles were featured in national newspapers such as Kantipur and Nagarik, as well as in local newspapers across various districts. These articles were written by ten activists. Additionally, six activists penned 25 readers' letters.



Journalist Raghunath Lamichhane facilitating the Training | Photo: CSRC



GENERATING POLICY DISCUSSION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

CSRC has been advocating for land rights and land governance-related policy reforms in Nepal. It facilitates discussions and dialogue on landlessness and promotes participatory governance. The organization develops policy tools and recommendations to improve land governance and empower land-poor and landless communities. Through these efforts, the CSRC contributes to strengthening land governance and promotes social justice.

LOCAL LAND LAWS FORMULATION

CSRC assisted Rajpur Rural Municipality in Dang for the formulation of a Local Land Act. This Act serves to promote sustainable land use practices, address the needs of landless and informal settlers, and ensure equitable access to land for smallholder farmers within the municipality. By facilitating the systematic collection of data on private, public, and institutional lands, the Act empowers the municipality with the tools for effective and appropriate land management.

CONTRACT FARMING GUIDELINES

The Gadhawa and Rapti Rural Municipalities in Dang have formulated and implemented Contract Farming Guidelines. These guidelines are designed to be highly effective for landless and smallholder farmers, enhancing their access to land, improving food security, fostering self-reliance in agricultural production, and strengthening their livelihoods. A cornerstone of these guidelines is the mandatory execution of written contracts between landowners and leaseholders. This approach intends to promote agricultural growth and generate income from surplus produce, attract youth, landless, and smallholder farmers to engage in agriculture, preserve and utilize indigenous knowledge of local agricultural practices (ensuring its transmission to the next generation), and ultimately, contribute to the development of these rural municipalities as self-sufficient agricultural entities.

Advancing Land Literacy initiative

The Land Management Training Centre, Habitat for Humanity, and CSRC have collaboratively developed a comprehensive land literacy curriculum. This curriculum is designed to educate communities on essential land management practices, rights, and responsibilities. The module consists of 16 sessions. Land literacy classes have been successfully conducted in Dangisaran Rural Municipality, Gujara Municipality, and Saptakoshi Municipality.

This initiative reflects the commitment of CSRC and its partners to promoting equitable land governance and ensuring that community members are well-equipped to handle land-related challenges. By enhancing land literacy, these efforts contribute to building stronger, more resilient communities.

SOLIDARITY AGAINST EVICTION

On July 1st, 2024, CSRC, along with other human rights organizations, issued a press release titled *"No Eviction, Guarantee Right to Housing."* This release was a response to condemn two recent eviction incidents. On June 23rd, 2024, the Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan office demolished the homes of ten landless families in Ward No. 1, Hasanpur, Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City, where they had lived since 2002. Additionally, on June 25th, the District Forest Office, without notifying the government, forcibly bulldozed the settlements of flood-affected people in Wards No. 1 and 9 of Bhajani Municipality, Kailali.

In solidarity with the affected communities, the CSRC not only issued a joint press release but also visited the sites to support the residents.

Minister Pledges to Address Birta Issue



Hon. Minister Balaram Adhikari, the Minister for Land Management, Cooperatives, and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA), recently visited Nuwakot and Rasuwa districts to understand the longstanding Birta issue. A joint team comprising officials from the MoLMCPA and CSRC interacted

with local authorities and Birta tenant farmers in different communities. The team gathered information, reviewed documents, and listened to the concerns of affected communities. Minister Adhikari assured farmers that he would work towards resolving the Birta issue through legislative reforms, aiming to secure land rights for Birta farmers.

Similarly, the DLRf Rasuwa presented a memorandum to the Ministry for Land Management, Cooperatives, and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA).

Empowering the Margins: Building Stronger Communities

The GROW program, implemented in eight districts of Madhesh and Lumbini Provinces, successfully organized 30 Community Interaction and 13 Social Accountability events. These events were focused to strengthen grassroots organizations and empower marginalized communities.

Through these events, key issues affecting marginalized communities were identified, including landlessness, poverty, and limited access to government facilities, focusing the issues of women which were identified as early marriage resulting in vulnerable women health, gender inequality, and domestic violence, and regarding the youths, the most common issues identified were lack of access to higher education, unemployment and drug addictions. Work plans were developed to address these issues and discussed with the local government authorities for implementation.

Formation of the Land Commission

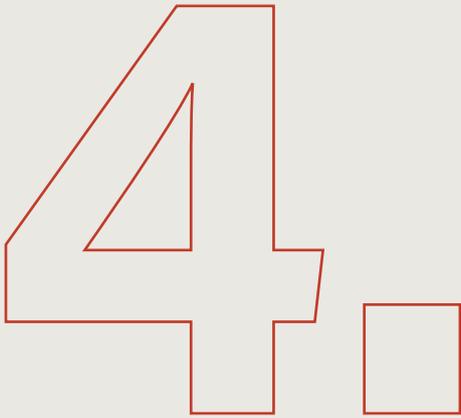
The Government of Nepal established the Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC) on 29th October 2024, chaired by Mr. Hari Prasad Rijal, with CSRC's founder Jagat Basnet serving as an expert member. The commission has been formed to address land-related issues, particularly for landless Dalits, landless Sukumbasis, and informal settlers.

CSRC has been actively involved in supporting the LIRC's efforts, including coordinating with former members of the National Land Commission and contributing to the drafting of the formation order. The commission will collect verified data and distribute land entitlement to eligible individuals, ensuring a fair and transparent process.





Youth Participants during Community Interaction, Saptari | Photo: CSRC



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FARMING, COLLABORATIVE AGRICULTURE AND SYSTEM FOR SECURE LIVELIHOOD

CSRC is promoting sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient practices. The organization has implemented agroecology initiatives in Sindhupalchowk, Rasuwa, Mahottari and Dang. By integrating indigenous knowledge and climate-smart techniques, CSRC supporting landless and small holder farmers to produce organic and high-quality vegetables and perennial fruits to enhance and sustain rural livelihoods.

Empowering Communities through Climate-Resilience Initiative

CSRC is empowering vulnerable communities by providing training, inputs and technical support to farmers, promoting sustainable land use practices, and advocating for policies that support climate resilience. By implementing the Climate Resilience Initiative for the Landless and Small holder farmers, CSRC has educated local people of Panchpokhari Thangpal RM-1 & 2 of Sindhupalchowk, and Gaushala Municipality-10 & 12 of Mahottari on climate change and informed them about adaptation measures such as the preservation of indigenous seeds and knowledge, utilizing fallow and degraded land for perennial fruit farming and promoting sustainable agriculture. The initiative also promoted risk mitigation of climate-induced disasters and increased the land tenure for landless and informal Sukumbasis. These efforts have helped participants to have better livelihoods adapted to the changing climate condition, producing sufficient food and income, and increasing the capacity of landless and smallholder farmers to build resilience to climate change.



Improving Livelihoods

In Uttargaya Rural Municipality, Rasuwa district, the CSRC implemented the Livelihood Improvement Program (LIP), an initiative to enhance agricultural productivity. Key components of this program included the construction of seven soil-cement ponds for improved water management, the establishment of three high-tech nurseries for quality seedling production, and the construction of storage facilities to minimize post-harvest losses of consumable crops like potatoes and ginger.



Furthermore, the CSRC conducted a series of training programs covering topics such as greenhouse establishment, micro-irrigation, off-season vegetable farming, and the utilization of biofertilizers. These training programs, combined with practical demonstrations and Farmer Field Schools (FFS) on various crops, significantly enhanced the skills and knowledge of local farmers, contributing to improved agricultural practices and enhanced livelihoods.

“Earlier, when the tunnel was constructed, only the top was covered with plastic. After receiving training and materials from this program, we have been cultivating vegetables in tunnels systematically. The vegetables inside the tunnel have also improved due to systematic farming. It has also become easier to manage pests. In pest management, biofertilizer (jholmal), pheromone traps (mohini paso), yellow sticky traps, and intercropping have significantly enhanced farming.” **Tulasha Gurung, Uttargaya-3, Pairesirantole.**



779
Supported HHs



12
Learning Circle
Conducting
Communities



6
Supported
Cooperatives

Uplifting Lives through Cooperative

CSRC has been supporting six Cooperatives: Kalika Land Rights Agriculture Cooperative, Mauraniya Agriculture Cooperative, and Milijuli Agriculture Cooperative in Kailali; Janasahayougi Agriculture Cooperative Agriculture and Aatmamilan Agriculture Cooperative in Bardiya; and Alanagar Women Agriculture Cooperative in Banke district. These cooperatives, initially formed by women to advocate for their land rights, have significantly strengthened their operational capabilities, enabling them to function independently.

To date, these cooperatives possess Rs. 8,311,754 of total capital; Rs. 1,692,875 of total savings, while Rs. 6,196,027 have been provided as loans to members for various purposes like livestock, agriculture, medication, and business. Notably, all six cooperatives have completed their annual financial audits on time, adhering strictly to government regulations.

From Struggles to Strength: Krishna Kala's Inspiring Journey

Krishna Kala Karki, a resident of Alanagar in Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan, Banke district, got married in 2006 and settled on *Ailani* (government) land in Alanagar, where she built her home. Hoping to support her family and build a better life, Krishna Kala started a hotel business in 2007. Unfortunately, the business did not succeed, leaving her to face significant financial struggles and a harsh life.

Discouraged but not defeated, Krishna Kala found hope and support through the Alanagar Agricultural Cooperative. She joined the cooperative, contributing Rs. 20 as her monthly



Krishna Kala, grazing buffaloes | Photo: CSRC

savings. With guidance and resources provided by the cooperative, she began her journey toward self-reliance through agriculture and livestock farming.

Today, Krishna Kala's determination and hard work have transformed her life. Her farm now houses nine buffaloes, five goats, and 60 chickens. Each day, she milks her buffaloes, producing up to seven liters of milk, which she sells to a local dairy, earning a stable monthly income of approximately Rs. 21,000. This consistent income has been a lifeline, enabling her to cover her husband's medical expenses, her children's education, and household needs.

Although her family resides on government land, they lease additional land to expand their agricultural activities. Recently, she added to her earnings by selling buffalo calves for Rs. 40,000, further bolstering her financial stability. Reflecting on her journey, Krishna Kala shares, "The cooperative has not just given me financial stability but has also empowered me to take control of my own destiny."

Her impact goes beyond her own household. As the treasurer of the Alanagar Agricultural Cooperative, she actively supports and empowers other women members. Krishna Kala firmly believes that additional grants to the cooperative would allow more women to access loans, driving further growth in the agricultural sector. She expresses her gratitude to CSRC and Microcredit to Mothers for providing the revolving fund that has made such progress possible.

5

TAKING THE MOVEMENT TO THE WORLD



Strong Presence in the World Social Forum

The 16th edition of World Social Forum (WSF) 2024, held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 15- 19 February 2024. Farmers, peasant, land rights campaigners, workers, trade unions, social movements, women's organizations, LGBTQIA+ organizations, indigenous peoples, Dalits, ethnic organizations, civil society organizations, and students gathered in solidarity and voiced their demands and proposals for a more just, equitable, peaceful, and sustainable world for all, resounding "*Another World is Possible*".

During the event, in collaboration with Ekta Parishad India, NLRF and Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj, CSRC organized and facilitated several key events that brought together land rights activists, policymakers, and community leaders from India and Nepal. A major highlight was the "Gandhi to Buddha" foot march, which saw hundreds of activists from India and Nepal march together, emphasizing the power of non-violent resistance in securing land rights. This event strengthened the

global coalition for land tenure security, particularly for marginalized communities such as landless farmers and informal settlers.

In addition to the foot march, CSRC organized and facilitated various discussions and dialogue sessions within the WSF. These sessions focused on critical issues such as women's land rights, pastoralists' rights, and the intersection of land rights and climate justice.

Asian Farmers' Association General Assembly held in Nepal



CSRC along with NLRF and Central Tea Cooperative Federation (CTCF) hosted the Regional Farmers' Workshop and the 11th General Assembly (GA) of the Asian Farmers' Association (AFA) in Kathmandu, Nepal from September 16-20, 2024. This event was a collaboration with the Asian Farmers' Association (AFA).

Representatives from 27 small-scale farmers, fishers, pastoralists, women marginal farmers, and Indigenous Peoples' organizations from 17 countries attended the event. The event brought an opportunity to share and learn from the initiatives of AFA member organizations on climate resilience, provide feedback and inputs on key messages to promote climate resilience, and on the design and activities of current and potential projects.

During the inauguration, Honorable Minister Balram Adhikari emphasized the crucial role of family farmers in addressing agricultural challenges and combating climate change. He highlighted the importance of platforms that support resilient agriculture and optimal land use. Minister Adhikari also connected food production directly to health issues, noting the problems caused by chemicals and fertilizers, and stressed the need for farmers to lead and share best practices.

6

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

CSRC's approach to disaster management embraces various activities, including risk reduction, disaster preparedness, mitigation and response, by working closely with local government and communities, CSRC ensures effective coordination and timely assistance during disasters. The organization also assisted in formulating localized disaster policies such as DPRP (Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan) of Bhotekoshi Rural Municipality, Bahrabise Municipality, Uttargaya Rural Municipality and Nakunda Rural Municipality that promote disaster resilience. Furthermore, provides essential training, workshops and support to both communities and government personnel for disaster preparedness and early action. Additionally, CSRC facilitates the process of reconstruction and relocation grants provided by the government for households affected by monsoon-induced disasters in Sindupalchowk District.

Strengthening Communities Resilience



Relocation Shelter for the Displaced by the landslides | Photo: CSRC

By implementing Pratibaddha II: Together for Disaster Preparedness and Early Action in Landslide Affected Hilly Areas of Nepal” program in Rasuwa and Sindhupalchowk districts, and Pratibaddha III : “Whole of Society Approach for Increased Risk Ownership Multi Hazard Preparedness and Early Action in Hill Areas on Western Nepal” program in Pyuthan, Jajarkot, and Bajhang districts, CSRC is focused on enhancing the resilience of communities in Nepal’s western and central hill regions. By adopting a whole-of-society approach, the initiatives aim to strengthen the capacities of local governments and communities to mitigate the risks posed by earthquakes, floods, and landslides.

Through activities such as First-Aid Light Search and Rescue (FALS&R), training, and awareness-raising initiatives at high-risk communities, it seeks to enhance the ability of local government and communities to respond effectively to disasters and minimize their impact.



“Our house is in a high-risk area so every monsoon, we spend the nights in constant fear. This year, while crossing the river, the current dragged me downstream. Somehow, I managed to survive.

Even during such heavy rains, the roads were blocked, and the local government brought us sheets and tarpaulins, CSRC brought other essential materials like buckets and P-foam mats. We built temporary shelters and moved to a safer location in coordination with the DRM coordinator. In the temporarily relocated shelter, the school and shops are closer which makes it easier for our children as well.”

- **Jit Singh Tamang**, Ward-1 Kamlung Puchhar, Uttargaya, Rasuwa



134
HHs
Facilitated for
Reconstruction
and Relocation



29
HHs
Supported for
Transitional
Shelter



114
HHs
Supported for
Flood-Affected

In late September 2024, Nepal experienced severe late monsoon rainfall, leading to widespread landslides and flooding. Kathmandu saw record-breaking rainfall, the highest since 2002. This disaster affected both the Terai region and hilly areas, blocking fifty national highways. In response, the CSRC, supported by WJR, conducted a field visit on October 1st and 2nd to assess the situation. A team of four visited three locations in Kathmandu Metropolitan and three in Godawari Municipality, Lalitpur, to evaluate needs and provide necessary support to the affected communities.



Sita Nepali: 66 yrs

"All the food supplies were washed away in the flood. This kind of flooding has never happened before. I work as a daily laborer, but I haven't been able to go to work since the flood. I am very grateful for the distributed relief materials."

CSRC in coordination with World Jewish Relief (WJR), Municipality and Ward involved in response efforts for the earthquake-affected households Nalgad, Jajarkot by providing essential support to vulnerable communities. CSRC delivered material for transitional shelter and livelihood assistance to 29 landless households of the Badi community, houses were either completely destroyed or were not safe to live. It aimed to address the immediate needs of these households while fostering long-term resilience and recovery through livelihood assistance.

7

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & GOOD GOVERNANCE

CSRC focuses on organizational development and good governance to ensure long-term success. By conducting regular reviews, providing training, and updating policies, CSRC aims to improve its internal systems and performance. Investing in staff and strengthening its culture, CSRC is well-equipped to achieve its goals and make a lasting impact.

General Assembly



We convened our 29th General Assembly on September 29, 2024, at Bhumi Ghar, Dhapasi, Kathmandu. This significant event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including board members, executive committee members, and employees. The assembly provided a crucial platform

to review the CSRC's performance, discuss future strategies, and elect a new executive committee. A comprehensive review of the organization's activities, achievements, and challenges for the fiscal year 2080/081 was presented. Additionally, a detailed financial report was presented, outlining the organization's income, expenditure, and overall financial health. A new executive committee has been elected to lead the organization for the next three years by ensuring continuity and innovation. The Executive Committee is led by Uma Aryal as Chairperson, Hari Prasad Pudasaini- Vice Chairperson, Man Bahadur Chhetri- Secretary, Cheli Gurung- Treasurer and Saraswati Katwal, Durga Kumari Biswakarma and Indra Prasad Ram as Executive Members.

Enhancing Organization's Capacity

A strategic workshop was conducted to develop our organizational development strategy. The workshop documented the key aspects of organizational development, the current context, and the creative initiatives that need to be taken. The implementation status of the Human Resources Management System (HRMS), Financial Regulations and Management System (FRMS),



Safeguarding, and Community Feedback and Response Mechanism (CFRM) policies that were revised and implemented in the previous year, were reviewed and the employees were oriented in the workshop.

Similarly, a learning workshop was organized for the CSRC's senior management team 26th- 28th July 2024 , to share information about the organization's history and land management, class and social analysis, and successful and exemplary social movements in various places. Through the orientation, in-depth discussions were held on the organizational distinctiveness of the CSRC, and an Action Plan was prepared for organizational transformation to strengthen and make more effective the role of the organization in the social movement.

Formulation of organization development strategy

On November 8-9, 2024, the CSRC board members convened to discuss the draft organizational development strategy. The primary focus was on enhancing leadership development and strengthening movement-building efforts to ensure the organization's growth and effectiveness.

In the event, strategies to mobilize community members and supporters were explored. The board discussed ways to enhance outreach, engagement, and advocacy efforts to build a more cohesive and powerful movement. Additionally, the board worked on establishing detailed criteria and processes for membership development. This included setting clear guidelines for member recruitment, retention, and involvement.

CSRC Hosts Workshop to Resource Generation and Mobilization

CSRC recently hosted a transformative three-day workshop on Resource Generation and Mobilization for its partner organizations within the Partners Investment Fund (PIF). This initiative underscored CSRC's commitment to not only strengthening its own capacity but also nurturing a collaborative and sustainable civil society sector.



The workshop brought together diverse organizations to share knowledge, learn from experts, and develop resource mobilization strategies. By fostering a collaborative environment, CSRC enabled participants to network, exchange experiences, and build stronger partnerships.

Website Update

In September 2024, CSRC proudly launched its newly designed website, featuring updated content and an improved layout. The website is more user-friendly, providing visitors with easier access to CSRC's resources such as research publications, impact stories and the latest news on land rights governance in Nepal. A new feature of the monthly communique has also been added to the website.

Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP)

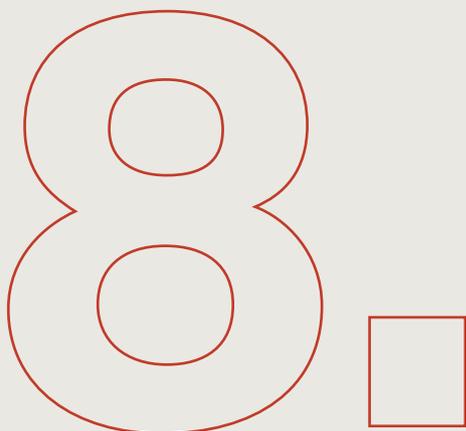
CSRC, in collaboration with NLRF, conducts an annual review of progress, learning, and challenges with the active participation of land rights activists from across the country. This process, known as the Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP), provides a platform for collective evaluation and knowledge sharing.



The Annual program of CSRC took place from 22-23 December 2024 at the Rapti Tharu Community Homestay's Community Hall in Rapti-6, Bagarapur, Dang. Participants included representatives from the National Land Rights Forum, 13 District Land Rights Forums, Mukta Kamaiya Samaaj, Mukta Kamlari Samaaj, Guthi tenant farmers and the CSRC staff.

Hosted by the L4ACT team, there were a total of 70 participants (38 men, 32 women) in the event. Mr. Prakash Bista, Chairperson of the Rapti Rural Municipality, highlighted the key initiatives being undertaken in the rural municipality. These include the Land Lease Program Subsidy, promotion of organic agriculture through compost enterprises, and the bamboo furniture industry which engages youth and women.

The event allowed land rights campaigners from different districts facing similar issues to unite, exchange achievements, and share lessons and challenges.



BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

Financial Status January to 31 December 2024

Community Self Reliance Centre

S.N.	Name of Project	Funding Organization	Approved Budget	Budget Utilization in 2024	Time frame for budget utilization of program
1	Support to CSRC strategy implementation focusing on land rights and land use	FDF	35,00,000	35,35,120	January to December 2024
2	Wholes of society approach for Increased Risk Ownership, Multi- Hazard Preparedness and Early Action In Hill areas of western Nepal (PRATIBADDHA III)	PIN	4,23,15,280	1,41,94,112	June to December 2024
3	Climate Resilience Initiative for landless and smallholder Communities (CRI)	WJR	1,50,06,996	69,86,418	July to December 2024
4	Support to landless Women Cooperative	MCM	10,76,000	50,250	May to December 2024
5	Climate smart Agriculture (CSA)	GNI	79,45,852	12,87,226	July to December 2024
6	Land Agri/ L4ACT	UN-HABITAT	1,27,63,938	1,11,90,564	January to December 2024
7	FPIC Implementation in the Upper Trishuli 1 Hydroelectric Project	OXFAM Novib	24,45,419	25,14,917	April to December 2024
8	Land Allocation Initiative	Landsea	38,78,585	17,91,950	August to December 2024
9	National Land Coalition	ILC	33,45,275	29,38,081	May to Dec 2024
10	ILC Facility	ILC	30,79,032	20,68,692	August- December 2024
11	Partners' Investment Fund (PIF)	OXFAM	26,15,000	20,21,266	Jan to December 2024
12	Improve the Livelihood and Economic Status of the Population of the Communities from the Rural Municipalities of Uttargaya through the Promotion of Commercial Agricultural Practices (Livelihood Improvement Project)	ASIA	80,21,914	79,58,729	October 2023 to June 2024
13	Grassroots Resilient Organizations Empowering Women, youth and Marginalized (GROW)	Forum Asia	33,50,625	15,89,219	1 August 2024-November 2024
	Total		109,343,916	58,126,544	

9

COMING PRIORITIES



Building upon our five-year Land and Agriculture Campaign Strategy, CSRC will prioritize supporting land tenure security for landless Dalits, landless Sukumbasis, and informal settlers in at least 50 local levels. We will expand our land rights campaign, conduct rigorous research to inform policy advocacy, and advocate for policy changes to allow landless, land-poor, and smallholder farmers to utilize unused land. Additionally, we will strengthen our participation in national and international land rights movements. By focusing on these key areas, CSRC will contribute a more just and equitable land tenure system in Nepal.

Furthermore, CSRC will continue to support communities in building resilience to climate change and natural disasters. By promoting sustainable agriculture practices, disaster preparedness, and climate-smart technologies, we will be empowering communities to adapt to the changing climate and mitigate the impacts of disasters.





Community Self-reliance Centre (CSRC)
Bhumi Ghar, Tokha-7, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: +977-1-4960486; 4957005
Email: landrights@csrcnepal.org