



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

April at CSRC saw strengthened momentum in the land rights movement, with trainings and dialogues enhancing grassroots leadership, sharpening advocacy, and building collective response to rising eviction risks.

Agriculture initiatives delivered tangible impacts, with farmers generating early income, expanding productive land use, and improving market access, while growing adoption of climate-smart practices strengthened livelihood resilience.

At the same time, community preparedness and institutional capacity improved through large-scale mock drills and the establishment of a Local Emergency Operation Center, reinforcing coordinated and effective disaster response systems.

Discussion on Priorities of the Land Rights Movement in the Changing Context

A detailed discussion was held on the future activities to be carried out under the Land Rights Movement in the changing context. The discussion was conducted at Bhumighar, Kathmandu, among campaigners and well-wishers of the Land Rights Movement, with the participation of 10 individuals.



During the discussion, in-depth reflection and dialogues were carried out on the opportunities and challenges for resolving land-related issues in the current context, as well as on the issues prioritized by the government. After the discussion, important plans for the campaign were formulated, and necessary responsibilities were assigned for their implementation.

Basic Leadership Development Training for Leaders of the Land Rights Movement

A three-day Basic Leadership Development Training under the Madhesh Good Governance Strengthening Campaign was successfully completed at WOREC's Rajabas field office, Udaypur, with the collaboration of CSRC, Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaaj, and CARE Nepal.

A total of 25 leaders (21 women, 4 men) of the Land Rights Movement, both new and experienced took part in intensive discussions and collective analysis. The training strengthened their capacity to address landlessness and the challenges faced by women and Dalit communities in Madhesh, while exploring opportunities in the changing political context.

By challenging negative narratives, deepening knowledge of legal provisions and advocacy methods, and emphasizing collaboration across networks, the program energized participants and equipped them to advance the land rights movement with renewed confidence and clarity of purpose.



Training on Promotion of Access to and Rights over Land for Marginalized Communities

A three-day training on promoting access to and rights over land for marginalized communities was successfully completed in Gurase, Dailekh, organized by FastenAktion and CSRC. Thirty representatives from nine partner organizations across Karnali Province actively engaged in mapping local contexts, analyzing land relations, and exploring legal and constitutional provisions. They discussed strategies for managing landlessness, strengthening governance structures, and advancing women's rights over land.

Through participatory exercises and collective analysis, the training emphasized balancing conservation with utilization, challenging exclusionary practices, and localizing land governance. Participants concluded with strong commitments to develop action plans that advance access to and ownership of land for marginalized communities.

7th District Convention of Land Rights Forum Dang

The 7th District Convention in Dang demonstrated strong grassroots ownership and collective action, bringing together 171 representatives from 8 municipalities and mobilizing over 300 people in a public rally to amplify demands for land rights, gender equality, and secure housing.

The event highlighted the movement's self-reliance and sustainability, with participants covering food and travel costs through local contributions and shared responsibility. It also resulted in strengthened organizational leadership and direction, with a new executive committee formed and a 7-point declaration endorsed setting a clear agenda for advancing land rights.

The event demonstrated strong community ownership and sustainability, with participants managing food and travel through local contributions. It also reinforced the institutional capacity of the District Land Rights Forum through the formation of a new leadership team and a 7-point declaration, setting a clear and collective direction to advance land rights and address the needs of landless communities.

The program was attended by Biju Khan, Secretary of the District Land Rights Forum; Parbati Thami, Treasurer; former District Chairpersons of the District Land Rights Forum; Krishna Kumar Chaudhary, Chairperson of SWAN; Krishna Ghimire, Vice-Chairperson of the Land Rights Forum Lumbini Province; former Chairperson of the Forum Megh Bahadur B.C.; Sushila Chaudhary, Treasurer of the Freed Kamalari Development Forum; and Prabin Dahit, Secretary of the Swargadwari Guthi Struggle Committee.



Leaders' Gathering at Selar



A gathering of leaders of the Land Rights Movement was held in Selar village of Dhanusha. The meeting saw the participation of around 80 leaders representing villages around Selar as well as various village forums from different parts of the district. The gathering critically strengthened collective awareness and readiness of local leaders by enabling in-depth reflection on ongoing eviction trends and potential risks in Dhanusha, while reinforcing strategies to organize, mobilize, and resist displacement more effectively.

A strong demonstration of community ownership and solidarity was evident as 60 households jointly managed food through local contributions, showcasing the movement's self-reliance. Efficient resource use evidenced by surplus food and funds along with leaders covering additional costs themselves, highlighted a high level of commitment, collective responsibility, and sustainability for future campaigns.

National Dialogue on Reframing Land Reform and Government Priorities

The national dialogue program on reframing land reform and government priorities was jointly organized together with Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC), National Land Coalition, and National Land Rights Forum Nepal at the National Human Rights Commission office in Pulchowk, Lalitpur in 27th April 2026. A total of 49 participants (23 women and 26 men) from different sectors.

During the event, Jagat Deuja, Executive Director of CSRC, delivered a comprehensive presentation on key land reform priorities in Nepal and the roles of the government and concerned stakeholders. Similarly, Pranav Chaudhary, CEO and Director of Landstack India, shared experiences and insights on good practices and innovations in land governance in the Asian context.



Hon. Member of the parliament, Dr. Sujata Tamang, participated in the program and stated that the government would take initiatives to find sustainable solutions to land reform issues.

Lyam Bahadur Darji, Chairperson, Anu Verma, Coordinator of the International Land Coalition, Yagya Adhikari, Joint Secretary at the National Human Rights Commission, Sabin Nimlekh-Activist, and Rajaram Chhatkuli, National Land Expert at UN-Habitat shared their experiences and concern about the land reform issues of Nepal and government priorities.

In the program, participants collectively expressed concern over recent forced evictions carried out by the newly formed government in Kathmandu Valley and other parts of the country. They emphasized that such actions violate the basic human rights of landless and informal settlers and called for a united response from all stakeholders. There was also a strong call for increased awareness and vigilance, as various state agencies appear to be intensifying eviction efforts in different parts of the country.

The Summer School on Climate Responsive Land Governance held

The Summer School on Climate Responsive Land Governance was held from April 21 to 26, 2026, in Dhulikhel. The program was jointly organized by the Land Management Training Center, Landstack India, and the International Land Coalition–Asia, and Co-organizer were Community Self Reliance Center (CSRC), Habitat for Humanity Nepal, UN-Habitat, The University of Melbourne, Kathmandu University, and Caritas Nepal.

A total of 23 participants were participated in the summer school, including 5 international participants (from India and Myanmar) and 18 Nepali participants. Representatives from both government and non-government organizations were involved. The program provided an important platform for participants to exchange knowledge, experiences, and practical learning. Highly experienced facilitators from Australia, India, and Nepal conducted sessions on land administration, land rights, land management, and climate change.



The main management of the training was carried out by the Land Management Training Center. After the opening session, the remaining five days were conducted as a residential training at the Caritas Nepal training center in Dhulikhel.

Throughout the program, participants strengthened their capacity to integrate climate sensitivity into land governance through in-depth discussions, collaborative learning, and practical exposure. The field visit to Helambu and Melamchi enabled direct engagement with flood-affected communities, deepening participants' understanding of climate-induced risks and the realities of post-disaster recovery.

As a result, professionals, activists, and practitioners enhanced their ability to apply climate-responsive approaches to land management and governance. The program contributed to building a more informed and capable cohort of stakeholders equipped to promote resilient, climate-friendly land governance practices in their respective contexts.



Mahottari Farmers Started Harvesting Vegetables

Farmers in Gaushala Municipality wards 10 and 12, began harvesting cucumber, bitter gourd, and cowpea within weeks of sowing. The produce is being sold in nearby markets, including Gaushala and Puranokanti Bazar, enabling early income for farming households. The CRI initiative provided technical guidance, input support, and promotes improved agronomic practices.

Key Achievements:

- Laxminiya Community: out of 10 supported farmers, seven have started harvesting. Sales to date include 1,788 kg of cucumber, 395 kg bitter gourd, and 125 kg cowpea, generating Rs. 64,150 at prevailing market prices.
- Thapa Tole: Four farmers have sold 3,201 kg of cucumber and 139.5 kg cowpea, earning approximately Rs. 86,302.50.



Farmers attribute these positive outcomes to practical technical guidance provided through the program. Progressive farmer Bhogindra Mahato from Laxminiya emphasized the value of new techniques introduced by field technicians.

“We are now applying improved practices such as 3G cutting in cucurbits, which has significantly improved our yield. Earlier, we believed vine cutting would reduce production, but the results have shown otherwise,” he said. The adoption of improved practices is helping farmers reduce input costs, boost efficiency, and respond better to market demand. Even within a short production cycle, farmers are realizing meaningful income gains. The CRI Mahottari initiative continues to strengthen sustainable agriculture, enhance productivity, and build resilient livelihoods across the region.

Transformation of Fallow Riverside Land into Profitable Watermelon Farming in Rapti-6, Bhagwanpur



Four months prior, the riverside land in Rapti-6, Bhagwanpur was covered with Kans grass and remained unproductive. A total of eight members of the Shiv Mandir Samudayik Farmer Group transformed 1.33 ha. of this land into productive farmland for watermelon cultivation with technical and input support from the MAFRA-CSA program.

Although the group comprises 25 members, only eight members (3 men and 5 women) initially participated in the cultivation. At present, they are harvesting the produce with a high level of satisfaction, having sold approximately 1,600 quintals of watermelon and generated an income of about NPR 6,32,520. Encouraged by the positive returns, the participating farmers have expressed their commitment to expanding the area under watermelon cultivation in the coming year.

CRI Participatory Review Reflection and WJR Field Monitoring Visit

On 21 April 2026, the Climate Resilience Initiative (CRI) successfully conducted its Participatory Review and Reflection Program (PRRP) in Sermathang, Sindhupalchowk, with the participation of Spencer Leland, Program & MEL Manager from World Jewish Relief (WJR). The session enabled open reflection and knowledge exchange between CSRC and WJR teams, strengthening coordination and identifying lessons for future program improvement. Leland commended the strong community relationships, effective field coordination, and progressive learning mindset of participants. Spencer's field monitoring visit was conducted from 15-25 April 2026 in Gaushala Municipality (Wards 10 & 12, Mahottari) and Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality (Wards 1 & 2, Sindhupalchowk). He observed strong adoption of improved vegetable farming practices, particularly in pest management, disease control, safe pesticide use, and land management- key foundations for long term resilience and productivity.



Visit to the farmers' fields at Mahottari

Koselighar Inauguration – A Milestone for Local Market Development

The Panchpokhari Koselighar was successfully inaugurated in Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality, marking a significant step toward strengthening the marketing and promotion of local and indigenous products. The centre was inaugurated by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development of Bagmati Province, Mr. Madhusudan Paudel, as Chief Guest, highlighting strong provincial commitment to local economic development.



The inauguration ceremony was attended by key local leaders, including Rural Municipality Chairperson Tasi Lama, Vice Chairperson Sunita Adhikari, Chief Administrative Officer Laxman Kuinkel, and other distinguished stakeholders. The Koselighar has been established with financial and technical support from the Climate Resilient Agriculture Program (CRI).

Located at Khalde Bazaar, Tipeni, the Koselighar offers over 60 varieties of local food and non food indigenous products, serving as a dedicated platform for collective marketing from the Panchpokhari area. The initiative is designed to preserve local skills, culture, and traditional products while creating sustainable income opportunities for farmers and producer groups.

Early results demonstrate strong market demand and commercial potential:

- NPR 32,000 in sales on the inauguration day
- Daily sales averaging NPR 5,000-6,000
- Product orders already received from Kathmandu and other parts of Nepal



Exposure Visit on Climate Smart Agriculture to lead farmers and agriculture technicians, Chitwan and Nawalpur



Orientation on Layering practices during exposure visit at Rampur, Chitwan

A collaborative exposure visit on CSA technologies engaged 27 participants, including 19 farmers (7 men and 12 women), 2 women agriculture technicians, along with representatives from CSRC and UN-Habitat. Participants from Rajpur, Gadhawa, Rapti rural municipalities and Lamahi municipalities visited learning sites in Chitwan and Nawalpur to gain practical knowledge on riverbed farming, organic agriculture, and sustainable land management practices.

The visit provided hands-on insights into nutrient management, compost production using local resources, integrated farming systems, and climate-resilient techniques. Participants expressed strong commitment to applying these practices enhancing organic farming, improving waste utilization, and promoting sustainable agriculture in their communities.

Strengthening Community Preparedness through Community-led drill

By targeting effective community preparedness for future shocks and stress, Pratibaddha-III facilitated 11 community level mock drills across at-risk communities of Pyuthan, Jajarkot, and Bajhang in April.

The exercises focused on, the role of Community Based Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs), Effective risk communication within the community and respective LG authorities, Mobilization of local task forces pre-disaster, during, and post-disaster, and using safe evacuation route for effective evacuation.

Each drill was designed around four scenarios linked to weather forecasts, enabling communities to test their preparedness plans. The drill was led by CDMC technical support provided by the project team, with the observation of elected ward representatives. A total of 703 participants participated (236 Men and 467 women) in the program.



Community level disaster preparedness simulation exercise at Sarumarani-6, Budichaur, Pyuthan

Through these drills, communities:

- Strengthened their ability to respond collectively during emergencies
- Identified both resilient practices and areas needing improvement
- Reinforced confidence that risks can be reduced through preparedness

Mr. Gorakh Badhaur Dhami, CDMC member from Rotagad, Kedarsyun RM Bajhang, highlighted the value of practice: *“Over the past eighteen months, we have gained theoretical knowledge through the project. Now, we have demonstrated this knowledge in a practical session. This experience helps build my confidence and that of community members to act effectively in managing anticipated risks in future.”*

The communities are now all set for the effective disaster response by effective update and executing the community forecast-based action, armed with strengthened community preparedness, collective confidence, and a tested community Forecast-based Action Plan.