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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

This month at CSRC, the land rights initiatives saw strong momentum across districts. District Land Rights Forums in six districts submitted memorandums urging housing rights and land ownership for landless households.

A national policy dialogue brought together 61 stakeholders to address forced evictions and sustainable settlement, with community leaders voicing deep concerns over rising fear among landless families.

In Dhanauji, coordination and review meetings advanced data verification and digitization of records, while VLRFs strengthened advocacy and leadership. In Bardiya, 29 households received land ownership certificates, securing tenure and housing rights.

The “Advancing Land Rights for Resilient Livelihoods in Nepal” program funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), officially commenced on 1 July 2026 and will be implemented over a two-year period.

Land Rights Forums Submit Memorandums to the Land Problem Resolution Committees

District Land Rights Forums in Sindhuli, Saptari, Siraha, Nawalpur, Surkhet, and Kanchanpur submitted memorandums to the respective Land Problem Resolution Committees through Chief District Officers.

Through the memorandums, the forums called for distribution land ownership certificates to landless households, Sukumbasi, and informal settlers is carried out effectively, transparently, and without delay.



Land Ownership Certificates Distributed



A total of 29 households in Ward No. 4 of Badhaiyatal Rural Municipality, Bardiya received land ownership certificates covering 40,080.1 square metres of land. The beneficiaries included 2 landless Dalit households and 27 landless squatter households, marking an important step towards securing their land tenure and housing rights.

Prior to the certificate distribution, the Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC), in collaboration with Landesa, provided technical assistance and facilitation support to Badhaiyatal Rural Municipality throughout 2025 to strengthen the municipality's readiness for implementing the land allocation process. The support included:

- Technical assistance for data entry and verification of landless Dalit and informal settler households in the National Land Information System (NLSIS);
- Reactivation and operational strengthening of the Land Service Centre;
- Capacity building and technical mentoring for municipal officials and the Land Issues Facilitation Committee;
- Support for beneficiary identification, field verification, documentation, and recommendation processes; and
- Coordination among local government and support to land survey and prepare the plot wise map.

Policy Dialogue on Forced Evictions

On 14 July 2026, the National Land Rights Forum (NLRF), with support from CSRC, NLC, and partners, organized a policy-level dialogue at the National Human Rights Commission Hall, Lalitpur. The program brought together 61 participants, including civil society representatives, land rights activists, and community leaders, to discuss the impacts of forced evictions on landless families and the advocacy roles of stakeholders.

Jagat Basnet, Co-founder of CSRC, shared experiences on land registration and the role of civil society, while Bhagawati Adhikari, Executive Director of NMES, presented on the eviction stop campaign in Kathmandu

Valley. Community representatives from Surkhet, Dang, Kailali, Bara, and Rautahat shared lived experiences of eviction. The dialogue created a platform for frontline leaders and CSOs to exchange perspectives and strengthen collective advocacy against forced evictions.

“Our family does not own land anywhere. We have been living on public land in Bara. After hearing about the evictions in Kathmandu, a notice was posted saying that our settlement could also be removed. Fear spread throughout the community. Earlier, when my child returned home from school, he would ask, ‘Mom, what’s for lunch?’ or ‘What are we having for dinner?’ Now, the first thing he asks is, ‘Mom, when will they demolish our house?’ I have no answer for him. The evictions in Kathmandu have not only affected the families living there, but they have also left people like us, living in distant settlements, in deep psychological fear.” - Sabina Gole, Bara

Farmers Submit Applications for Formal Registration of Birta Land Ownership

Birta land cultivating farmers submitted applications to the Land Administration Offices in Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts for the formal registration of Birta land in the name of farmers. The Government of Nepal was given deadline up to Asar 2083 for submission the application. A total of 628 applications were submitted from the two districts. In Rasuwa, an application collection camp was also organized in Kalikasthan from 4-6 July 2026.



Advancing Land Rights for Resilient Livelihoods Program Officially Begins

The “Advancing Land Rights for Resilient Livelihoods in Nepal” program, funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), officially commenced on 1 July 2026 and will be implemented over a two-year period. The project aims to strengthen land tenure security and resilient livelihoods for landless Dalits and Sukumbasi communities in Rautahat and Sarlahi districts. Through collaboration with local governments, land rights forums and communities, the project will promote inclusive governance, enhance community capacity, and facilitate access to secure land rights.

The orientation about the program was held on 25 July 2026 at Naya Road, Hariwan Municipality of Sarlahi which was facilitated by Jagat Deuja, Executive Director, of CSRC. The participants included members from land rights forums including district, provincial and NLRF. Eleven representatives including 5 women were participated from from the Sarlahi and Rautahat.



Municipal-Level Land Rights Forum Review Meeting and Orientation Program

A municipality-level review and orientation program was held on 28 July at Lamahi Municipality with support from CSRC, bringing together representatives from 20 Village Land Rights Forums. Participants reviewed progress, raised concerns about landless families in forest areas, and received orientation on the new Land Problem Resolution Committee guidelines. The meeting emphasized the role of VLRF leaders in strengthening information dissemination, coordination, and advocacy, while urging continued collaboration and readiness for advocacy movements if needed. A total of 28 participants, including 12 women and 16 men, attended.



Akabare Chili Brings New Hope to Participants in Sindhupalchok

In Panchpokhari Thangpal -1 & 2, Sindhupalchowk, community members have started growing Akabare chili. This program helps them grow crops that can handle changing weather and still earn good money. So far, 36 participants are growing Akabare on 0.5 ha of land across two wards.

This chili sells for a good price: between Rs. 150 and Rs. 450 per kg fresh, and even more when dried. Local Tamang people buy and use it often, and local buyers are always ready to purchase it. It also keeps well after harvest. Since community members already save their own seeds, they don't need to buy new seeds each year. Once planted, the same chili plant can keep producing for two to three years. It's also less likely to be eaten/ destroyed by monkeys, which is a big problem for maize and millet in this area. Many community members now plan to grow Akabare on more land, at least 0.05 ha each, to earn more income.

"At first, I was skeptical to plant Akabare in my field. But now, seeing healthy chili plants, I have no regrets. I followed the advice given during farm visits, and I haven't had any major problems this season. If the market price stays good, I want to replace much of my maize and millet land with Akabare in the next cycle."

Sosman Granden, Barjetole



Even with difficult weather, the chili has grown well, and community members now feel more confident about growing it to sell.

Mingmar Tamang from Mandigaun, in the same ward, expanded his chili farm from a small area to nearly double the size after seeing how well it grew. He said:

"Before, I grew maize here, but monkeys always destroyed it. Akabare has changed that. My wife, grandson, and I now take care of the crop ourselves. Next season, we plan to grow Akabare on all our maize land."

Residents of Panchpokhari Thangpal are hopeful that Akabare will become a steady source of income for their families.



Plantation of the Bamboo sapling along the Rapti riverside areas as bioengineering interventions



MAFRA-CSA program in joint collaboration with Lamahi Municipality and the Division Forest Office (Deukhuri), Dang, organized a bamboo plantation program along the Rapti River at Lamahi-8, Kholigaun, in coordination with three Land Rights Farmer Groups: Ekata Land Rights Farmer Group, Smart Land Rights Farmer Group, and Sayapatri Land Rights Farmer Group of Lamahi-8.

A total of 350 bamboo saplings were planted along the Rapti River. The program was inaugurated by Mr. Jograj Chaudhary, Mayor of Lamahi Municipality, and Mr. Ram Dhyan Kumar Shah, Acting Divisional Forest Officer. Altogether, 80 participants, comprising 28 men and 52 women, including farmers and representatives from Lamahi Municipality and the Division Forest Office (Deukhuri), Dang, participated in the bamboo plantation program.

Speaking at the program, Mr. Ram Dhyan Kumar Shah, Acting Divisional Forest Officer, said, “The bamboo species and the location selected for *the* plantation are appropriate and bamboo plantation is one of the most eco-friendly approaches to conserving and restoring the riverbed area”. Similarly, the farmers committed to the conservation of the planted bamboo saplings. The initiative is expected to contribute to riverbed conservation, protection of agricultural land, biodiversity conservation, and the resilience of local farming communities. Currently, bamboo saplings are growing, and it is estimated to restore 26 hectares of the agricultural land.



1155 Early Warning Awareness Campaign

The 1155 Early Warning Awareness Campaign was conducted through 18 Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs) in Maharajgunj Municipality and Yasodhara Rural Municipality, engaging 255 members (119 men, 129 women, 7 persons with disabilities).

Participants were oriented on accessing the 1155 Toll-Free Weather Information Service, interpreting forecasts and flood alerts, and promoting timely early actions. Awareness materials featuring the 1155 service, sirens, river sensors, and preparedness messages were distributed to reinforce outreach.

The campaign strengthened CDMCs' capacity to disseminate official weather information, enhanced community preparedness, and motivated members to promote early action against floods, heavy rainfall, windstorms, lightning, and other hazards.



Community Preparedness and Heatwave Safety In Rajpur Municipality's flood-prone Ward No. 9, Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs) led proactive awareness campaigns during the recent heatwave. Through regular miking, public announcements, and information sharing, residents adopted safer practices adjusting work hours, staying hydrated, and monitoring forecasts via the 1155 service. As a result, no major heat-related illnesses were reported, and communities demonstrated stronger preparedness and resilience against climate-induced hazards.

