

# FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT INDEPENDENT DIALOGUE

National Land Right Forum (NLRF)

Nepal



July 2, 2021



# Secure Land Rights: National Context of Nepal

- **Historic Aspect:** Land is main source of property for livelihood and key determining factors of socio-economic status and evidence for governments facilities in Nepal. Unjust land relation arose in Nepal before Rana regime, during Monarchy and it continued after democracy in 1950 due to feudal land tenure system. Land reform is more than 70 decades awaited and unsolved agenda in Nepal.
- **Unjust Land Relations :** Around 25% landless and informal land holders are still deprived for land rights and more than 53% farmer's have below half hectare of arable land while 7% landlords holds 27% of total arable land. Nearly 80% women population are participating agriculture production while 19% of total women have land ownership. They are family farmers and their contribution is not recognized. Government facilities are on the basis of ownership certificate.
- **Limited Access and Feminization in Agriculture:** Increasing foreign emigration and youth migration to urban areas for employment due to subsistence form of production, feminization in agriculture increased. However ownership of production resources like land goes to male that hindered women for all type of extension services/facilities.
- **Land Movements:** Farmers and landless of Nepal collectively played the historic role to land rights movement in Nepal since 1950 but land rights has not been addressed fully till now. NLRF established in 2004 to secure land rights envisioning with 'Arable Land for Land Tillers and Safe residence for All'.

# National Land Right Forum Nepal

- National Land Right Forum, as a pioneer movement based people-led organization, established in 2004 to secure land rights of landless, unorganized settlers, disaster displaced people and small holders farmers by organizing, mobilizing and enhancing capacities of them for national level land movement.
- NLRF works seven provinces, 60 districts out of 77 districts with its more than 88 thousand its members in Nepal and has 6 tiers of institutional structure in federal, provincial, district, Local, ward to Community level.
- Major campaigns of NLRF during its tenure are to 'Land Rights on Constitution Campaign, 'Tenancy and Trusty Farmer's Right Campaign', Chure conservation campaign with Human Settlements', Land Rights to Women (Joint Land Ownership) Campaign', 'Haliya Rehabilitation Campaign' and 'Village Bock Land registration Campaign, and 'Use of barren land campaign'.
- NLRF mandatorily follows the legislation in regards to 50% women include ethnic minorities for gender and social inclusion; 'Code Of Conduct' to zero tolerance in violence, corruption and committed to sustainable land use.
- NLRF recognized to three major movement as game changing campaign i.e. Land Rights in constitution, Joint Land Ownership, and Community-led Land Management Practices.

# Land Right in Constitution: A Game Changing campaign in 2007-2015

## Strategies

- **Enhancing capacity** : Meetings, enhancing capacity of Frontline leaders, collection & mobilize movement fund, increased membership, conducted mass gatherings, discussion, sharing challenges and opportunities within organization.
- **Mobilization & Campaigning**: sent demand postal letters, wall paintings, emails, suggestions and memorandum to Constitution Assembly(CA) members and reminded the election commitments and readers letters in newspaper.
- **Policy Advocacy** : Lobbied with CAs, speaker person, chief of political leaders and chief- informant,
- **Documentation**: Video capturing, Writings Reports, published bulletin, report, articles, feature news
- **Media Mobilization**: Mobilized national journalists, columnist, discussion with editors, reporters and engaged them to overall campaign.
- **Coordination and collaboration**: Government actors, national and international campaign based networks and allies.

# Joint Land Ownership (JLO): A Game Changing Movement

## Key Strategies

- **Enhancing capacity of members:** Conducted orientations, meetings, enhancing capacity of women members, prepare women frontline leaders, discussion and sharing session with their family members about importance of JLO.
- **mobilization & campaigning:** Realizing the great contribution of women in agriculture. NLRP raised the property right of women on land and set the slogan of 'Participating in every changes, Women need land First'. Sensitized to all family members on it. Mobilized women to submit demand paper to major eight political parties in 2005/6 (II civil movement). Organized uncertain sit-in program, 11 days national wide walking rally on the occasion of world women day 2010 capital centered women's national protest; Series of lobbies, dialogues and efforts to JLO and women property right.
- **Policy Advocacy :** Submit memorandum to major political leaders, invite state representative as chief guest on women mass program, build network to other women groups/ networks and sister organizations of political parties; conduct series of lobby and advocacy;
- **Documentation:** Published booklets, pamphlets, produce videos, writing reports, updated daily dairy of mass
- **Media Mobilization:** Mobilized national journalists, columnist, discussion with editors, reporters and engaged them to overall campaign.

# Key Results

## Transformative constitutional and legislative provisions

- **Fundamental Rights on constitution in 2015:** Land, Property, Food and the Safe Habitant Rights include Land to landless Dalit, the historically deprived community due to caste-based discrimination. Equal inherited property rights to son and daughter.
- **State Guiding Principles in Constitution:** Reflected on Agriculture, land management and resolving all forms of dual ownership regarding to land for increasing productivity, safe inhabitants and social justice.
- **Government's Policy formulation and revisions on Land:** Land Use Act, Land Act, Food Sovereignty and Food Right Act, Act on Right of Habitant.
- **National and International Priority to achieve SDG Goal:** Keep priority in Government's 15th Five year periodic plan, SDG action plan and annual plan.
- **Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC) Formation:** Effective implementation of nation wide land issues resolving tasks commenced from data collection of landless & informal settlers. LIRC provisioned mandatory JLO for married couple while Dalit will get or register the land free of cost.
- **Tax Exemption:** A married women can include the name in her husbands land ownership certificate only in 100 NPR. Land registration tax is discounted 50% to Dalit.

# Key Results

- During the tenure of NLRF, **68056** landless, tenants, displaced and Haliya(the bounded Labor) and village block settlers have got land ownership in which **15150** women received joint land ownership. Collaborations with three tiers of governments for securing land rights to landless, tenants, land poor and land labors in federal to local level.
- NLRF also has been implementing community-led climate resilient land use practices collaborating with local governments and development actors that supports to food security, community resiliency and sustainable land use.
- Recently NLRF has been conducting big mobilization of activists to support landless Dalit, landless and unorganized settlers as game changing program that LIRC has been working for them to all over the country.
- NLRF has recognized with development of alliance with national and international land right networks like National Farmers Commission Nepal, AFA, ILC, WRF with development partners.
- Recognized as people's-led pioneer organization in Land Rights movement within and out of country.

# Key Impact

- Thousand of people who got land ownership through this movement are engaging farming, entrepreneurship and enjoying with better livelihood option feeling safe and happy.
- Some of them have vastly develop their leadership capacity so that two NLRF members became parliamentarian of Nepal Hon. Shanta Chaudhari (Terai Ethic Women) and Hon. Gulabadevi Ram (Tarai Dalit women)
- 126 NLRF members are elected to Local Government of Nepal from Ward member to Chairperson/Mayor of Rural/Municipalities.
- Due to good recognition as resource organization in Land Rights Nepal, Government of Nepal decided 4 NLRF members include 2 female as the expert members of Land Issues Resolving Commission in four districts. 23 persons include 7 Females appointed NLRF members in Municipal land issues facilitation committee.
- 172 NLRF members selected as a member of ward level LIRC facilitation committee.



# Community-led Land Management Practice (CLMP) : A Game Changing Practice

## Strategies

- **Enhancing capacity** : Orientation to NLR district members to conceptualize CLMP on the basis of existing land ownership and sustainable land use practice, capacitate on preparing local plan, account management system and proper documentation.
- **mobilization & Coordination**: Coordinate with local governments, Ensure on CLMP model practices and did agreement; mobilize front line leaders, whole time workers to execute participatory land context analysis study; engage community in CLMP. ; implement community-led climate resilient land use model practices to secure access to land of land poor.
- **Policy Advocacy** : Organize dialogues and do lobby with local government based on the legislative provisions to local level land management. Share successful model practices from other Local Governments; initiate agreement to facilitate CLMP promoting climate resilient community practices. Initiate work from convinced local government.
- **Documentation**: Prepare concept paper, Prepare Context analysis report, facilitate to CLMP policy and directives, prepare leaning reports
- **Media Mobilization**: Promotes reporters to capture the news, features and story of community for widening community practices.

# Key Results

- **Increased access to resources:** Landless people are able to increase access to land resources that supporting their livelihoods to claiming with local governments.
- **Better practice of sustainable land management:** Land poor community are practicing climate resilient model practices like pond conservation, forestation, damp construction, agriculture-based livelihoods, use of fallow land that supported community for food and nutrition security and increased climate resiliency.
- **Supporting LIRC and local governments:** LIRC has recognized to NLRF as the resource organization in land rights and did an agreement to facilitate land issues all over the country. Local government are requesting to NLRF to facilitate Local level land use plan formulation and implementation basis on CLMP process.

# Lessons learned and recommendations

- Tireless and creative campaigning and land right movement has achieved policy results and established that access and ownership of land have to be provided farmers/tillers.
- Family farming and the family property are the inseparable parts of a coin. Women are the game changer of socio-economic development of family and nations. So land ownership should be provided to women.
- Creative and solution-based big movement can bring great politic change. For change, Organizations should strengthen organization for effective movement.
- Collaboration with government's actors for effective programs and execute the better results provides more credibility and increases local leverage. So collaboration with government has to be done.







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# AFA Regional Agenda to Promote Land Rights of Family Farmers

- Vision: Members, including women and youth, have secure tenurial rights to natural resources and countries have land policies that adhere to VGGT-RAI
- Desired outcomes:
  - Family farmers holding certificates of ownership/ stewardship of lands and forests
  - Land-related policies are enacted or have moved several steps forward. At the regional level, the ASEAN Guidelines on Customary Land Tenure is drafted
  - National UNDFP plans include priorities for land rights for FF

# Game-Changing Solutions of AFA Members

<b>Policy advocacy</b>	<p>Increasing the understanding of farmers on existing policies on land; conducting consultations and roundtable dialogues between farmers and policymakers to identify and address gaps. Examples include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="677 565 2364 862">1. AFFM-Myanmar advocated for the amendment of national policies such as the VFV Law, among others and filed legal cases to retrieve farmers' lands. It also wrote a version of the Farmland Law based on a farmers' perspective. From 2014-2020, they were able to retrieve a total of 30,400 has of land for 1,736 farmer households</li><li data-bbox="677 879 2364 991">2. API-Indonesia successfully initiated the allocation of 3.6M has of forest area to become part of a social forestry program</li><li data-bbox="677 1008 2410 1176">3. LFN-Lao advocate for the use of community land to support agri-business development of FOs; while VNFU-Vietnam advocate for the handover of forest use to farmers</li></ol>
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# Game-Changing Solutions of AFA Members

<b>Improved land management</b>	Train farmers on the proper management of land. Examples include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. KAFFLU- Kyrgyzstan– Community-based forest management where communities are granted access to 1,045 has of state forest land</li><li>2. NAMAC- Mongolia – Use of mobile application for pastureland management</li></ol>
<b>Use of Data and Participatory Community Mapping</b>	<p>AFA, as the regional focal point of the Land Matrix Initiative, collects data on land investments in the region to assess their impacts to the land rights of farmers, IPs, and local communities.</p> <p>AFA initiates data campaigns in Asia (e.g. Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao, Vietnam, Nepal, etc.) and provides technical support for the National Land Observatory in the Philippines (PAKISAMA). This includes conducting participatory mapping to protect farmers’ and IP’s rights to land and natural resources (e.g., Stop Kaliwa Dam campaign, APECO land distribution campaign, Bugsuk land distribution)</p>

# THANK YOU FOR PATIENCE!

