

# LAND RIGHTS RECOGNITION IN NEPAL: TOWARDS CONSENSUS BUILDING FOR PEOPLE CENTERED LAND REFORM

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# OVERVIEW

- The Context
- Situation of Land Rights Recognition
- Efforts of CSOs towards consensus building for PCLG
  - Research
  - Policy Advocacy
  - Campaign
- Conclusion and Ways Forward

# THE CONTEXT

Land is a matter of Contentious

Definition

Use

Ownership

Multiple meaning

Diverse Use

Unequal Rights

Paradigm-shift in Governance and legal domain - no fundamental changes in people to land relations

Women, small farmers, agricultural laborers, IPs, economically poor, socially marginalized and politically weak communities find it difficult to access, own and use the land in reality.

Interlocking inter-play

Conflicting policies slowing won the pace of implementation

Institutional Arrangement

Weak Institutions. Lacking the devolution of power

Changed Policy landscape

Political Will

Afraid to loose the control over land. Reluctant to shift the power to the weaker section



# SITUATION OF LAND RIGHTS RECOGNITION



- So-called land reform related activities – all – failed to resolve the land and housing rights issues
  - Tenancy land separation
  - Land Ceiling Proposed
  - Kamaiya Rehabilitation
  - Haliya Rehabilitation
  - Sukumbasi Byabasthapan
- Land reform never really targeted those who would make better use of it
- Land tenure of Indigenous peoples are not recognized

3 High-level Land Reform Commissions: Recommendation never implemented.  
[total 22 commissions in last 70 Years]

Landless/informal settlers : 1.4 M  
Tenant: Approx. 300,000  
Owning land < 0.1 ha.: 16,20, 237

# EFFORTS OF CSOS TOWARDS CONSENSUS BUILDING FOR PCLG



## Research

- Evidences for Advocacy/campaign
- Strengthening peoples' voice through peoples' data

## Policy Advocacy

- Multi-stakeholder dialogues
- Policy co-implementation
  - *Partnership of governments*

## Campaign

- Joint Land Ownership
- Strengthening Peoples' Organizations



# CONCLUSION AND WAYS FORWARD

- Historical marginalization of land ownership creating serious problem in land and agrarian development and in the journey toward peace and prosperity
- Introduced some transformative policy measures need to be implemented to breakthrough fundamental reform in the area of land and agrarian reform: Redefine Land to People Relations
- Government must address the bureaucratic resistance that has been sometimes fabricating the issue.
- Legal/political commitment and decision to provide land to landless require honest implementation
- In times when powerful elites compel communities to move out of their lands, government need to safeguard them in collaboration with CSOs. Strong policy protections and program implementation are therefore critical.

# CONCLUSION AND WAYS FORWARD

- To Support and contribute to the ambitious work of National Land Commission there is a need for a sustained partnership among CSOs, Governments and Partners
- Promote and strengthen multi-stakeholder partnership for land reform initiatives – context mapping and sustainable land use planning showed a good example.
- Build capacities of own and peoples' organizations as well as public organizations through multi-stakeholder engagement process to advance impact of NES/LGWWG.

# LEARNINGS

- Collaboration with the multi-stakeholders- the government, development partner and the people is more effective
- Involvement of the community people in the process builds trust, engenders feeling of ownership over the initiative and brings true information that ultimately helps for a broader consensus.





- **Thank you for your kind attention!**