



# MODE-Nepal NEWS LETTER

IssueS on the Emergence of Land Alliance

Number 7

February 2004

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Published by  
MODE - Nepal

## BUILDING NATIONAL ALLIANCE IN NEPAL:

### The Need of Collaboration and Coalition of Non Government Organizations

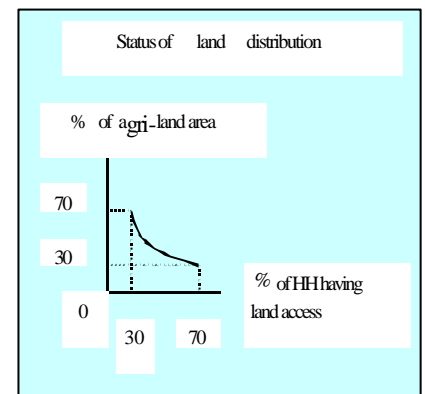
#### 1. Background

Rural populations of over 90 % are poor out of which 1/2 of them Rural populations of over 90 % are poor out of which 1/2 of them fall below poverty line and 4/5 is either self-employed in agriculture or agricultural laborers with or without tenancy. Incidences of poverty are invariably interrelated basically to limited land access, low productivity and lack of non-farm employment opportunities. Among others, the major one is the lack of access to enough land. Therefore, the extent to which the well being of a farm household depends upon the size of land holding and its' productivity.

The Agricultural Census of 1991 estimated 18 % cultivable land out of total physical area and, about 2.7 million farm families are dependent on 2.6 million ha land. Therefore, average size of holding per family is estimated at 0.95 ha. About 70 % farm families possess land < a ha and holds 30% of total cultivable land. Likewise, 1.5% landlords own over 5 ha of land and hold 14 % of total cultivated area. Statistics show a skewed land distribution and, such unequal distribution varies between the hills, mountains and tarai flat plains.

Rural poor families in Nepa's hills have either no land or tiny plots of unirrigated poor quality sloping or faulty terraced land. Over 50 percent of the households have only 0.18 ha of such land per family which can hardly provide 1/2 of staple food requirements of these families. For other 1/2 they are compelled to depend on income from off-farm activities, which

however, is also declining because of increased population and low rate of



investment in other productive sectors. It is to be noted that about 10% of total population is absolute landless. Inability to raise agricultural production and productivity in improving income and to alleviate poverty in Nepal has always been a matter of high concern. The persuasion of appropriate agrarian reform policies is considered to be necessary in view of agricultural sector still occupying key position in national economy of Nepal and the need of bringing about changes in the agrarian structure for promoting economic development and ensuring social justice is imperative.

#### 2. Past Efforts on Land Reforms Governments' Efforts

Land reform introduced in 1964 was with the programs to fix the ceilings of land holding, protect tenancy, and initiate a compulsory savings scheme. Several other

programs were also introduced and implemented during 70s and 80s. However, due to a combination of weak policy commitment and regulatory implementation, the objectives were not achieved. There were noble incidence such as the formation of a high level commission on land reform to make appropriate recommendations to the then communist party government in 1995 and the declaration of a 10-point 6 month interim program on land reform by the then congress party government in 1996. However, none of the government was found to be committed to effectively implement the policies and programs except a regular political campaign. In both the endeavors, land reform measures aimed at abolishing dual land ownership, initiating land consolidation, reducing landlessness and squatting, and adopting measures to relieve the *kamaiyas* (the bonded laborers). As part of a total 8 –point social reforms package, the Nepali congress government in last mid-August, 2001 announced a radical land reform by fixing land ceiling ownership with objective of providing land to landless, poor and economically backward people to reinforce campaign for development and for building equitable society. Government registered a Bill on August 31, 2001 in Parliament on Land Reform Act 1964, discussed and endorsed as a 5<sup>th</sup> amendment.

Despite the government has fixed land ceiling figure of 18.2, 2.9 and 4.8 ha respectively in tarai flat plain, Kathmandu valley and the hills, no record of land ceiling as yet has been updated. Process as claimed is ongoing to identify the owner having land over ceiling through review of land certificates, announcements by radio and letter etc and direction to the district-based land revenue offices. However, no encouraging result has yet been sought by government in this regard due mainly to the fact that (i) land owner has been successful in obtaining land ownership certificates in the name of their family members and the relatives (ii) policy has not been clear and enforcing (iii) only tenants not the owner initiate to abolish dual ownership and, (iv) tenants does not have land rent paid receipt.



As a result, very little success was achieved in obtaining land over ceiling and distributed it to land poor. In 36 years of the history, only 31,075 ha were either obtained or confiscated out of 15885 ha to tenants, 8580 to landless and 664 ha to the institutions was distributed (DOLR, 2000). One can notice the achievements in 4 decades and anticipate likely success in future. In such situation objective of agrarian reform to reduce the hunger and poverty in current pace would surely be impossible in the days to come. Therefore, together with the present pace, the options especially in making the land access to the poor need to be highly considered. It is because the other scenario in Nepal is such that due to continuous fragmentation of size of land holdings, declining crop yields, increasing population, stagnant farm income and lack of opportunities for off-farm income, the poor in the hills are increasingly forced to exploit the forest frontier areas and pastures wherever and whenever possible to sustain their lives and animals. Consequently, rural poverty and environmental degradation are being aggravated.

#### (b) **MODE Nepal's Efforts on Bringing Leasehold Forestry as New and Alternative Concept of Agrarian Reforms**

Faced with continuous reduction in the size of land holdings, declining crop yields, and deteriorating off-farm income generating activities, the poor in the hills have been increasingly forced to exploit the forest frontier areas wherever and whenever possible to sustain their lives and animals. Severe degradation of the forests and the low productivity of the livestock are the two main resource constraints faced by the poor in the hills. However, the government's present policy on illegal use of such land does not receive any land titles. Keeping the situation in mind, a resource survey and land use planning study was undertaken by a Master Plan for the Forestry Sector in 1988. As made provision in the plan, some public and forestlands made available particularly after 1993 under a separate laws and regulations on a lease basis to poor for a specified number of years.

The leasehold forestry program is focused on the poorest families in the community, having less than 0.5 ha of private arable land or an annual per capita income below poverty line of NRs 2,500 targeting women as principal active participants in project activities and, therefore, special care has been taken to involve female headed households in process. It provides exclusive rights to the leaseholders to produce crops, fruit and tree crops in the forestlands. The ownership feeling creates an interest for an individual family to invest their labor and sometimes even their cash to protect and

develop their land. Moreover, large proportions of leasehold sites are those sites that are degraded and are laying barren or where community plantations and protection have failed. The leasehold forestry program provides a unique opportunity for increasing resources base of the poorest households in the community who are most dependent on natural resources. The project has therefore, set its' objectives to improve socioeconomic condition of poor farmers and to improve the ecological condition of the land which sustain them with strategies to implement the project activities are based on participatory approach, integrated approach, and process approach. Participatory approach is the principal basis for implementation of project. Such a leasehold program is on high demand by land poor as they lack land access and government does not have clear and continuous programs and strong commitment on agrarian reforms to support them. Further the implications of degrading environment to affect their daily life and unavailability of agricultural land for increasing population has pressurized their demand. Presently, the programs are implemented in limited hill districts but demand is on increasing.



*If land reform pressure is to bring landless or near landless people to have access to land then the concept of leasehold forestry is one form of the agrarian reforms aimed at sustainable use of land and provide livelihood to rural poor. Though in a limited basis, leasehold forestry concept to bring the land into access to poor is also becoming a new step towards agrarian reforms. And, this is one alternative of agrarian reforms that, MODE Nepal as a NGO, has brought the concept for public concern and, began its work to promote leasehold forestry programs for land access and productivity.*

MODE Nepal to support and improve agrarian reforms under such programs initiated activities

through knowledge network and, for the purpose of networking; the situations observed were categorized (C) as the following. Networking was established between these categories –

C<sub>1</sub>: The landless farmers seeking access to land; C<sub>2</sub>: Farmers having land access but have problems of land management and planning and; C<sub>3</sub>: Farmers having leased land and other financial supports but have problems for undertaking income generation activities to sustain their livelihood.

These situations could currently be observed even within wards of a village development committees or districts or between the hills and tarai flat plains. Analysis of such diversified situation between and among the farmers seen in different category seems to be the most relevant for knowledge network. Through such networking they would know each and every aspects of the program, policy objectives of the government and their roles for sustainable management. The network aimed at documenting the situation of different categories of farmers in their different level of expectation and knowledge on access to land and its' management, sharing their idea and disseminating them within potential farming households, community members and leasehold groups. Knowledge of each category of farming households was disseminated to each of them. Each category of farmers were involved under networking in different ways and levels.



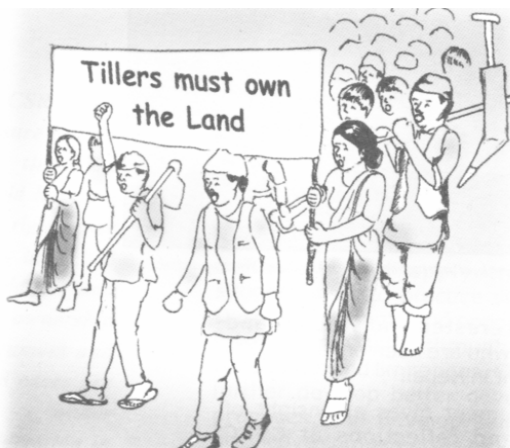
In order to perform the networking activities, firstly the grassroots community groups were identified and categorized as (a) in areas where leasehold forestry program has not been implemented and no one have access to lease land (b) in areas where the programs has recently been implemented and people just have access to lease

land and, (c) in areas where the program has been implemented for quite some time and have people access to land, credit and other support facilities. Major area of focus and work accomplished were as the following:

1. Identified strengths and weaknesses of the programs as a sustainable means to distribute land and guarantee secure livelihoods for rural poor in hill areas through field observation and investigation, compile and disseminate information.
2. Established networks between farmers in different contexts and stages of the programs for greater understanding and exchange of information in how to address constraints by organizing grassroots level workshops for community/ farmers consultation
3. Helped formulate core group of NGO participants to widen scope of MODE as national node for Nepal, continued occasional meeting with INGOs, disseminated information of activities performed and collaborated with CBOs working in agrarian reforms.

### (c) Land Rights Campaign of Community Self Reliance Centre

Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC), a NGO established in 1993 has been involved in building organizations of the tenants - cultivators, landless and near landless people. The CSRC initially working in Sindhupalchok district has recently extended its activities in another 9 districts of the hills and tarai. To achieve the goal of the institution, it has carried out regular grass roots based campaign in collaboration with other organizations and individuals working on land issues. The CSRC also aims at establishing land rights nationally as an important component of the socio-economic justice in the country and to contribute to poverty alleviation.



Through the collaborative efforts of 34 subcommittees, 3 regional groups, one district based committee and 3 CBOs, it has helped 1583 tenants to gain rights and 753 family to obtain ownership certificates. Likewise 189 have got tenants rights of guthi land. Landless and tenants have been assisted through providing awareness and

technical supports of paper works with the government authorities.

CSRC has also organized training, campaigning and rallies to pressurize to policy adoption and reinforcement for the implementation. It is done so at district and national level authorities.



### (d) Freedom of Bonded Labor and Rehabilitation

Bonded labor confined in extreme western part has been a historical phenomenon that the system started since the time immemorial. It is a system where a landless labor fails to repay his loan to landlords and become a slave by being obliged and helpless. Worse is that a household head as a bonded labor is given so-called subsistence grains instead, all of the family member work for the landlord. A bonded labor is bonded as a slave. Statistics shows over 60,000 bonded laborers.

Couples of NGOs worked for the freedom of bonded labor to aware, unite and to approach collectively to influence policies and programs to favor bonded laborers. NGOs like Informal Sector Service (INSEC) worked with adequate, logical figures and information of such laborers. Advocacy on bonded labor had two way objective (a) tenure security and (b) human rights. Long year's efforts for the freedom of bonded labor was finally achieved in July 2000.

### 3. Need of National Alliance for Agrarian Reforms

There is wide consensus amongst national and international actors and bodies about the need for land reform in order to reduce rural poverty. The justifications for this are many, and some of them are compelling. In the developing countries, the vast majority of the population consists of near landless, the landless and rural workers. According to an IFAD estimate, in the mid - 1980s, there were 180 million rural landless in India, 24 million in Pakistan, 12 million in the Philippines, 8 million in Brazil, and over 324 million in only 64 developing countries. This estimate does not include "near landless" who tend to number even more than the landless in most developing countries. Small farmers, tenants and landless workers are among the social groups most vulnerable to hunger, and they usually have inadequate access to land and other productive resources. At the same time, much of

the cultivated, fertile land is held by a small number of powerful landowners and elites. Thus, the social reasons for land reform are that it could reduce rural conflict and violence, and it should lead to improved social justice and equity. Prospects of greater food security and family welfare are other social, as well as economic reasons. Other economic arguments for land reform are the possibility of improved smallholder productivity and higher income. Yet, tenurial security is a key to land improvement and, frequently, ecological maintenance through integrated household agricultural systems and sustainable development through resource use practices.

Let us be sure that the knowledge that land rights can break the cycle of poverty and the degradation of natural resources is not new. The commitments made by the governments at the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development at FAO indicated that this understanding was global. From the Summits of the 1990s, including the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 and The World Food Summit in Rome in 1996, governments, international organizations and civil society have been regularly called upon to improve the access by the rural poor to land and related factor markets. The preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development has put access to land as a central requirement for common cause and action. Secure resource tenure is known to be a vital link between food security, sustainable resource management, peace and security and the eradication of poverty. Sustainable development is not, so much, a technical challenge but more a political process of negotiation, conflict resolution and managing vested interests. Put otherwise, sustainable development is about the way the people organize their political, economic and social systems to determine who has the right to use which resources, for which purposes, under which conditions, and for how long.

In compliance with the above statements, the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty, global consortiums of inter government, civil society and bilateral organizations was set up in late 90s with commitments to the empowerment of the rural poor. It believes that empowerment can be best achieved through increasing the access of the poor to productive assets, especially land, water and common-property resources, and direct participation in decision-making processes at local, national, regional and international levels.

The Popular Coalition aims to build strategic alliances among diverse development organizations, placing particular emphasis on the role of civil society in overcoming hunger and poverty. The participating organizations, while diverse in nature and mandate, share a common belief that rural people must be empowered to be effective agents of their own development. The popular Coalition is a mechanism through which partner organizations can test innovations designed to strengthen participation by the rural poor, enhance strategic policy formation and target resources more effectively. The Popular Coalition's vision is that the partners will

incorporate into their organizations into the successful results and lessons learned from the initiatives jointly undertaken through the Popular Coalition.

Essentially, the Popular Coalitions is the outcome of the international Conference on Hunger and Poverty convened by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Brussels in 1995. It was founded on a comprehensive analysis of issues needing urgent action and the range of policies requiring attention. These include the inequitable distribution of wealth, lack of access to productive resources, insufficient participation by the poor in decisions that affect their daily lives and need for reforms in macroeconomics policies that adversely affect the poor. The right to land and water is basic to durable solutions to poverty and hunger. Without secure land tenure, poor rural people are denied access to productive resources, credit, improved technology and the support services needed to improve their productivity and income. Popular Coalition aims to address long-standing difficulties encountered in previous agrarian reform initiatives by creating national and international conditions for policy dialogue and practical community level action.

A review of past land programs and a vision for the future have converged into a story call to provide the poor with secure access to land and the productive factors of technology, credit, inputs and markets. Today, where over 80 percent of poor live in rural communities having limited income generation activities, also lack assets, vulnerable to agriculture and economic shocks, lack capacity such as knowledge and training to participate in decision-making affecting their livelihoods and, are suffering from an intergenerational sense of being powerless to change their condition. However, previous policies and programs aimed at improving access to land by poor are found to have lacking institutional and public support to citizen movements and, citizen organizations' supports to government-led programs.

#### **4. Overall Goals and Objectives of Alliance**

The primary goal of national land alliance is to broadly place efforts to establish a forum for national sustainable development and, to improve the secured access of rural poor to land and other productive factors and assets. The alliance will act for land partnership in collaboration between civil society organizations (CSO), community-based organizations (CBOs), bilateral and international actors and nation itself in order to empower rural poor by increasing their access to productive assets especially land, water and common property resources, and by increasing their direct participation in decision making processes at national level. More specifically, the national land alliance for the land partnership will essentially concern on following objectives to:

- facilitate participatory dialogue between the CSOs/CBOs/NGOs, government, donors, and international land alliance groups.
- disseminate knowledge through community based workshops on existence of different national laws and systems of land access and tenure
- establish joint action among the CSOs/CBOs and farmers groups to secure resources tenure for households with user rights and increase access to land by landless and near landless;
- help adopt policies and implement laws that guarantee well defined and enforceable land and water use rights and promote legal security of tenure.

## 5. Working Procedures of Alliance

*Start up Workshop:* Organize a start up workshop to discuss on initiation of national land alliances, share idea and experiences of other countries with that of Nepal; identify new partners working on land and prepare a roster with their details and; prepare possible action plans of future NeLA action plan with the help of Kenyan and Ugandan Land Alliance and Association of Land Reform and Development (ALRD, Bangladesh).

*Network Development Processes:* (i) Review national sustainable development plan on land of National Planning Commission and Ministry of Land Reform), the law and implementation modalities, the commitment of the government, target set and achievements made in the past and, (ii) participatory consultation workshop at community level or if feasible at development region and institutional linkages; the roles played and dissemination of knowledge on existence of different national laws and systems of land access and tenure.

*National Workshop:* Plan to organize a workshop with participation of government, donors and NGOs/CBOs/CSOs working on land, formal and informal farmers groups for collection of idea, experiences and policy models and laws from the participants and document and disseminate to the different stakeholders.

## 6. Outcome of Land Alliance

The lessons from previous policies and programs for improving access to land by poor have taught those peoples' movements lacking institutional and public support and government led programs lacking the support of peoples' organizations have both failed. What is needed is revitalized alliance of governments and civil society organizations, coupled with coherent support from the international and bilateral community. Therefore, the proposed Nepalese Land Alliance (NeLA), the joint efforts of institutions, public, government and peoples' organization is anticipated to benefit directly to the Nepalese citizens particularly the landless and near landless poor at large and others like the CSOs, CBOs, farmer's organizations and groups.



Land alliance is supposed to replicate and scale up the best practices of some communities for the benefit of others and as a basis for national policy consideration. More importantly, they are an opportunity for all the parties involved to move from their individual roles into collective ones where new opportunities can be created and commitments undertaken. Nepalese Land Alliance will support government commitments and the political requirements of the outcomes of the WSSD in order to reach targets and achieve concrete results in respect of secure land access and sustainable resources management.

## What the Media Say on Land Reforms?

### LAND REFORMS HINTED AT

The government is set to announce new measures for land reforms and an action plan with updated and revised laws will be presented shortly.

“Issues relating to land and land reforms are intricately woven into every Nepali’s life, whether it is landless farmer or a rich industrialist, and ensuring that the rights of every citizen are protected is the government’s duty,” Sarbendra Nath Shukla, minister for land reforms and management, said.

Shukla was speaking at the opening ceremony of a two-day seminar that seeks to strengthen land reforms, weed out corruption and ensure speedy processing of issues relating to land. The ministry will also present amendments to the Land Ceiling Act and other Acts.

“Able administrators who are effective, innovative and against corruption is the imminent need to expedite issues relating to land Acts,” Shukla said adding the country is going through a precarious situation and because of the ongoing fight between the state and the

Maoists, there was a marked absence of administrators and representatives at the local level, “In such a situation, the government has decided to work harder to ensure services are still accessible to people. That would help dispel the Maoists’ argument that the government doesn’t care about their interests.”

Minister Shukla also said the reforms that they seek to implement would be all-encompassing and would cover everything from land deeds to irrigation, fertilizers and even seeds.” The government is aware of the needs of the poorest farmers and everything will be done to better their conditions.”

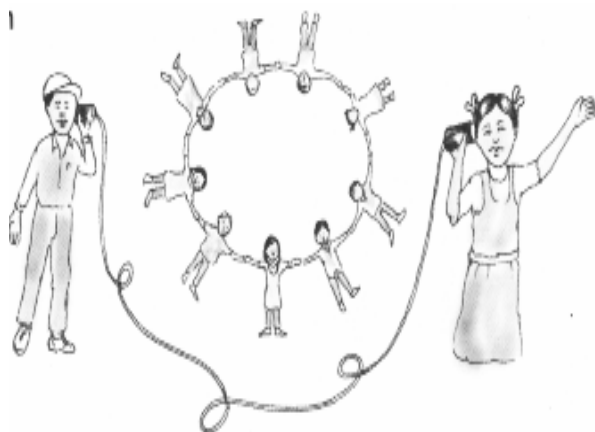
Since land reforms, the ceiling Act, as well as grants to landless squatters are contentious issues, the government is trying to revise laws to suit the changing needs of time. Also on the anvil is the statute of limitation on the minimum allowable land a person is allowed to hold because it will decrease productivity.

The government is also set to implement scientific measures to address land reforms in view of the growing population. The ceremony was attended by high-ranking officials of the ministry of land reform and management.

Tikadutta Niraula, secretary at the ministry of land reform and management, agreed that corruption and inefficiency was the predominant theme now and it was imperative to curb graft if the policy of poverty alleviation was to become an achievable goal.

**“The biggest priority of the government is to ensure that the ongoing corruption, the in competency and the protracted process involved in land issues must be cut short; those found guilty must be given exemplary punishment.”** Niraula said adding the government must pay more attention to the district and village levels as that is where the issues of corruption are mostly manifested.

**Himalayan Times, November 13, 2003**



## **Govt Mulls Scheme for Landless Peasants**

The government is planning to launch an ambitious land redistribution scheme to address the escalating problems being faced by land less peasants.

Finance Minister, Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani, acknowledging that such a programme is in the offing said, “The government has initiated serious homework to redistribute lands.” He justified the scheme by saying, “The land redistribution initiative would be a powerful weapon to fight against poverty, the root-cause of the insurgency.”

Under the new scheme, the government aims to buy land and resell it to the landless on a low-interest loan basis. The buyers will have a time span of over 15 years to repay the debt.

He also expressed confidence that resources would not be a problem since several donors have already responded positively to the scheme. The land redistribution program is estimated to cost around five billion rupees.

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has already briefed all the major donors about the plan. “The donors, in turn, have urged the government to take extra precaution to ensure its effective implementation,” a high level official at the ministry told The Kathmandu Post.

Some donors, according to the MoF spokesperson, have even suggested that Nepal borrow from the Brazilian land re-distribution experience, which is considered to be a major success story, said the official.

MoF also informed that preliminary preparation related to the scheme, which would be focusing particularly on the Terai and Inner Terai, has already begun. As per the concept paper floated by the government, the scheme would kick off with the establishment of a “Land Bank” to function as a state Agency to coordinate and finance the whole process.

The government has set a target to buy and sell 5,000 to 10,000 hectares of fertile land during the first phase.

As per the plan, the government would be extending loans to the land less to purchase land and initiate farming activities. So, in conjunction with the land redistribution scheme, government is also working out a comprehensive agricultural package for the resettlement areas to enable the new land owners repay their debt.

They would be especially encouraged to cultivate high value cash crops for which the government would ensure uninterrupted supplies of agricultural inputs, including improved seeds, fertilizers and insecticides along with reliable year-round irrigation facilities in the areas that would come under distribution.

Likewise, the package would also include extension of agricultural roads to ensure the accessibility of market for agriculture products. The source also added that the Ministry of Land Reform and Management would act as the lead implementing agency.

The Tenth Plan has expressed commitment to explore the possibility of helping the poor to acquire land through a land bank or low cost loans or grants, and improve their access to agricultural inputs and credit. The official though disclosed that the draft proposal has not been finalized, nor have the details of the total required resource and the sources of funding the scheme been worked out as yet.

### **The Kathmandu Post, February 13, 2004**

#### **Experts Seek Changes in Land Reform Act**

Changes to the Land Reform Act are needed if we are to increase the lot of the majority of poor Nepalis and landless farmers was the theme of an interaction today.

Organised by the Conscious Media Forum, the event was attended by leaders of various political parties, ex-ministers and members of the Ministry of Land Reforms and Management.

This is close on the heels of the said ministry which announced last month a set of new measures and laws to the existing Land Reform Act, 1974. "There is a lot of arm twisting and manipulation by rich farmers, and just look at amount of land that the present prime minister Surya Bahadur Thapa owns in Hile," said Jagannath Acharya, a former minister for Land Reforms and Management. He lamented that existing laws and policies on land were filled with many shortcomings and ambiguities that could be manipulated by people in power.

"Just making Lawson paper is not going to change anything, there has to be implementation," said Acharya. The Land Reform Act, the Ceiling Act, and grants to landless squatters are contentious issues, and the government has been trying to revise laws to suit the changing needs of time. Also on the government's agenda is the statute of limitation on the land a person is allowed to hold. "Just distributing land to landless squatters is not going to solve the problem, we have to think of developing the land and increasing agricultural output," said Radhakrishna Mainali, a former minister for agriculture.

Mainali said considerable land was still available for farming, but the government policies prevented them from being used.

### **Himalayan Times, December 7, 2003**

#### **Major Achievement**

Tenant farmers have established a strong organization in Sindhupalchowk and it has escorted the movement through out the district.

By the end of 2003, total 1,783 tenant farmers have received their tenancy rights on landlord's land and 389 tenant farmers have received their rights on *Guthi* land, out of which 953 have received their land ownership certificates.

2,488 tenants are fighting case in the Land Reform Office, Sindhupalchowk for their rights. Most of the farmers of Sindhupalchowk are aware regarding their rights and do not pay rent without receipts.

A strong government committee has been formed to solve the problems of *guthi* land in Sindhupalchowk. This will give benefit to the people in 10 VDCs.

Land issue has become a matter of concern at national level. The land tenancy rights movement has been expanded to other districts of *Dalits* and marginalised communities have picked up this issue into their mainstream programme. More than 30 local activists have been developed.

#### **Joint Efforts Sought for Land Reform**

Mobilization and Development (MODE) Nepal has proposed an integrated effort of all community based organisations, donors and people's movements to come to a common platform for land rights.

During a comprehensive discussion yesterday, the participants felt the need of taking land reform initiatives. It was jointly organised by the MODE-Nepal and Community Self-reliance, according to a press release issued today.

In the programme, Dr. Bharat Shrestha, Executive Chairperson of MODE-Nepal presented a detailed planning of commissioning an NGO alliance on Land. The discussion set up a consensus for joint mission of every concerned group to raise land movement at a height for better results.

### **Himalayan Times, October 18, 2003**

#### **Mode Activities**

Currently MODE Nepal is facilitating as a secretariat in building national land alliance in Nepal, of the institutions like NGOs/CBOs/CSOs/ government organizations, donors or else, broadly with a view to place efforts to establish a forum for national sustainable development in order to improve the secured access of rural poor to land and other productive resources as a process of

rural development. MODE itself has had been working for last 6 years on agrarian reforms and rural development.



To bring such initiatives in an open forum, MODE Nepal in association with Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC), who has been actively working on land rights in Sindhupalchok, organized a discussion program in Lalitpur on last October 17, where over



60 participants from 42 NGOs/CBOs/CSOs (working on land issues/agrarian reforms and rural development), government representatives, donors etc attended and, overwhelmingly agreed to build a network for land alliance. However, building a national land alliance is not a short process just by forming the group but we believe that it requires detail studies of the institutions who really are working on this sector directly or indirectly.

MODE as a secretariat will start the alliance building work initially by preparing a roster of the institutions working on land/agrarian reforms and rural development and, who intend to be in the roster and networking activities in future. For detail you may contact MODE Nepal.



We guess you would be interested to be in the network for tomorrow. Building a formal network for land alliance may take another several months, after having an interaction with all the institutions those who will be in the roster. We will keep in touch with the progress and inform you if the National Land Alliance Coordination Committee (NLACC) represented from the MODE Nepal and CSRC, plans to do so.

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