



# Community-based Land Management Practice



Landless tenants receiving Village Block Land certificate. Lahan Municipality, Siraha

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## 1. Status of piloting and scaling of the model:

National Land Rights Forum (NLRFF), which led the development and piloting of this “community-based land management practice” model in Chaudandigadhai -6, Udayapur; Molung-1, Okhaldhunga; and Dhangadhimai -1 of Siraha in 2019, is currently focusing

on its scaling. Lahan and Golbajar municipalities, Siraha, Pancheshwar rural municipality (RM), Baitadi, and Mandandeupur, Kavre have already adopted the model. Several other Local governments (LGs) including Belauri, Punarbas, Bedkot and Krishnapur municipalities, and Laljhandi RM, Kanchanpur; and



Community Action Plan prepared by the group for utilization of community pond. Dhangadimai Municipality, Siraha

Dhangadhi sub-metropolitan city, Kailali have initiated adoption of the model. Given the current trajectory, the model scaling leadership seems to be gradually shifting to the LGs from NLRF. The model's impact population includes landless farmers, women and men agricultural tenants and squatters including *Haruwa*, *Charuwa* freed *Haliya* and *Dalits*, who are deprived of safe houses and livelihood opportunities, and are highly vulnerable to different disasters and socially discriminated.

## 2. Collaboration with boundary partners:

In the process of model scaling, ward committees coordinated the initial studies and ward level interactions, while rural/municipalities supported by incorporating in their regular plans and budget activities related to promotion of this model. The Federal Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA) formulated federal level land policy, laws, standards and regulations for reference while developing provincial and LG level laws on land. Similarly the Provincial Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoLMAC) coordinated with LGs, taking policy initiatives to promote the model.

Meanwhile, land reforms, land revenue and survey offices played crucial role in settling tenancy rights issues, registration of land in village blocks, etc. NLRF constituencies at different levels advocated for bringing into practice the community-based land management model. LI-BIRD provided technical support for climate change adaptation as part of this model.

## 3. Model scaling phase:

Building on the learning from piloting phase, the model has been scaled out to Lahan and Golbajar municipalities of Siraha, Pancheshwar RM of Baitadi and Mandandeupur municipality of Kavre. Although the scaling is in its inception phase in these rural/municipalities, Pancheshwar RM has made a crucial stride in institutionalising this model by incorporating it in its land policy and land act including half a dozen guidelines.

## 4. Process adopted in model scaling:

NLRF lobbied with other LGs citing good practices in LGs that have already adopted the model. Given the keen interest of Pancheshwar RM, NLRF supported it for

development and submission of a winning proposal to National Planning Commission (NPC) seeking special grant for implementation of land management and agriculture promotion programme. It also held initial consultations with the ministerial level representatives of Karnali province, province 2 and province 1. It lobbied for meaningful participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and community representatives in the process of developing provincial level policy and law on land management and agriculture promotion, and for NLRF representation in committees to be formed for initiating work on land management at LG level. Discussions were also held with parliamentarians of far-west and Bagmati provinces requesting their coordination for implementation of this community-based land management practice.

## **5. The model's added value and key outcomes**

### **Development of context specific policies and laws:**

The LGs, which have owned and scaled this model, are developing and implementing policies, laws and guidelines for community based land management. Pancheshwar RM has already developed a land policy, a land act and six guidelines reflecting the features of this model. Development of model scaling guidelines is under way in Dhangadhimai, Chaudandigadhi and Molung.

### **Productive collaboration between LGs, communities and CSOs:**

The model has ushered in the practice of collaboration among LGs, the impact groups and CSOs in promoting the impact groups' right and access to land, and management and utilisation of natural resources.

### **Government-civil society collaboration in land management:**

Several LGs have proposed to initiate regular interactions among local and provincial governments, the communities and CSOs on issues of land management and agricultural development by forming committees with NLRF's representation. Karnali provincial government has decided to set up a land management committee with NLRF's representation. Bagmati RM has formed a committee headed by a NLRF member for surveying unregistered land. Province 2 government is to work with NLRF in launching an awareness campaign in the process of settling tenancy rights issues, registration of land in village blocks and preparation of joint land

ownership certificates. In coordination with Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC), NLRF is collecting data on landless *Dalits*, and unplanned settlers in Pancheswar, Baitadi, Shuklaphanta, Kanchanpur, Dhangadi sub-metropolitan city, Kailali, Bagmati, Makwanpur and Shahid Lakhantapa, Gorkha.

### **Model's contribution to building climate resilience of landless, land-poor and unplanned settlers:**

As land is a key asset that contributes to, among other things, building the owners' resilience to climate change, this model is pressing for ensuring the impact groups' legal entitlement to land. Such entitlement facilitates the impact groups' access to social security, public services, subsidies and productive resources for agriculture and other enterprises for better income and improved livelihood. This model aims to ensure land ownership for an estimated 1.3 million people with informal tenure as secure land tenure is critical to climate resilience. This model has already led to 884 village block HHs receiving land ownership certificates. Likewise, 182 impact group members in Siraha, 164 in Udayapur and 108 in Okhaldhunga districts have initiated climate resilient agriculture practices by accessing fallow land.

### **Model's contribution to promoting inclusion and governance:**

This model has put at its centre the most vulnerable communities such as landless farmers, unplanned settlers, freed *Haliya*, *Haruwa*, *Charuwa*, *Dalits*, etc. Engagement in model scaling has empowered and provided them a much needed support to work in a more planned, systematic and effective manner to influence the LGs to fulfil their rights. Diverse stakeholders have owned the model and engaged in policy and decision making at LG level ensuring incorporation of the rights and interests of the impact population. LGs are demonstrating improved accountability by initiating resolution of land issues. A total of 18,235 women out of the about 36,000 members of 6,239 HHs in seven rural/municipalities where the model has been scaled up have directly benefited in terms of access to land and/or public services and government support.

## **6. Good practices and learning**

### **Good practice:**

Thousands of HHs in village blocks do not have ownership certificates for the land they are living in, hence, they



*Simara Pokhari, Dhangadimai Municipality, Siraha*

are deprived of government services and access to any productive resources. This model has supported the LGs to survey the village blocks and demarcate the land boundaries of individual HHs and provide them land ownership certificates. The way Pancheshwar RM has initiated the scaling of the model is a very good practice worth emulating for other LGs. It has developed its land policy and land act along with six guidelines in a very inclusive and participatory manner and is currently exploring resources for a full swing roll out of the model.

### **Learning**

- Such a model should be introduced to LGs by convincingly explaining to them as to how this model roll out contributes to the objectives and results of their priority projects and plans. This helps them understand that the model is not a stand-alone project imposed from outside, rather it adds value to their priority sector programmes. So they become ready to resource it or align it with their existing programmes.
- Clear, concise and easy to understand guidelines on model scaling is a must to ensure shared understanding among NLRG constituencies, campaigners and key stakeholders.



### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**CARE Nepal**

House Number – 777/34

Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur

P.O. Box 1661, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977-1-5422800

Fax: 977-1-5421202

Email: [npl.carenepal@care.org](mailto:npl.carenepal@care.org)

[www.carenepal.org](http://www.carenepal.org)