

About NLRF

- Established in 2004,
- Organisation of landless and small holders, struggling for land rights
- About 90 th. Members from 60 districts of all provinces
- Chaired National Land Coalition, Listed in National Farmer Commission, Member of Alliance of agriculture for food, National Farmer Coalition, & United Nations Decade of Family Farming National Implementation Committee
- Member of AFA, ILC & World Rural Forum



Agriculture Mechanization in Nepal; Context, Issues/Challenges & Recommendations



Manju Kumari Sherestha

Member, National Committee

National Land Rights Forum, Nepal

Country Context

- Diverse Land Typology : (Total Area : 147 1181 Square KM; Mountain: 35%, Hill: 42% & Terai: 23%)
- Largest landcover is forest around 44% and agriculture around 28% in which 21% is cultivated.
- Diverse agriculture production: Crops (cereal crops, cash crops, other crops) & Livestock production
- Agriculture Contributes to approx. 23.95 % of national GDP
- Out of total households, 61 % farm households & 57.3% population engaged in agriculture
- Primarily agriculture (subsistence) based economy, **68.8 % subsistence farmers (Agriculture Census 2078)**



Country Context

- Largely informal sector-but key driver to reduce poverty, **70% of the labourforce women**
- Due to increasing trend of migration, declining agricultural profitability, growing risk -about 30% of cultivated land, especially in the hills and mountains , has been **abandoned from farming**
- Diverse land tenure typology (1.3 M. landless and informal settlers)
- Small holders with average land holding size of 0.68 ha, small holdings (less than 0.5 ha) constitute 53 percent of total farmers HHs.
- Land conversion and desertification trend is increasing.
- Highly vulnerable to climate change risks, affected by the multi disasters
- **Around 1.6 M farmers use tractors for farming**
- **Around 0.4 M farmers use power trillers**
- Small holders, women & landless farmers are not benefited by mechanization due to small land size & land ownership issue



Issues & Challenges

- Inadequate policies, resources & innovation to address the mechanization aspiration of small holders, family farmers & women farmers.
- Government promotes to agriculture cooperatives to extend the agriculture mechanization but cooperatives are not widely reached to the rural areas and landless and smallholders.
- Constitutionally local government has the rights to realize agriculture extension services to the farmers but the local governments prioritise have high priority in infrastructure development rather invest in agriculture sector.
- Private sectors contributes to agriculture mechanization but it has not been equally benefited to the farmers from rural communities, women and small holders as well as landless laborers due to high price & unfriendly machines.
- Government input facilities regarding mechanization hardly reach to rural areas, small holders and women farmers where farmers have insufficient knowledge capacity to adopt (purchase, handle and maintain) the agriculture machineries.



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Recommendation

- Favorable policies, proper invest & transparent mechanism to support agriculture mechanization that equally benefits small holders, women and landless farmers. (eg. categorization of farmerse)
- Capacity Development, adequet programs & close monitoring to agriculture coopratives that support to reach mechanization for smallholders, women and landless farmers.
- Advovay to prioritize agriculture mechanization by farmer organization and CSOs at local & national government to .
- Enhance farmers capacity to adopt farmers friendly mechanization & conduct advocacy to realize constitutional provision at local and nationa level.
- Advocacy for tenure security of small holders, women and landless farmers to ensure mechanization, government inputs & access to finance that obtain through land ownership.



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Thank you

