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Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience: Championing a Digital Generation

Brisbane, Australia 6–10 April

# Documenting land tenure of sharecroppers and contract farmers to improve sustainable utilization of land and environmental protection: A Case from Dang district in Nepal

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## Country Context

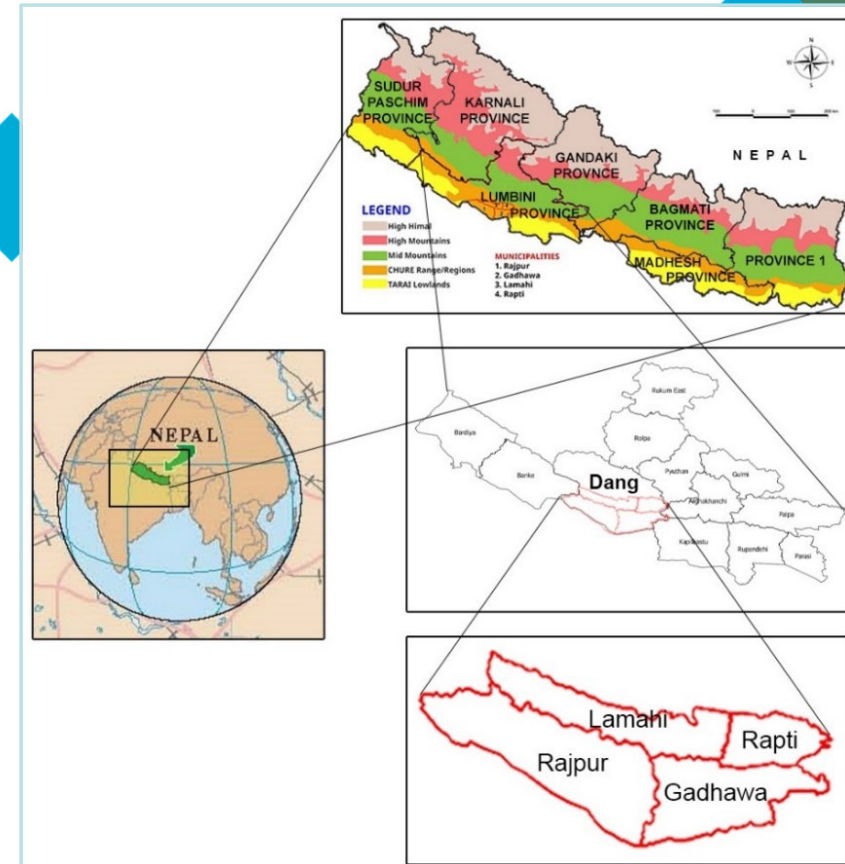
- Among the 15 most climate vulnerable countries in the world (Susceptible to excessive drought, floods, landslides etc.)
- Landlessness and informal land tenure 1.34 million HHs (20% of total) due to displacement of HHs affected by floods, landslides etc. and history of marginalization of poor and vulnerable communities
- Informal tenancy, sharecropping, contract farming:
  - 18.4% land holdings are operated on rent
  - 31% farmers (More than 1 million farm families) work as tenants
  - 22.3% tenants are unregistered vulnerable to eviction
- Three tiers of Governments: Federal, Provincial and Local levels





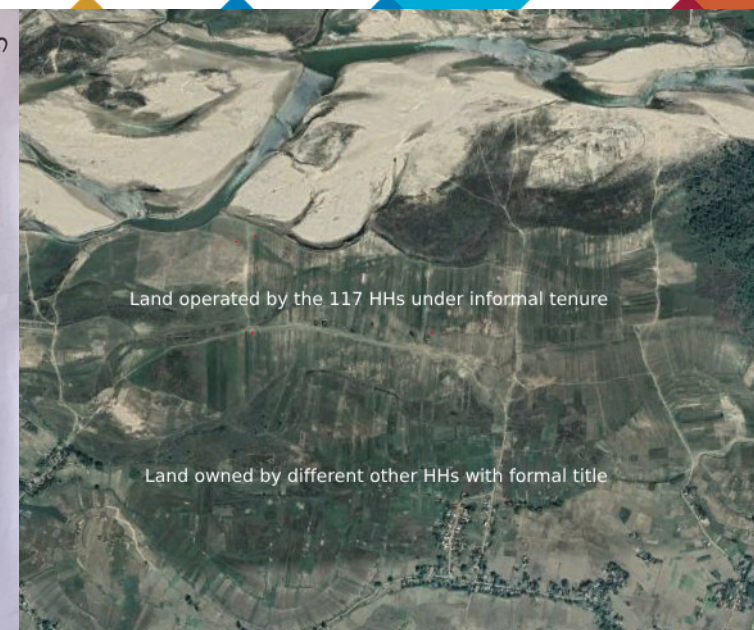
## Study Area and the Key Issues

- Study Area: Rapti, Gadhwara and Rajpur RMs and Lamahi Municipality in Dang District
- **Key Issues:**
  - Situated in the foothills of Mahabharat Lekh vulnerable to climate induced disasters like floods and soil erosion
  - Home to indigenous Tharu communities
  - 4,805 landless and 20,152 unmanaged settlers (Total 24,957 HHs) unregistered operating land under informal tenure
  - 4,563 HHs unregistered tenants operated as sharecroppers or contract farmers without documents
  - Unregistered tenure-holders and tenancy vulnerable to eviction



## Issues due to Undocumented Tenancy and Proposed Response

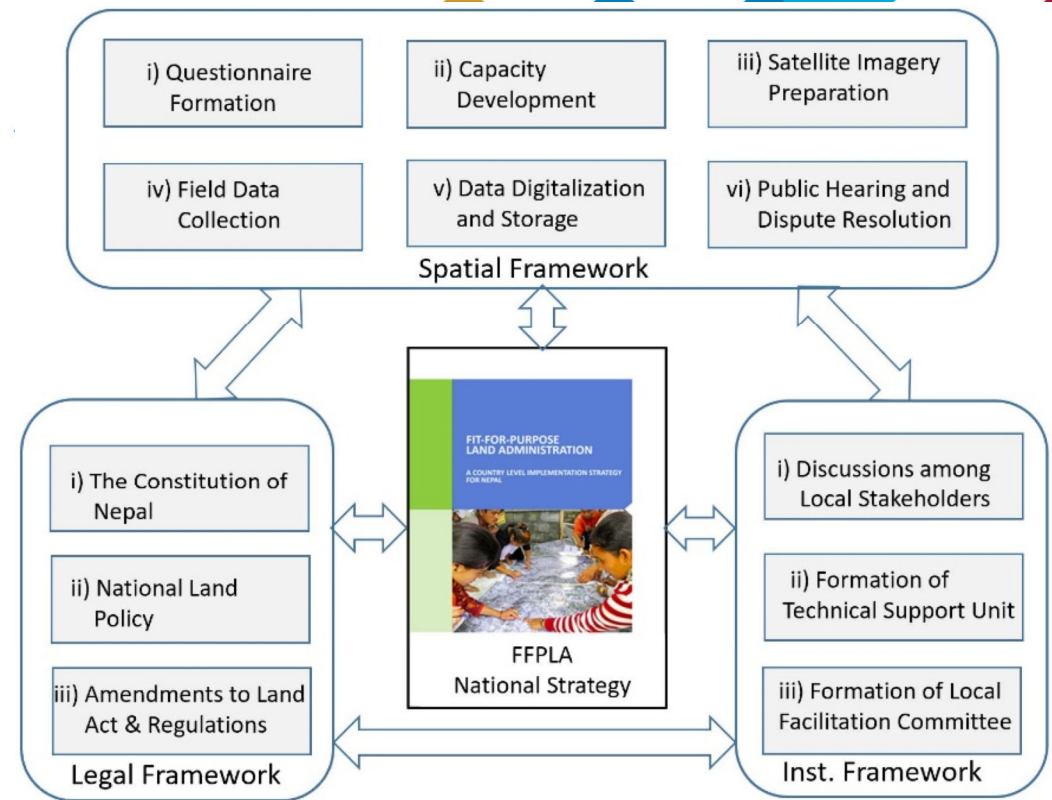
- Type of land under unregistered tenancy:
  - Riverbed land prone to flooding
  - Abandoned public and Government land
  - Vacant land owned by landlords
  - Institutional land owned by Temples or Educational institutes
- Issues due to lack of documentation:
  - Encroachment
  - Abandonment and vacant private land
  - Lack of protection of government and public land
  - Forced eviction
- **Response:** Documenting land tenure of sharecroppers and contract farmers to improve sustainable utilization of land and environmental protection



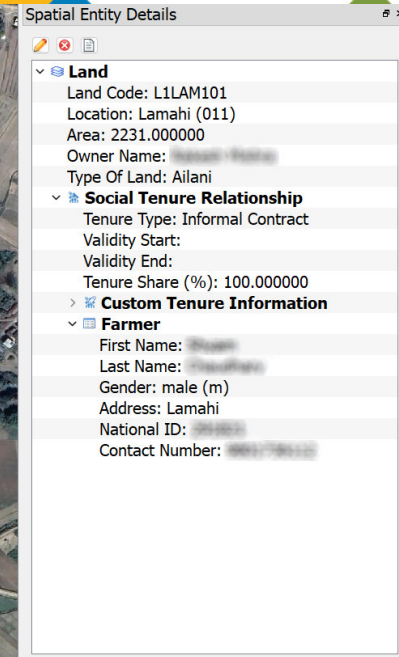
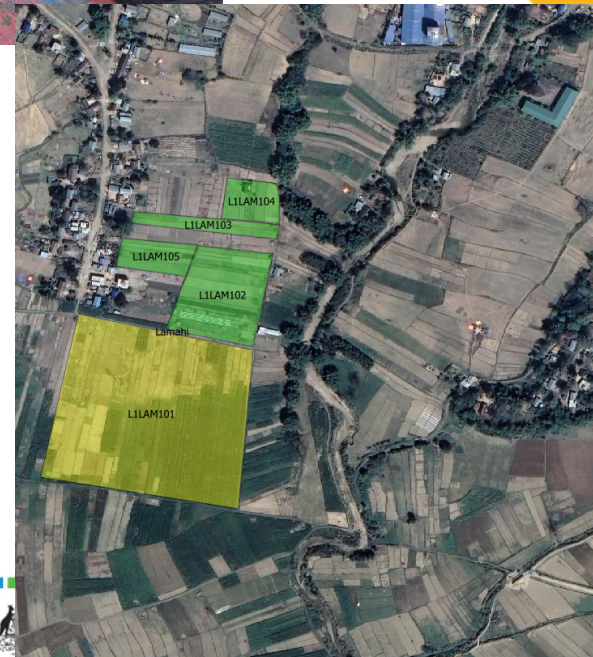
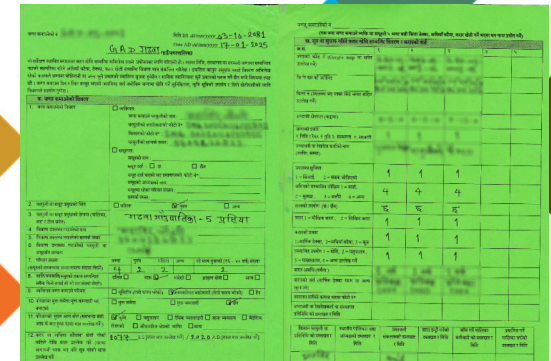
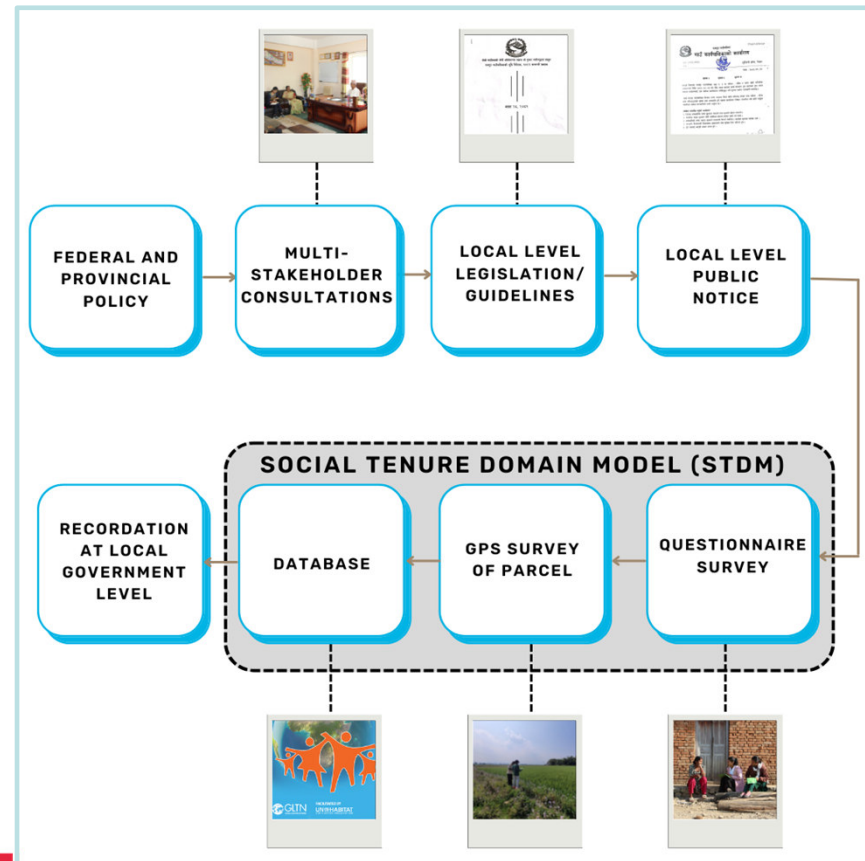


## Policy Response

- National Land Policy, 2019
- Regularization of informal land tenure
- Relocation of HHs operating land prone to natural disasters and other environmental hazards
- Security of tenure of sharecroppers, contract farmers (Land banking under Willing Lessor Willing Lessee concept)
- Utilization of disused/ riverbank land (federal and provincial level policy and local government level legislation/ guidelines)
- Documentation and recordation at the local government level



# Application of Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) for Documentation





## Discussion

- The documentation applying STDM tool is under progress pending full results
- Multistakeholder process - LGUs, the Ward officials and other stakeholders are engaged
- Manual data collection using Green Forms for official recordation
- Security of land terms of agreement between farmer and land-owner
- Coordination with absentee land-owners challenging
- Knowledge transfer and institutionalization - Continued ownership and maintenance of the system by LGUs



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## Conclusions and Recommendation

- The project is still under progress awaiting full results
- Preliminary findings shows promising outcome on the application of low-cost and open-source tools for the participatory enumeration for documentation of land utilization
- Sustainability and maintenance of the system within the LGU and scale up beyond requires further work

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## The most relevant SDGs related to the presentation and theme of this session



1st relevant  
SDG



2nd relevant  
SDG



3rd relevant  
SDG

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International Federation of Surveyors supports the  
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