

Policy Roundtable 18th October 2011

Main conclusions of the HLPE Report on Land tenure and international investments in agriculture

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Four characteristics of the HLPE process

- A steering committee, a Project Team (Camilla Toulmin, Prem Bindraban, Jun Borras, Esther Mwangi, Sergio Sauer), electronic consultations, expert review
- A broad review of the literature and evidence
- Oriented towards recommendations, recognising uncertainty
- Difficult and sensitive issues



What's the evidence for large scale land acquisitions?

Wide range of estimates, from 50-80m hectares (WB 2010)

Amount of land (ha)	Coverage	Time period	Source	Method
2.5 million	Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali and Sudan	2004-2009	Cotula et al. 2009	Systematic inventories based on in-country research
51-63 million	27 countries in Africa	Until April 2010	Friis & Reenberg 2010	Systematic inventory of media reports
	Mali, Laos, Cambodia	Until 2009	Görgen <i>et al.</i> 2009	Systematic inventories based on in-country research
> 5 h million	Kazakhstan, Ukraine. Russia	2006-2011	Visser & Spoor 2011	Media and web based
46.6 million	81 countries	2004-2009?	Deiniger et al., 2011	Systematic inventory of media reports
4.3 million	Brazil	until 2008	Wilkinson at al 2010	-
545,000	Mali	By end 2010	Baxtor, 2011	Field visits, govt documents
3.6 million	Ethiopia	2008-11	Horne, 2011	Field visits, govt documents
15-20 million	"poor countries"	2006-09	IFPRI 2009	-
> 80 million	Global	Since 2000	International Land Coalition	Systematic inventory of verified media reports
Approximately 15-20 million ha	Global	Since 2000	v. Braun and Meinzen-Dick (2009)	Estimate based on media reports
Not identified	Global	2007-2008	GRAIN 2008	Media and web based



Why pressure on farmland and water now?

- Public policy measures food security, biofuel targets, investment promotion
- Market forces rising demand food, feed, fuels, land as investment asset
- Environmental pressures water scarcity, drought, conservation, forestry and carbon markets



Increased concern for food security

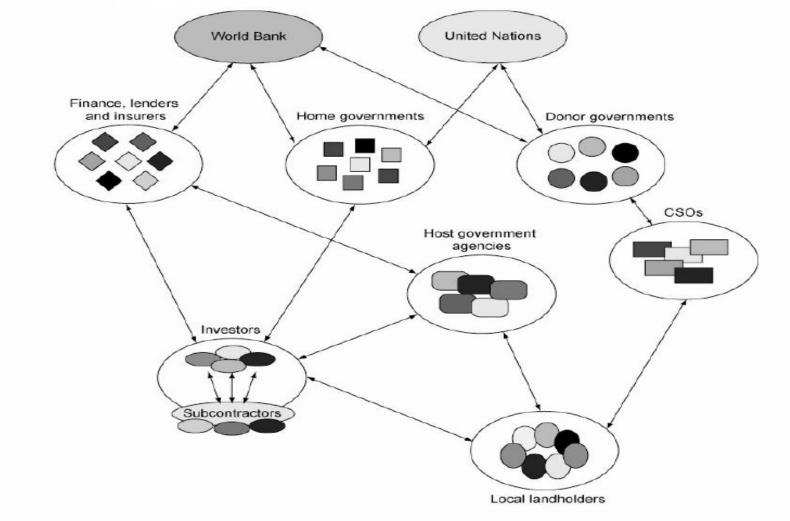
- Two billion rural poor land their main asset
- Low coverage documented land rights
- Customary and collective rights unrecognised
- Women, smallholders, pastoralists especially vulnerable
- Growing evidence adverse impacts, weak local consultation, resistance and conflict



Large vs. smallscale farming

- Longstanding argument about economic, social, gender, and environmental impacts.
 Context and policy matter. Economies of scale up/downstream supply chain.
- "Modern" can be small + large
- Shared value/joint ventures can combine benefits from each if deal is right





Principal stakeholders in agricultural land investment



Recommendations to Host country governments:

- Promote inclusive debate on agricultural pathways and long term choices,
- Respect local rights to land and natural resources,
 FPIC;
- Encourage shared value business models,
- Open up scrutiny investment contracts,
- Use tax/subsidies to shape investment choices

Home country governments:

 Set up mechanism for redress, to hold investors to account



Recommendations to donors

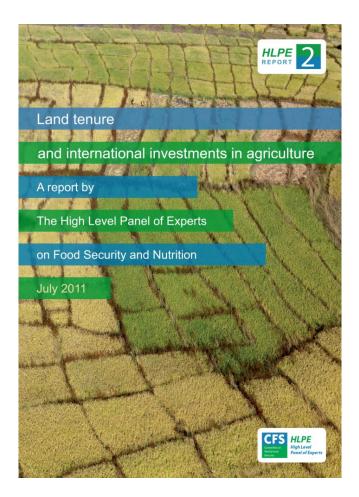
- Align bilateral and multilateral activities
- Fulfil G8/G20 commitments on agriculture: increase funds to public research on sustainable intensification, agro-ecological agriculture
- Support legal advice to host governments
- Support scrutiny of food security issues by farmer associations, civil society, media



Recommendations to CFS

- Govts to report annually on aligning food security and agricultural investment flows
- Govts to abolish biofuel targets and subsidies
- Govts to approve VG on land tenure and NRs and establish observatory for tenure and food
- Provide oversight of consultation on the principles for responsible investment in agriculture





www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe