

LAND GRABBING

SKOV, December 13, 2016

Definitions...

Webster

land'-grab"ber. *n.* a person who gets possession of land unfairly or fraudulently

Wikipedia

Land grabbing is the contentious issue of large-scale land acquisitions: the buying or leasing of large pieces of land by domestic and trans-national companies, governments and individuals.

LAND AREA

- ▶ **Quite uncertain:**
- ▶ - Globally since 2000 between 30 and 80 million hectares, but
- ▶ - Excluding transfers in developed and medium-income countries only 20-35 million hectares
- ▶ i.e. less than 1% of global agricultural area (4 billion hectares)

LAND VALUE

- ▶ **Indian investment in Ethiopia: \$1.20-\$8.00/hectare/year**
- ▶ **Saudi investment in South Sudan: \$1.00/hectare/year**
- ▶ **South Korean investment in Peru: \$0.80/hectare/year**

Main destinations

- ▶ **Total area:** *Indonesia, Malaysia, India*
- ▶ **International deals only:** *Brazil, Sudan, Madagascar, Philippines, Ethiopia, Mozambique*

Origin of foreign parties

- ▶ United States, UAE, China, each 12 %
- ▶ India, 8%
- ▶ Egypt, UK, each 6%
- ▶ South Korea, South Africa, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, each 4-5%

Impact on environment

- ▶ Malaysia, Indonesia: Oilpalm plantations - clearance of virgin forest: CO₂ release
- ▶ Brazil: soybean production and cattle rearing: CO₂ and CH₄ release

‘Rising Global Interest in Farmland’ (2011)

Principles of Responsible Agro-investment

- ▶ - Respecting land and resource rights
- ▶ - Ensuring food security
- ▶ - Ensuring transparency, good governance, and a proper enabling environment
- ▶ - Consultation and participation
- ▶ - Responsible agro-investing
- ▶ - Social sustainability
- ▶ - Environmental sustainability

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Projections:

- ▶ 6 million hectares of land brought into production in developing countries each year until 2030
- ▶ 2/3 will be in Sub-Saharan Africa and South America
- ▶ Mainly foodproducts, livestock feeds and industrial products.

Many similarities between land and fish grabbing



Unlike soybean plants, fish and fishing vessels move

- ▶ **Countries:** *de jure* ownership over 200 miles zone, not over migrating fish.
- ▶ **Fisheries agreements:**
 - ▶ - opaque and politically manipulated legal framework,
 - ▶ - lack of transparency negotiations and agreements,
 - ▶ - difficult enforcement,
 - ▶ - uncertain volume and value of fish
 - ▶ - 'political' compensation
 - ▶ - underestimated impact on the environment

Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing

- ▶ ***IUU fishing*** still widespread, notably S.E.Asia, Pacific and around Africa
- ▶ ***Fish grabbing*** reflects multiple factors, a.o. lack of political will to control and enforce, and (for IUU fishing) criminal intent.

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