

Land Grabs Campaign Statistics

Land grabs

- More than 1600 large-scale land deals have been documented since 2000, targeting over 60 million hectares¹ - an area larger than Spain, Germany or Kenya.
- Of the top ten countries targeted by investors for large-scale land acquisitions, six are in Africa - South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Liberia, Sudan and Sierra Leone.²
- According to the Land Matrix, the countries of origin of most concluded land deals are: USA (7.09 million hectares), Malaysia (3.35m ha.), United Arab Emirates (2.82m ha.), UK (2.96ha.), India (1.99m ha.), Singapore (1.88m ha.), Netherlands (1.68m ha.), Saudi Arabia (1.57m ha.), Brazil (1.37m ha.) and China (1.34m ha).³
- According to the World Bank only 10% of Africa's rural land is officially registered.⁴
- Foreign investors target countries with weak governments to acquire land. Research into large-scale land deals in 56 countries found that more than three quarters (78%) of the deals were in countries with weak governance i.e. low accountability to citizens, weak rule of law, lack of regulation of the private sector and control of corruption.⁵
- The World Bank has funded land deals to the tune of more than \$8 billion over the past decade.⁶

Land and hunger

- One in eight people in the world suffer from chronic hunger and the vast majority of hungry people live in developing countries⁷.
- Almost two-thirds of land deals are in countries with serious hunger problems, yet the majority of crops grown on land bought by foreign investors in developing countries are intended for export, not to feed people within the country⁸.
- The majority of global land deals in the last decade have been to grow crops that can be used for biofuels⁹.
- According to the Land Matrix, almost half of the land that has been targeted was already being used for crop production¹⁰.
- A third of global croplands are now used to produce livestock feed, while 13 billion hectares of forest are converted each year for use as pasture or to produce crops for food and livestock¹¹.
- The UN estimates that 1.3 billion tons of food produced for human consumption – about one third of the total – is lost or wasted every year¹².

Women

- Women produce half of the world's food and up to 80% of the food in most developing countries¹³.
- The UN estimates that if women had same access to land, training and financial support as men they could increase agricultural yields by up to 30%, which would reduce the number of hungry people in the world by up to 140 million¹⁴.
- Women make up 70% of Africa's farmers.¹⁵

Importance of smallholder agriculture

- Most of the 1.4 billion people earning less than US\$1.25 a day live in rural areas, and depend largely on agriculture to make a living. An estimated 2.5 billion people are involved in full or part-time smallholder agriculture¹⁶.
- 500 million small farmers produce 80% of the food consumed in large parts of the developing world, particularly South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁷
- Two billion people – one in three people in the world - are dependent on an estimated 500 million small farms for food.¹⁸
- On average, small farms in developing countries generate 40 – 60% of total rural income by engaging in both farm and non-farm activities.¹⁹
- China and Vietnam, the two countries that have reduced rural poverty the most in recent decades did so by empowering small farmers with tiny plots of land²⁰.

¹ Land Matrix <http://www.landmatrix.org/en/get-the-idea/dynamics-overview/>.

² Land Matrix: <http://landmatrix.org/en/get-the-idea/web-transnational-deals/>

³ Land Matrix: <http://landmatrix.org/en/get-the-idea/web-transnational-deals/>

⁴ F.F.K. Byamugisha, *Securing Africa's Land for Shared Prosperity: A Program to Scale Up Reforms and Investments*, World Bank, 2013

⁵ Oxfam (February 2013) *Poor Governance, Good Business: How land investors target countries with weak governance*

⁶ Oxfam (October 2012) *Our Land, Our Lives - Time out on the global land rush*.

⁷ FAO: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3458e/i3458e.pdf>

⁸ Oxfam (October 2012): *Our Land, Our Lives - Time out on the global land rush*.

⁹ George Schoneveld, *The Anatomy of Large-Scale Farmland Acquisitions in sub-Saharan Africa*

¹⁰ Ward Anseeuw et al, *Transnational land deals for agriculture in the global south – analytical report based on the Land Matrix database*, 2012

¹¹ FAO Factsheet (2012) *Livestock and Landscapes*

¹² FAO: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/mb060e/mb060e00.pdf>

¹³ FAO Focus on Women and Food Security. <http://www.fao.org/sd/fsdirect/fbdirect/fsp001.htm>

¹⁴ FAO, *State of Food and Agriculture, Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gap for Development*, 2011, p.vi,

¹⁵ F. F. K. Byamugisha, *Securing Africa's Land for Shared Prosperity: A Program to Scale Up Reforms and Investments*, World Bank, 2013

¹⁶ http://www.unep.org/pdf/SmallholderReport_WEB.pdf

¹⁷ <http://www.ifad.org/media/press/2013/27.htm>

¹⁸ <http://www.ifad.org/pub/viewpoint/smallholder.pdf>

¹⁹ FAO, Committee on Agriculture, 'Policies and Institutions to Support Smallholder Agriculture', June 2010

²⁰ Dang Kim Son et al, 'Policy Reform and the Transformation of Vietnamese Agriculture', in FAO, *Rapid Growth of Selected Asian Economies*, 2006