

DRH Norway

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A dream you dream alone is only a dream.
A dream you dream together is the reality.

Wherever You are :)



This picture was taken on the 12th of December 2012 :)

DRH Norway wish you many fulfilled dreams in 2013



table of contents

Land Grabbing	2
Maps & Stats	3
Vicky's Photos	4



„Let the World be our classroom, and the people we meet our teachers!“

LAND GRABBING

What is it and why such bad?

How is it different from land acquisition? And why is it considered such a bad thing?

In the past decade, international investors have acquired 227 million hectares of land in developing countries (roughly, it's the size of Western Europe). The food price crisis and the economic crisis of 2007-2008 forced businesses and companies to pay more attention to agriculture. But the lands have been used for bio-fuel crops and/or crops for export. Land grab is different from land acquisition when it has these characteristics:

- Violation of human rights
 - Disrespect of FPIC (free, prior and informed consent); under this principle local/indigenous communities have to receive all appropriate information before making the decision to sell or not the land
 - Disregard for the social, economical, and environmental impact
 - Avoidance of transparency in legal matters
- The short-term effects of land grabbing are obvious: human rights violations, loss of liveli-

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hood, destruction of property and crops, lack of compensation. But there are also long-term implications that are not yet properly studied. Among them:

- Increase of hunger and poverty; 60% of the investors intend to export everything produced on the land; bio-fuel crops (soy, sugarcane, palm oil, jathropa) are cultivated instead of food crops
- The land is not bought at its full price; local people and communities are cheated
- Lack of laws and regulations; it is more likely foreign investors will buy land in countries with a inadequate legal system, where it is easier to bypass the law

Because of the food price crisis of 2007-2008, governments in many developing countries welcomed the investments in agriculture, whether from national or international sources. It was hoped they could ensure food security. The result has been the opposite. Small-scale food producers lost their lands, the ability to provide for local markets and for their families.

Text Source: Our land, our lives, Oxfam International, October 2012, Oxford, UK

Turning food to fuel on the hungry continent

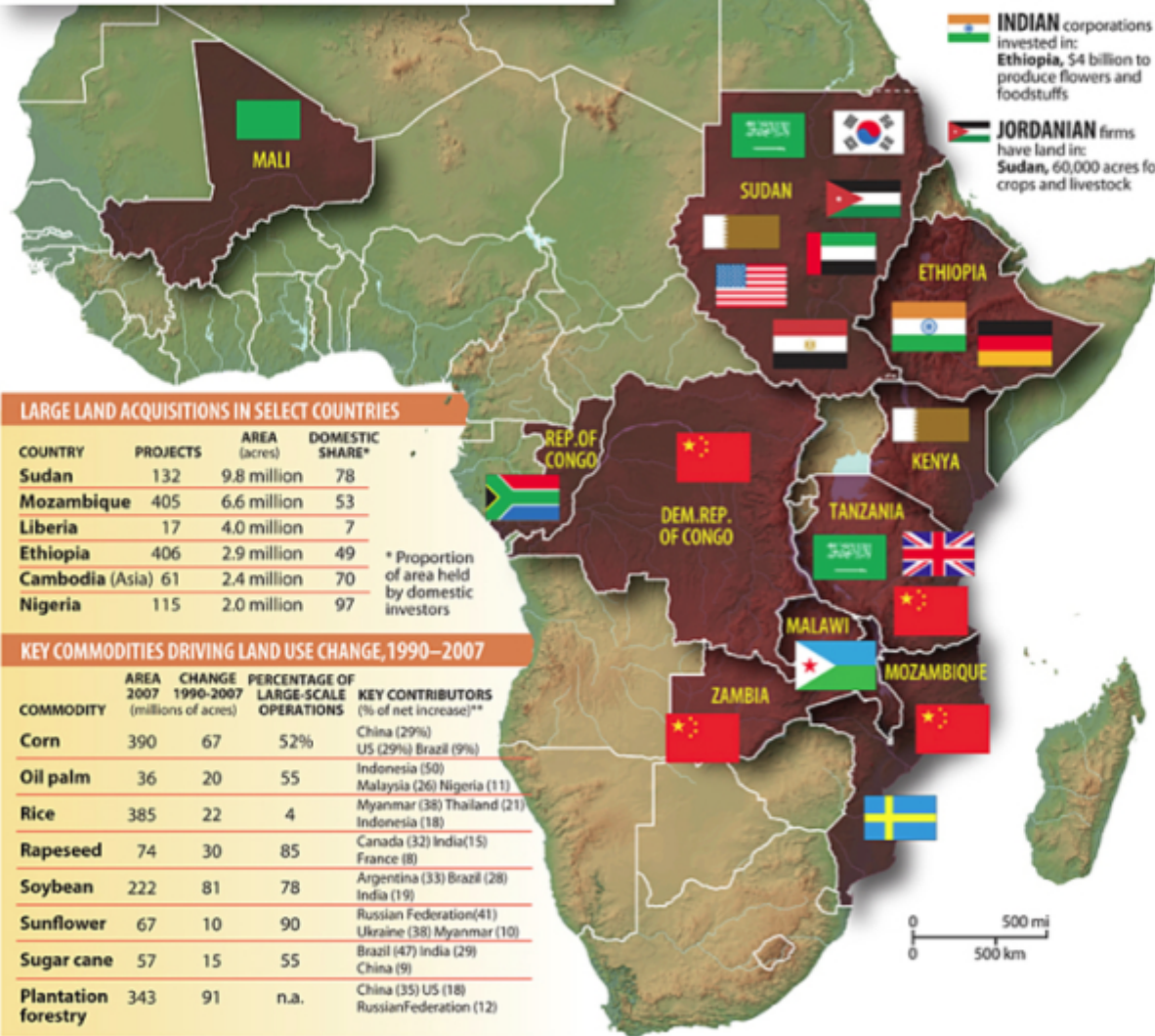
Countries growing crops for biofuels

- 1 Ghana**
A single firm plans to plant one million hectares of potentially toxic jathropa with government support
- 2 Benin**
Millions of hectares of fields and forest to be switched to jathropa and sugar cane to produce biodiesel for export
- 3 Ethiopia**
Government drive to open up land to foreign biofuels investors threatens 85% of population who are subsistence farmers
- 4 Uganda**
Government attempt to destroy half of Mabira rainforest to make way for ethanol plantations halted after protests
- 5 Tanzania**
Thousands of small-scale maize and rice farmers evicted to make way for sugar cane and jathropa plantations
- 6 Zambia**
Thousands of 'out-growers' bound into debt in 30 year contracts to grow biofuel feed jathropa for big investors
- 7 South Africa**
Biodiversity disaster looms in Eastern Cape as millions of hectares earmarked for corn-based ethanol

Graphic: ROB BROOKS

The 21st-century African land rush

Worldwide, up to 115 million acres of farmland are leased to foreign investors, and the bulk of that is in Africa. Food security and the push to produce biofuels drive the land rush. This map shows a sampling of reported land deals in Africa.



LARGE LAND ACQUISITIONS IN SELECT COUNTRIES

COUNTRY	PROJECTS	AREA (acres)	DOMESTIC SHARE*
Sudan	132	9.8 million	78
Mozambique	405	6.6 million	53
Liberia	17	4.0 million	7
Ethiopia	406	2.9 million	49
Cambodia (Asia)	61	2.4 million	70
Nigeria	115	2.0 million	97

* Proportion of area held by domestic investors

KEY COMMODITIES DRIVING LAND USE CHANGE, 1990-2007

COMMODITY	AREA 2007 (millions of acres)	CHANGE 1990-2007 (millions of acres)	PERCENTAGE OF LARGE-SCALE OPERATIONS	KEY CONTRIBUTORS (% of net increase)**
Corn	390	67	52%	China (29%), US (29%), Brazil (9%)
Oil palm	36	20	55	Indonesia (50), Malaysia (26), Nigeria (11), Myanmar (38), Thailand (21), Indonesia (18)
Rice	385	22	4	Canada (32), India (15), France (8)
Rapeseed	74	30	85	Argentina (33), Brazil (28), India (19)
Soybean	222	81	78	Russian Federation (41), Ukraine (38), Myanmar (10)
Sunflower	67	10	90	Brazil (47), India (29), China (9)
Sugar cane	57	15	55	China (35), US (18), Russian Federation (12)
Plantation forestry	343	91	n.a.	

SOURCES: Food and Agriculture Organization, International Food Policy Research Institute

** Changes in crop area may include substitution for other crops as well as area expansion

ROH CLARIBOUGH/STAFF

CODE GREEN iO!

NEARLY 5% OF AFRICA'S AGRICULTURAL LAND WAS BOUGHT OR LEASED BY FOREIGN INVESTORS AS OF 2010.



afonline.org

VICKY'S PHOTOS

Taste of Summer in Winter



Now Enrolling!

Apply today for the next „Fighting with the Poor“ 24 months program! Join the March Team 2013! Contact us at: diprogram@drh-norway.org For more info: www.drh-norway.org or www.drhnorway.altervista.org.