

Land investments: A stakeholder analysis

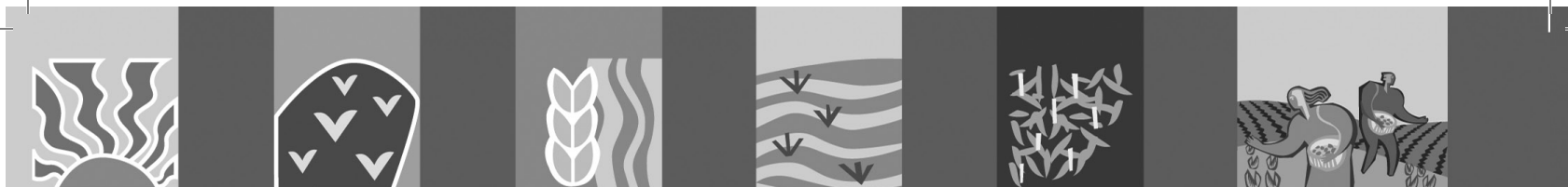
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The phenomenon of increasing land investments in the region has brought about greater competition for agricultural and other public lands. In many cases, these agricultural investments tend to ignore land occupants as stakeholders. As such, they are not included in deals contracted, nor are they consulted on the type of agricultural production and technologies to adopt. These transactions come in various modalities: government to government,

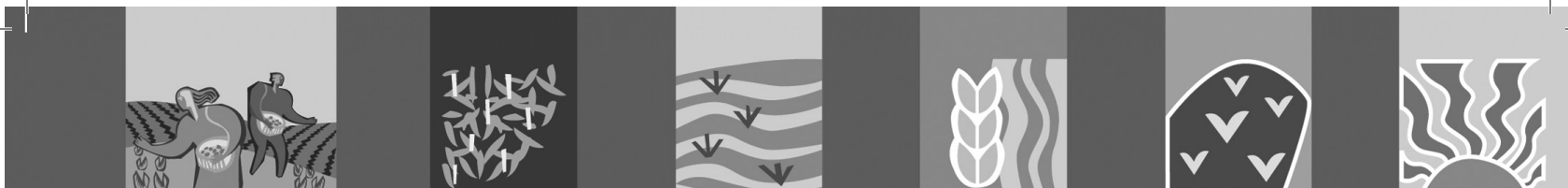
private companies to government, private companies to private companies.

It is important to understand how these transactions are consummated and how the various stakeholders are involved in these complex processes of land investments. ANGOC prepared the following stakeholder analysis tool to guide campaigns on land grabbing:

STAKEHOLDERS	INTEREST/ROLES	POWER/INFLUENCE	ISSUES
Smallholder communities (small farmers, indigenous peoples, forest communities, women, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Access/Tenure Food security; productivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can organize mass activities and influence other small, affected groups and support groups to join their lobby. Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) must be secured from indigenous communities for activities affecting their domain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not completely informed nor consulted about land deals Usually they do not know where and how to lodge their disapproval of the proposed deal.
Investors (Companies or other Governments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profit-making Food production for export High-value crops production, including feedstock (plantations) Biofuels production (sugar, jatropha, etc.) Mining Logging Aquaculture Special Economic Zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can influence local officials, local leaders to convince community members to support these new deals Can resort to harassment of communities Can offer extra benefits and services to convince the local leaders and community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually, no displacement program or compensation for affected communities Doubtful consultation of affected communities Deals are long term
Social movements & CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure social justice for the rural and landless poor Monitor and check implementation of asset reform policies and programs Provide lobbying support to affected communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can help provide communities with technical knowledge and information Can mobilize public support to monitor or challenge erroneous land investments Help set strategies for campaigning on land deals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills and knowledge enhancement needed to deal with land investment deals adequately



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International Organizations			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Agencies (Donors, IGOs, UN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring effects on communities of land investments and rate of implementation of other social development commitments (like land reforms, respect of IP rights, right to food, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can provide platforms for various stakeholders to discuss land investments Can develop guidelines Can conduct research on impact of agricultural land deals on global food security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perspective on food security and land/ agrarian reforms Guidelines are not binding for governments to implement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International financial institutions, multilateral development banks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving its loan portfolio related to environment/ NRM, agriculture, IPs, good governance Food security portfolio on inviting private investors to enter into Public-Private partnerships with producer communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides loans but often with structural conditionalities Loan programs can affect the development framework of a country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perspective on food security and land/ agrarian reforms
Host Governments			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approves the country's over-all development framework for a certain period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can set the focus of the country's development agenda Can revoke contracts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stance on land/ agrarian reform Perspective on food security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Land Reform, Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources, Land Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure provincial or national targets for land investments are met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually, assists in identifying potential areas for land investments Can ascertain technical compliance with legal and environmental requirements Can act as brokers of investors and advice investors how to shortcut application processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perspective on food security Lack of coordination among agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Trade; Board of Investments/ Development Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates Free Trade Agreements and Bilateral Agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the portfolios of interested investors Can recommend the areas for agricultural investments Can also limit the areas to be recommended in the name of food security or land reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perspective on food security Land seen mostly as an economic commodity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congress/Parliament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislates policies that can facilitate FDI on land like FTAs, Bilateral agreements, SEZs, foreign land ownership, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can approve or conduct review and reform of policies and programs targeted to increase land investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly landowners Perspective on food security



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Governments and Local Special Bodies & Boards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source of income (through permits and taxes) and livelihoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications for investments are lodged here Official permits are secured here Can facilitate setting-up of Special Economic Zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prone to corruption Can railroad public consultations if desired

Social movements and CSOs need a new set of skills and knowledge to understand the legal agreements and implications of these on communities. On the other hand, most host country governments act like property agents in these land deals to attract investors, whereas they should ensure that the poor have access to and control of lands through agrarian and land reforms. Grievance and land conflict mechanisms should be in place where communities can register violations on their rights to land and fair resolution is reached.

Development agencies working at the regional level should look at how to engage national governments and communities in discussion of trade agreements on land investments, policies and issues by using regional governance institutions, international agencies and international financial institutions. Critical engagement with the corporate sector should be pursued, otherwise these corporations will go unregulated. Further capacity building for social movements and CSOs in relation to engaging the corporate sector are needed.