

LAND GRABBING

Do a Research and Presentation about the Topic "Land Grabbing"



Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Tasks	1
3.	Group presentation	2
4.	Discussion	2

1. Introduction

Large-scale land acquisitions (LSLAs) - often called 'Land Grabbing' - are a growing global trend. Investment in land has become a lucrative way of making money, especially since the financial crisis in 2008.

However, LSLAs often cause conflict with the local community over the use of scarce resources



2. Tasks

- Work in small groups. Each group has to deal with one of the following topics:

- a) The Quality of the data concerning 'land grabbing'
- b) 'Land grabbing and the Tropical Rainforest'
- c) The fight against 'land grabbing'
- d) Land grabbing around the world

- Visit the website [Global Agriculture](#) to get a first impression of the topic.
- Find a suitable question concerning your topic.



3. Group presentation

- Use the following sources to find answers to your question
 - a) [Land Matrix](#)
 - b) [Farmlandgrab](#)
 - c) [Landcoalition](#)
 - d) The website ,[Global Agriculture](#)‘ itself.

- Prepare a presentation of 7 minutes for your group. In your presentation, you should discuss your question as well as your findings. If appropriate, try to integrate interactive tools and charts.



4. Discussion

- Present your results. Use a creative and appealing way of presenting.
- How can the negative consequences of land grabbing be mitigated? Who is responsible for land grabbing? Discuss.

- Information Global Agriculture:

Land Grabbing



Since 2008, the term “land grabbing” gained notoriety around the globe. It refers to large-scale land acquisitions mainly by private investors but also by public investors and agribusiness that buy farmland or lease it on a long-term basis to produce agricultural commodities. These international investors, as well as the public, semi-public or private sellers, often operate in legal grey areas and in a no man’s land between traditional land rights and modern forms of property. In many cases of land grabbing, one could speak of a land reform from above, or of the establishment of new colonial relationships imposed by the private sector.



The IAASTD covers the problem of unfair distribution of land, which has existed for many centuries, as well as approaches to agrarian reforms and communal land use. Its key message is simple: Secure land tenure, property rights and other forms of common ownership, including access to water, are an essential prerequisite for family farms to invest in their own future. They provide the basis for all forms of sustainable development and land cultivation. There is hardly any other economic sector with so little transparency as in the area of land ownership. Even in times of *Google Maps*, a global land register is still a long way off. History often plays a key role: Past social and economic systems, ideologies, tribal rights and gender privileges, as well as scars of war and displacement, remain visible. The power over land registers is still today not granted by courts in all parts of the world but often seized violently by both private and public actors.

Gobal land rush in countries with weak governance

Large-scale land acquisitions (in 1000 hectares)



Since 2009, the *Land Matrix*, a joint independent land-monitoring initiative of civil society, intergovernmental organizations and research institutes, has collected key information regarding land grabbing. For example, it shows that almost nine percent of Africa's total area of arable land has changed owners since 2000. The largest land acquisitions are concentrated in countries with weak governance structures. In these countries, the proportion of hunger and malnutrition in the population is also very high, for example, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone.

Facts & Figures

Only 9% of the agricultural projects listed by the Land Matrix in November 2018 (total area 40.98 million hectares) were exclusively destined for food production. 38% of the area was intended for non-food crops and 15% for the cultivation of flex-crops that can be used for biofuels and animal feed, as well as food. The remaining land was intended for the cultivation of different crops at the same time.

- [Agricultural Drivers - Land Matrix, November 2018](#)

Since the year 2000, foreign investors have acquired 26.7 million hectares of land around the globe for agriculture, according to a Land Matrix report that covers 1,004 concluded agricultural deals. Africa accounts for 42% of the deals, and 10 million hectares of land. Land acquisitions are concentrated along important rivers such as the Niger and the Senegal rivers, and in East Africa.

- [Analytical Report of the Land Matrix II: International Land Deals for Agriculture. Land Matrix, 2016](#)

For the decade spanning 2007-2017, GRAIN has documented at least 135 farmland deals intended for food crop production that backfired. They represent a massive 17.5 million hectares, almost the size of Uruguay. These are not failed land grabs, since the land almost never goes back to the communities, but failed agribusiness projects. Failed land grabs for agricultural production peaked in 2010, but they are on the rise again since 2015.

- [Failed farmland deals: A growing legacy of disaster and pain. GRAIN, 2018](#)

Despite a history of customary use and ownership of over 50% of the world's land area, indigenous peoples and local communities – up to 2.5 billion women and men – possess ownership rights to just one-fifth of the land that is rightfully theirs. The remaining five billion hectares remain unprotected and vulnerable to land grabs from more powerful entities like governments and corporations.

- [Common Ground. Securing Land Rights and Safeguarding the Earth. Oxfam, 2016](#)

Of the 10.3 million farms in the EU, two thirds (65.4%) are less than 5 hectares in size. In 2016, they worked just 6.1% of the EU's utilized agricultural area. In contrast, large farms (100 hectares and above), representing just 3.3% of the total number of farms, controlled half (52.2%) of all farmed land. The 7% of farms that were of 50 hectares or more in size worked a little over two-thirds (68.1%) of the EU's utilized agricultural area.

- [Farm structure survey 2016. Eurostat press release, June 2018](#)

Land ownership in Europe has become highly unequal, in some countries reaching proportions similar to Brazil, Colombia and the Philippines – all notorious for their unequal distribution of land and land-based wealth.

- [Extent of Farmland Grabbing in the EU. Transnational Institute, 2015](#)

Land investors appear to be targeting countries with poor governance in order to maximize profit and minimize red tape. Analysis by Oxfam shows that over three-quarters of the 56 countries where land deals were agreed between 2000 and 2011 scored below average on four World Bank governance indicators: Voice and Accountability, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law and Control of Corruption.

- [Poor Governance, Good Business. How land investors target countries with weak governance - Oxfam, 2013](#)

A study of the economic impact of land grabbing on rural livelihoods estimates that the total income loss for local communities is \$34 billion worldwide, a number comparable to the \$35 billion loaned by the World Bank for development and aid in 2012. The study looked at the 28 countries most targeted by large-scale land acquisitions and used data from the Land Matrix database.

- [Land grabbing: a preliminary quantification of economic impacts on rural livelihoods - Population and Environment, July 2014](#)

Behind the current scramble for land is a worldwide struggle for control over access to water. In recent years, Saudi Arabian companies have acquired millions of hectares of land overseas to produce food to ship back home. The country does not lack land for food production; what's missing is water for irrigation.

- [Squeezing Africa dry: behind every land grab is a water grab - GRAIN, 2012](#)

- Information Land Matrix:

THE LAND MATRIX INITIATIVE

The Land Matrix Initiative (LMI) is an independent global land monitoring initiative made up of a number of global and regional partners. The LMI was originally established in 2009 to address the lack of robust data on LSLAs, and the first version of the Land Matrix database was launched in April 2012, providing a systematic overview of large-scale agricultural investments. Today, together with a wealth of global data illustrating the magnitude of LSLAs on an international scale, our four **Regional Focal Points (RFPs)** in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America, along with our **National Land Observatories (NLOs)** in Argentina, Cameroon, Philippines, Senegal and Uganda, capture country-specific data through a critical regional lens.

The data represented on the Land Matrix platform now covers almost 100 countries, and is constantly evolving. Along with concluded deals, intended and failed attempts to acquire land through purchase, lease or concession are also captured, as are the drivers and aims of production, which include agricultural production, timber extraction, carbon trading, industry, renewable energy production, conservation, and tourism.

Collecting information about land deals is a long and difficult process. The information is hard to find and even harder to confirm through independent sources. Do you have information about land deals in your country that we can add to our database? Can you confirm or update information we already have? Find out how to get involved.

- Information Farmlandgrab:



This website contains news about the global rush to buy or lease farmlands by agribusiness, governments and financial investors -- and people's resistance against it. Its purpose is to serve as a resource for those monitoring, researching or organising around the issue, particularly activists, non-government organisations and journalists. It was initially set up by GRAIN, to share evidence of the new global farmland grab documented in *Seized: The 2008 land grab for food and financial security*.

This site is updated daily, with news clips from mainstream media, social movements, specialised press and academics. The posts are organised by their original publication date and the original source is always provided. Readers can subscribe to the site's weekly email or the RSS feed.

Farmlandgrab.org is an open project. While GRAIN continues to maintain it, anyone can join in posting materials or developing the site further. Please feel free to upload your own contributions. Only the lightest editorial oversight will apply. You can also use the comments box under any post to speak up. Just be aware that this site is strictly educational and non-commercial in nature. If you would like to get more directly involved, or have any questions, please send an email to info@farmlandgrab.org.

If you find this website useful, please consider helping us cover the costs of the work that goes into it. You can do this by going to GRAIN's website and making a donation, no matter how small. We really appreciate the support.

- Information Land Coalition:

PEOPLE-CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE

Our collective goal as a network is to realise land governance for and with people at the country level, responding to the needs and protecting the rights of those who live on and from the land.

A COMMON VISION

OUR COMMITMENTS

To guide our individual and collective efforts, ILC's members agreed on 10 commitments in priority areas of action. The 10 commitments are an expression of our common vision, and guide ILC's work at all levels of action. They are a compass for our work, and we hope that they also provide a useful focus to others with a transformative agenda on land rights.

SECURE TENURE RIGHTS

STRONG SMALL-SCALE FARMING SYSTEMS

DIVERSE TENURE SYSTEMS

EQUAL LAND RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

SECURE TERRITORIAL RIGHTS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

LOCALLY-MANAGED ECOSYSTEMS

INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING

TRANSPARENT AND ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION

EFFECTIVE ACTIONS AGAINST LAND GRABBING

PROTECTED LAND RIGHTS DEFENDERS