



Expansion of oil palm agribusinesses over indigenous-peasant lands and territories in Guatemala:

Fuelling a new cycle of agrarian accumulation, territorial dominance and social vulnerability?

Panel 28: "Biofuels and Livelihoods", at the International Conference on Land Grabbing, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton, U.K, 6th to 8th of April 2011.

Figure 1: Maps illustrating administrative and ethnic territorial settlement. The circumference demarcates the research setting coincident with lands at 500 m.a.s.l



Level n+1 (socio and agro-ecological area)

Level n (Village)











Level n-2 (Gender divided subjects)









Figure 2: Evolution of palm oil produced (*thousands of tons*) and oil palm harvested land in Guatemala and Central America 3 (*thousands of ha*). Year 2000 to 2010.



Source: IDEAR with data from the Guatemal's Oil Pallm Guild, CEPALSTAT & BANGUAT

Figure 3: Land harvested with maize, oil palm, sugarcane & jatropha. 2010



Temperature °C Rainfalls mm

Elevation m.a.s.l

Effective depth

Populated areas, national parks, protected areas and forests



Maize 18,937 km2 **Oil palm** 7,921 km2 Sugarcane 3,759 km2 Jatropha 2,061 km2

Figure 3: Land use in the year 2000 in areas harvested with oil palm in 2010

Forest & wetlands (49%)
Food crop lands (29%)
Export crop lands (8%)

Cattle lands (14%)

Source: IDEAR & the Government of Guatemala's National Council of Protected Areas



Water intake pie and palm oil mills waste drainages to *La Pasión* river, Sayaxche, Petén. IDEAR 2010.



Contaminated water from oil palm plantations and palm oil mills towards *La Pasión* river, Sayaxche, Petén. IDEAR 2010.

Communal-customary institutions for the management of land and common pool resources

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Figure 4: Opinion when asked: is an oil palm plantation like a forest?



Ves No

Figure 5: Opinion when asked: Did family and/or community living conditions change when the oil palm agribusinesses arrived? How?



Figure 6: Conflicts registered by the Guatemalan Government. Year 2011



Source: Compiled by author. The different dot colors refer to the kinds of conflict.



Figure 7: *Gross Territorial Product* according to crop systems in the Polochic areas in 2008 (in Quetzales 1US\$= 8GTQ).



Figure 8: Employment generated (in workdays per ha) at territorial and national levels by crop systems in the Polochic areas. 2008





Figure 9: Average time use by men and women during the plowing season in Polochic Valley & Hill villages (hours in a day).









"Illegal" maize planting in a new oil palm plantation.