

# Role of IFC in agricultural investment and large-scale land acquisition

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# *What is IFC?*

- International Finance Corporation
- Private sector branch of World Bank Group
- Mission:  
*“IFC's mission is to promote sustainable private sector investment in developing countries, helping to reduce poverty and improve people's lives.”*
- Work: - Investment Services (IS)  
- Technical Assistance and Advisory Services (TAAS)

# *What is FIAS?*

- Foreign Investment Advisory Service
- a Joint Service of the IFC
- Work:
  - FIAS assists governments of developing countries and transition economies
  - emphasis on regulatory simplification
  - investment generation

# *IFC role in 'global land grab'?*

- Promotion of FDI for development
- Barriers to land acquisition for foreign investors –
  - Lack of information
  - Administrative Barriers
  - Weak legal frameworks
- IFC/FIAS → Technical Assistance/Advisory Services (TAAS)  
→ facilitates land investment

# *How does IFC facilitate access to land markets?*

## 1. PROVIDES INFORMATION:

- *Doing Business* and other rankings
- Promotion/creation of IPAs (“one stop shops”)
- Toolkits for client governments

# *How does IFC facilitate access to land markets?*

## 2. REMOVES ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS:

- Streamlines procedures
- Land-related “products”

# *How does IFC facilitate access to land markets?*

## 3. STRENGTHENS LEGAL FRAMEWORKS:

- Drafts/reviews/revises legislation

# *How does IFC facilitate access to land markets?*

## 4. PROMOTES INVESTOR INCENTIVES:

- Tax and duty benefits



# *Outcomes*

- Facilitation of land investment
- Winners vs. Losers
- Case studies

# Concerns

- *IFC/FIAS absent from debate*
- How does IFC measure success?
- Weak Sustainability Policy and Performance Standards (PS)
- No application of PS to TAAS or Financial Intermediaries (FIs)

# *Recommendations*

- Revision and Improvement of PS
- Accountability for TAAS, not just investment services (IS)
- Accountability for FIs, not just IFC
- *Increased recognition and systematic analysis of IFC role within 'land grab' discourse*

# Thank you

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