

The Gender Implications of Large-Scale Land Deals

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Why gender matters

- Women are essential to planting, weeding, harvesting, processing, marketing, food preparation etc.
 - Productivity constraints already exist due to lack of key assets and inputs
- Households do not act in a unitary manner when allocating food and non food resources
 - Women play a key role in improving household food security and nutrition
- → Large scale land deals that take resources away from women can reduce the welfare of women and their families (even if there are income gains to men). **Including attention to gender is not only a matter of social equity, but is also central to poverty reduction.**



Considering gender in each phase of the land deals

- Pre-existing situation
 - Consultation and negotiation
 - Contracts and compensation
 - Implementation & changes in production structure
 - Enforceability, transparency monitoring & evaluation
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Phases of a land deal: pre-existing situation

What is the existing land tenure system?

- Customary vs. Statutory

Who uses the land in question?

- Going beyond ownership
- Non 'agricultural' uses: i.e. Grazing, Firewood, Water, Medicinal plants
- Private vs. Common property
- Cultural significance

Local levels of Human Capital

- Who will benefit from new employment opportunities?



Phases of a land deal: consultation & negotiation

How is land acquired?

- Legal appropriation of customary land
- Joint Ventures (i.e. contract farming)
- Legal sale of privately held land
- Illegally

Who are the investors? What is their capacity and track record?

- Origin of investor and interest
 - State, sovereign wealth funds, international private sector with state support, private sector without state, domestic investors joint venture, domestic investors alone
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Phases of a land deal: consultation & negotiation

Who is consulted about the sale/lease of the land?

- National governments (state owned/customary land)
- Local elite and/or chiefs
- Local farmer's associations or communes (privately titled)
- Local small-medium scale landowners (privately titled land)

How much information is made available to local populations?

- Are men and women both represented in consultations and negotiations?
 - Is information accurate?
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Stages of a land deal: contracts & compensation

Types of contracts

- Sale; Concession; Production Sharing; Joint Ventures

Who is compensated for the sale/lease of the land?

Duration of contract

- Short (15-20 years); long (50-99 years)

Investments in public goods

- Non agricultural infrastructure
 - Schools, hospitals, clinics etc.
 - Water related infrastructure
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Stages of a land deal: contracts & compensation

Investments in local labor—plantation systems

- Are local men and women equally hired?
- Do local men and women work in unskilled or managerial positions? Opportunities for advancement?
- Gender division in task allocation, hours worked, wages earned?
- Childcare?
- Introduction of mechanization?

Investments in local labor—contract farming

- Mixed evidence on gender implications: increasing demand for women's paid labor vs. appropriation of women's crops as they increase in value
 - Key questions:
 - Who is the contract made with?
 - Is there any deliberate targeting of participants or crops?
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Phases of a land deal: implementation & changes in production structure

Eviction and Resettlement

- Are local women and men evicted, resettled or allowed to stay on land?
- Do local women and men benefit from new employment opportunities, extension services and land rights that may accompany resettlement?

Introduction of New Technology

- Application outside of the project?
 - Are there concurrent increases in demand for labor?
 - Are technologies targeted to women and men farmers, workers?
 - Who shoulders environmental and health impacts?
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Phases of a land deal: implementation & changes in production structure

Crop Choice & Export

- Staple crops vs. biofuels
- Sold into local markets vs. exclusive export
- Will local women and men be impacted by losses in biodiversity?



Phases of land a land deal: enforceability, transparency monitoring & evaluation

- Are there mechanisms in place to ensure investors follow through on promises to abide by national legislation, invest in infrastructure and work with local populations?
 - What recourse do local people have if investors don't follow through?
 - Potential for non governmental enforcement via the media, famers organizations, NGOs, donors, Intl. Orgs
 - Is there a M&E system in place?
 - Is information about the land deal made available to local men and women?
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Conclusions

- Whether or not women and men will benefit from land deals depends in part on
 - Rights and responsibilities women and men have prior to the land deal
 - How the implementation of the land deal will build upon, improve or distort these roles and responsibilities.
- Need for 'enabling environment'
- Action of many actors

