

A Land Grab Scenario for Indonesia?

Diverse Trajectories and Virtual Land Grabs in the Outer Islands

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Merauke Food Estate - Papua



SETUMPUK MASALAH "FOOD ESTATE"

Sekalipun sudah direncanakan, namun setumpuk masalah masih mengemuka dalam pengembangan Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate di awal 1,6 juta hektare. Masalah Yayasan Medco mengancam akan keluar dari lahan food estate jika diminta membangun infrastruktur.

Potensi Kerdala

- Infrastruktur belum terbangun.
- ITH status belum lengkap.
- Terjadi sumpeng-endit status lahan.
- Belum ada pasar.
- Analisis Mengenai Dampak Lingkungan belum selesai.
- Investor masih pemerintah membangun infrastruktur.
- Status area pengubuh lain (ARU) tidak jelas, karena belum dimuluskan lokasinya.
- Momen kebutuhan bahan pembantu ITH kawasan akan produksi sekitar 1.419.450 hektare yang akan ditanami, menjadi lahan perkebunan dan pemukiman.
- Sektor industri kerdala, karena merupakan aset Merauke merupakan perantara dan penghasil hutan.

SOURCE: JAKARTA POST 2011

koran-jakarta.com
<http://farmlandgrab.org/>

transnational land grabbing in Indonesia

- To what degree is the scenario happening?
- What kind of scenario?



Define land grabbing

1. grasping, seizure or capture of land in an unacceptable or illegitimate fashion at the expense of the poor.
2. long-term control of large landholdings → to supply the food and energy needs

Trajectories of tenurial transformations

1. technology and infrastructure develops, → resources that can be extracted or utilised
2. market opportunities → practices of extraction
3. Reworking of state laws: revenue & accumulation
4. a series of redefinitions → landscape

transformations

1. colonial plantation development,
2. markets for timber & technologies to exploit forests
3. large-scale government administered colonisation project
4. private palm oil & timber estates
5. market for biofuels, rising value of agricultural commodities & carbon

But....

- schemes bump into
 - existing land uses
 - ecologies
 - shifting political economies
 - » fluctuations in commodity prices
- Problematic – resisted, only partially realised.
- often ‘virtual’ – permit grabbing

Central Kalimantan: The one million hectare project



Constraints...

- the social and political processes of commodity production → shape how plans work out in a particular context
 - Legitimacy & food security
 - Separatism
 - fuzzy land tenure arrangements: overlapping statutory and embedded rights

Jatropha in East Indonesia (NTT)



Pattern of failed jatropha plantations

- main domestic actors
 - Capture linked budgets & subsidies
 - rents associated with investments
 - land grabbing by international companies?



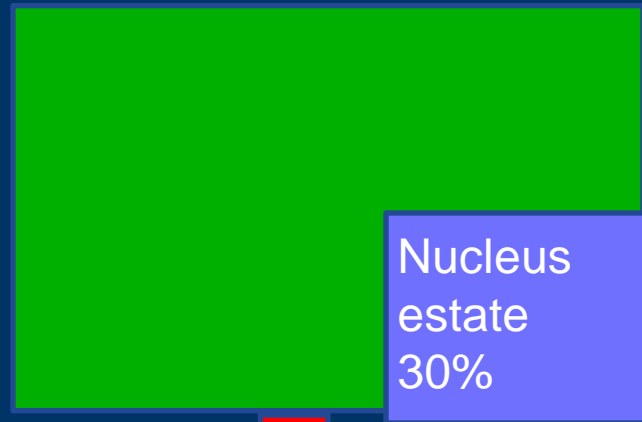
Land grab scenarios & oil palm



Liberalization of plantation laws

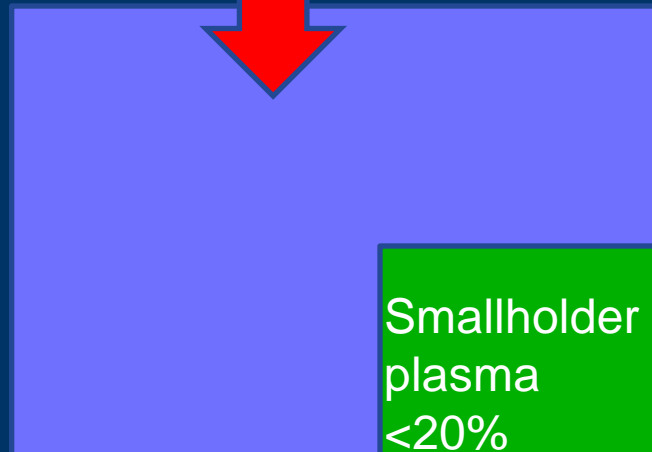
Smallholder plasma
70%

70:30 model



Nucleus estate <80%

20:80 model



Conclusions

- projects/plans/booster rhetoric vs what actually occurs
- political, economic, cultural limiting factors
 - ‘double movement’
- Differences in timing, scale & mode of transformation
 - Fragmented, differentiated, decentralized
 - continuity rather than disjunction
 - Reinvestment in smallholder agriculture??