



INTERNATIONAL  
LAND  
COALITION

# The global 'land grab'

## Mitigating the risks and enhancing the opportunities for local stakeholders

*The global land grab: a human rights approach*  
*3D/ADH Seminar, Geneva, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2009*

*Michael Taylor*

*Programme manager, Global Policy and Africa*  
*International Land Coalition Secretariat, Rome*

# International Land Coalition

- Member-based global coalition (86), incl global and national NGOs, social movements, producer organisations, trade unions, research institutions UN agencies & IFIs,
- *A global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organisations working together to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men through advocacy, dialogue and capacity building.*

[www.landcoalition.org](http://www.landcoalition.org)

# What is at stake (with some exaggeration...)?

# OR



*The way the world grows its food will have to change radically to better serve the poor and hungry if the world is to cope with a growing population and climate change while avoiding social breakdown and environmental collapse*

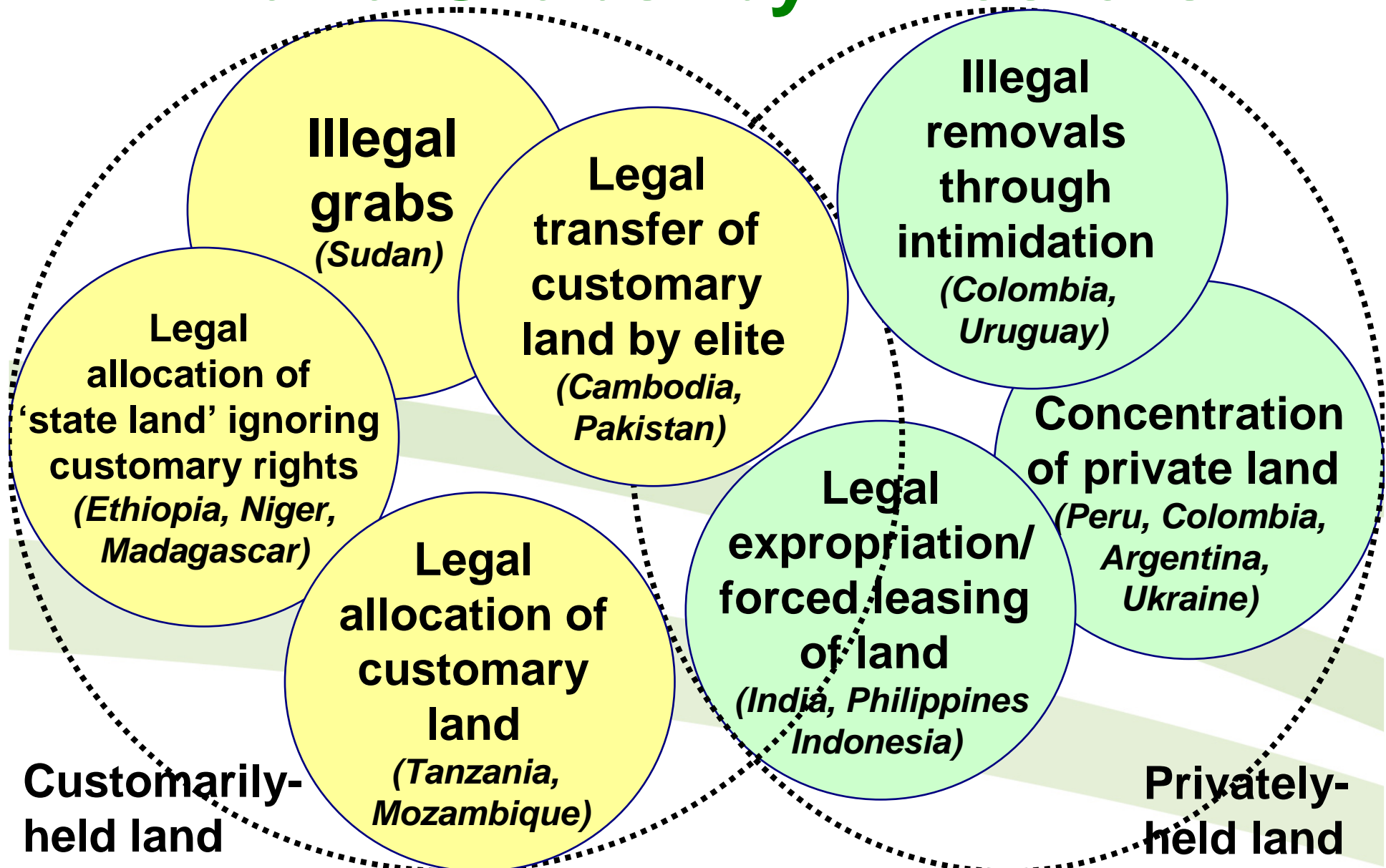
- IIASTD April 2008

# Context

**New expression** of a deeply entrenched and longstanding challenge: Inability of poor to protect land and natural resource rights from more powerful competitors

- lack of legal recognition of land rights
- lack of support to smallholder production models
- weak political voice of smallholders
- inappropriate models of agricultural production
- changing global context – rising demand for food fuel and fibre, FTAs, climate change, agrofuel subsidies, cash value on previously common goods, eg sequestered carbon

# 'Land Grabs' by investors



**... and what about 'carbon grabs?'**

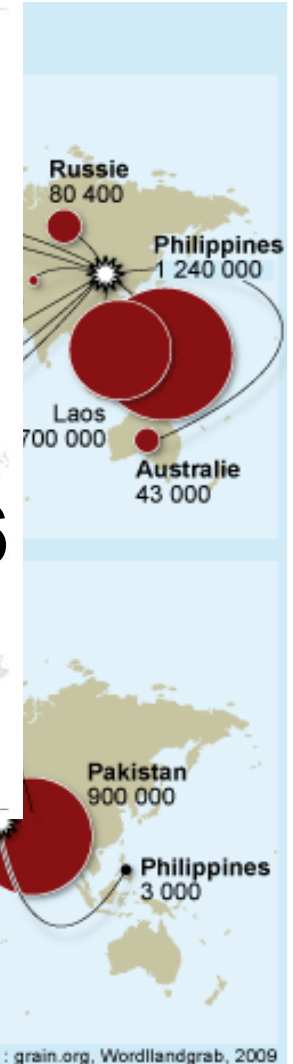
**World land grab**

Land purchased by government and private companies from each country, where areas are known

- Total area purchased by country
- Countries in which land has been purchased

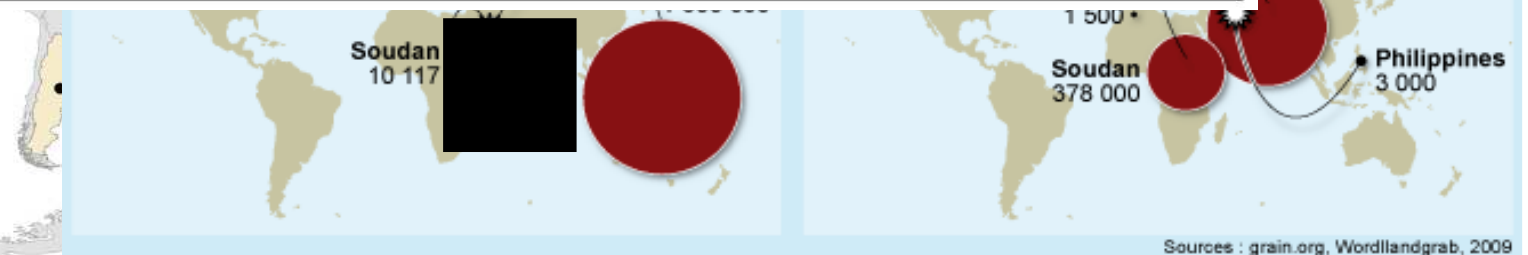


**IFPRI: 15-20 million Ha since 2006**



SOURCE: GRAIN.ORG

- COREA DEL SUR
- Indonesia
- Mongolia
- Sudan
- Madagascar
- Argentina
- CHINA
- Filipinas
- Laos
- Australia
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Camerún
- Cuba
- México
- Rusia
- Kazakhstan
- ARABIA SAUDITA
- Indonesia
- Sudan
- EMIRATOS ÁRABES
- Filipinas
- Pakistán
- Sudan
- Argelia
- JAPÓN
- Nueva Zelanda
- China
- Egipto
- Brazil
- Estados Unidos
- INDIA
- Paraguay



Sources : grain.org, Worldlandgrab, 2009



Fuente: Elaborado por Fundación TIERRA con datos de Grain.org.

# Risks

- Loss of land, water, and other natural resources
- Marginalisation and polarisation of inequality
- Environmental degradation and reduced ecosystem services

- Food insecurity
- Political instability

**= profound and  
longstanding  
change  
to rural societies**



# Opportunities:

- Increased investment in agriculture in rural areas
  - Diversification of rural livelihoods
  - Access to markets
  - Technology transfer
  - Development of rural infrastructure
  - Increased food security at national and household levels
- = win-win-wins (investor - local land users - host country) may be possible**

# Key ingredients for win-win-win:

## Land-users

- Respect for land and resource rights – main asset
- Collective negotiating power
- Access to markets, technology, credit, services

## Investors

- Security of investment
- Reliable supply of produce

## Host governments

- Reasonable returns to national and local economies

**KEY RESPONSES TO MITIGATE  
RISKS AND ENHANCE  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL  
STAKEHOLDERS**

# 1. Immediate need for accurate Information

- *Who is acquiring land, where, how and for what?*
- *What are the empirical and anticipated risks and impacts on society, rural economies, environment and political stability?*

## **Ongoing studies:**

- GRAIN database
- World Bank 30 country survey
- FAO/IIED on biofuels
- FAO/IIED/IFAD on sovereign funds
- ILC Database and global study
- RRI on Forests (for timber and REDD benefits)
- *Others...*

## 2. Strengthen land rights of the rural poor

- Registration of collective rights at the community level (eg Mozambique, Tanzania, Philippines, Latin America)
- Low cost-certification (eg Ethiopia, Madagascar)
- Multiple and overlapping rights, especially in pastoralist areas (eg Niger, Mali)

### 3. Support organisational capacity of rural resource users to mobilise for rights

- Building producer and civil society movements (Platform SIF Madagascar, ROPPA, West Africa)
- Strengthening of advocacy and negotiating capacities
- Building links between rural producers and others (eg church in Philippines for CARP, World Bank in DRC for timber extraction, diaspora for Madagascar)
- Building global movements (eg Via Campesina)

## 4. Global Code of Conduct

- Respect for existing land rights, including customary and common property rights
- Transparency in negotiations, and inclusion of **all** stakeholders
- Sharing of benefits
- Environmental sustainability
- Adherence to national trade and food policy
- Adherence to global labour standards
- Free Prior and Informed Consent (?)

*Cf. IFPRI Brief*

## ***Requirements of a code of conduct (can it work?)***

- Wide stakeholder involvement
- International system to promote compliance in investor and host countries
- Media to increase transparency
- Civil society to monitor and provide accountability

## 5. Targetted use of existing global instruments

- FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other Natural Resources
- CBD, UNCCD, UNDRIP
- Initiatives on standards for agrofuels, eg Cramer criteria (Netherlands), Roundtables on biofuels (Asia)
- EITI, Global Compact, Equator Principles (IFC) and other Initiatives to promote standards in global trade and investment

## 6. Promoting alternative forms of agricultural investment

Greater focus on forms of contract farming:

- Little or no transfer of land
  - Provision by investors to local producers of:
    - technical assistance
    - access to markets
    - specialised inputs
    - Financial instruments
  - Approaches local land users as possible co-investors rather than an impediment to investment
  - Several examples of Jatropha production, eg Mali  
Biocarburant SA
- = Guidelines for investors and host country governments?**



Photo: Mali Biocarburant

# Upcoming opportunities

- World Bank 'Guidelines' shortly to be released
- ILC Global study begins June 2009, global report due May 2010
- Seminar on *Commercial Pressures on Land: Rethinking policies and practice for development*, Utrecht 8<sup>th</sup> July