

The need for
**REGIONAL FRAMEWORK and
SAFEGUARDS**
for investments in land and agriculture



FOOD. JUSTICE. PLANET.

OXFAM EAST ASIA

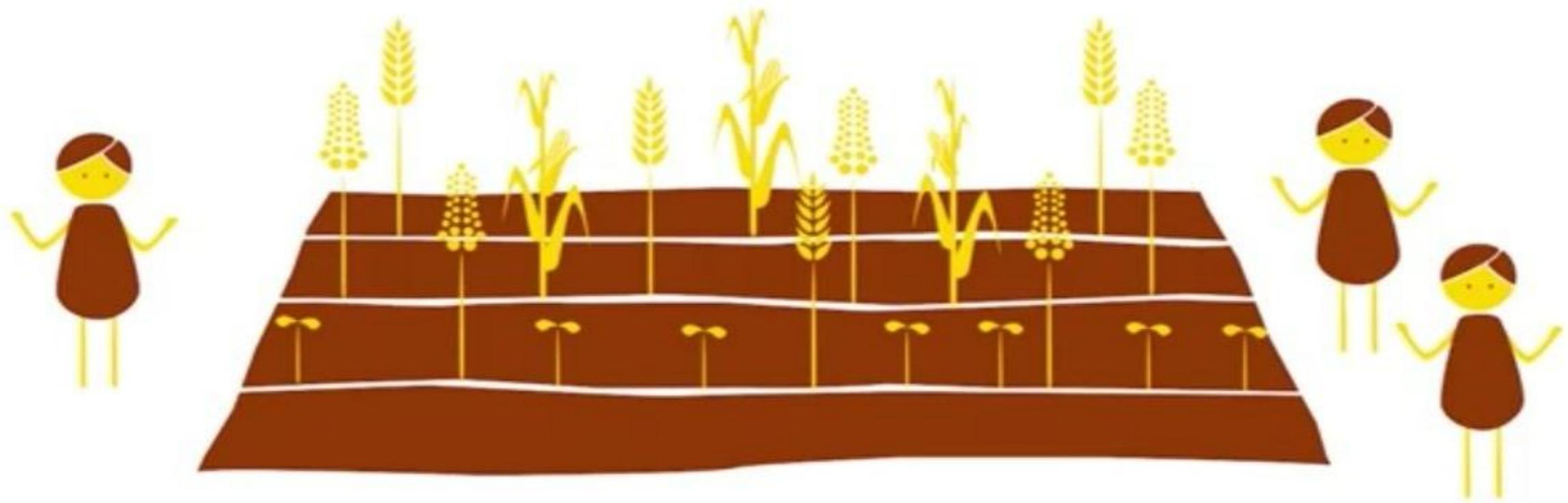
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Flow of the presentation

- **Agriculture in the SEA region**
- **Private sector role in agriculture**
- **ASEAN and economic integration**
- **Why the need for regulations and safeguards?**
- **What is the GROW campaign?**

Agriculture in the SEA region



URGENT NEED : A vibrant and just agricultural sector – one that supplies the food and raw material requirements of the region, AND ALSO sustains and protects small women and men farmers.

Private Sector in Agriculture

Growing presence of private sector in agriculture in the region.

In 2010, FDI inflows was at USD 74 billion dollars → an increase of **95.6%** from the previous year

In Southeast Asia, forms of investments

- large-scale agricultural plantation of multinational corporations
- “new” private sector investments, mostly for food and energy → fueling large-scale land acquisitions in various countries
- homegrown agricultural companies are expanding operations

Private Sector in Agriculture

Private sector investments can help generate economic activity in the sector (employment and livelihood)

Can help facilitate the delivery of basic infrastructure support to rural areas.

Depending on the agreement, may help generate and channel production capital, technology and other inputs for agricultural production.

Displacement of small men and women farmers and rural poor communities from their lands
→ Landgrabbing and the forcible eviction
→ losing rights over lands leased to private sector investors, often at very low rates

Food insecurity
→ displacement of families and communities from the land leads to food insecurity
→ Women especially affected

Effect on environmental integrity
→ impacts on the environment, sustainability of land and ecological system supporting agricultural production.

ASEAN and economic integration

ASEAN Roadmap for an ASEAN Community by 2015

- Unveiled in March 2009
- Blueprint for a single regional economic community
- ASEAN adopted policies to ensure free flow of trade and investments, and to promote trade and attract investors from other countries

HOWEVER...

Documented cases on the excesses of large-scale land acquisition and agricultural investments warrant the need to develop policies → **protect communities**

There is a need for regional policies

- These will serve to protect the rights and welfare of peoples and communities
- These can help ASEAN ensure viability and sustainability of its vision of an economically integrated community
- These can help promote an upward harmonization of investment policies, rather than a race to the bottom approach in attracting investors
- These can open up opportunities for ASEAN Members to learn from each and to support each other

Global standards

Global standards and guidelines as platforms for developing better and more effective regional standards:

- FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land Fisheries and Forests
- WB's Principles of Responsible Agricultural Investments
- United Nation's Global Compact

BUT... Stakeholders' groups and civil society organizations have different perspectives as well as levels appreciation of these standards.

Guidelines as starting points → ASEAN to develop and improve on (using the concept of upward harmonization and region specificity)

Key Features should be:

- 1. Adoption, enforcement and broadening of the FPIC to include all affected communities in deciding on applications for private sector agricultural investment**
- 2. Protection of areas dedicated for food production both at the community and national level**
- 3. ASEAN must develop standards and regulations for good contracts, and build the capability of ASEAN Member States for enforcement**
- 4. Development and enforcement of improved common standards for environmental impact assessment via multi-stakeholder processes**

ASPIRATION...

An investment policy environment that is not only safe for investors but more importantly, **for peoples and communities.**



Oxfam GROW Campaign: *Promoting food justice in a resource constrained world*

Vision:

People living in poverty can claim power in the way the world manages land, water and climate change, so that they can grow or buy enough food to eat – now and in the future.

Aims:

To direct and harness agricultural investments, so that these support men and women farmers, and enable them to access and produce food for themselves and for others

To respect and uphold human rights, enhance household, community and national food security, promote the welfare and livelihood of small men and women farmers and their communities, and protect and sustain the environment.



GROW

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