



INTERNATIONAL  
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# Providing access to land: challenges and solutions

Lessons learnt by  
members of the  
International Land  
Coalition

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## Why is secure access to land important for strengthening rural livelihoods?

- Land is one of the most important assets that poor rural women and men have, and fulfils essential economic, social and ecological functions. 75% of the world's poor are rural, depending primarily on agriculture and related activities for their livelihoods
- Support to small-scale producers (1.5bn on <2ha) is a proven strategy for accelerating growth, reducing poverty, and overcoming hunger
- Land tenure security for whom?



*Achieving food security and sustainable livelihoods for people now in chronic poverty requires ensuring access to and control of resources by small-scale farmers*



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# Key ingredients for securing access to land:

1. **Transparent & inclusive processes** for land policy development
2. **People-centred** land policies
3. **Gender** equity in access to land
4. Policies reflecting **diverse** tenure systems
5. **Redistributive** reforms as an integral policy tool
6. Innovative and accessible systems for the **recognition** of land rights
7. Develop systems for the **monitoring** of land rights
8. *Adequate response to **new global context** of transnational land investments*

# 1. Transparent, inclusive processes for land policy development

- Policy dialogue must engage the full range of stakeholder groups, particularly those highly dependant on land and natural resources
- Assistance to national/regional platforms on land

*Eg: Burkina Faso: National Land Policy process has engaged farmers, pastoralists, government agencies, and the private sector at regional, local, and national levels to formulate their vision of land tenure and access as a basis for national land policy*



## 2. People-centred land policies

- Land policies should explicitly prioritise poverty reduction, promote equity, and meet the needs of vulnerable groups and regulate market-related effects on land ownership
- Compliance with conventions such as UNDRIP, CBD, UNCCD, ECOSOC, ICCPR, recognising role of local communities in community-based land and natural resource management

*Eg: Tanzania: Village Land Act prioritizes the interests of vulnerable groups whose livelihoods depend on land and who use customary tenure systems to access common-pool resources*



### 3. Gender equality in the formulation and implementation of land policy

- Promote gender equality in the formulation and implementation of land policy.
- Support by building capacity of women's groups and their participation in decision-making processes over land.

*Eg: Ethiopia: Women's land rights are strengthened by joint land registration which recognizes the rights of wives.*

*Eg: Nepal: Incentives for women's access to land includes lowering the land registration tax when the title holder is a woman.*

## 4. Recognise diverse tenure systems

- National Land law and policy should recognise and protect non-discriminatory aspects of customary and local tenure systems
- Recognise the diversity and flexibility of multiple and overlapping land rights

*Eg: Colombia's Law 70 provides communal titling of Afro-Caribbean communities.*





## 5. Land redistribution for landless and land-poor

- Land redistribution is an equitable means for redressing past inequities and increasing political, economic, and social stability

*Eg: Philippines:  
Comprehensive Agrarian  
reform Program has  
redistributed approx. 7 million  
hectares of land to 4.2 million  
landless tenants and farm  
workers.*



## 6. Innovative systems for the recognition of land rights

- Capacity building and legal training to gain rights, eg community paralegals .
- Recognise and support customary dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Support collective titling and secure tenure of common-pool resources
- Take advantage of low-cost alternatives to private titles.

*Eg: Mozambique: 1997 Land Law provides legal recognition of customary land rights. Automatic recognition for communities or individuals who have used land for >10 years.*



## 7. Monitoring of land policies and their implementation



- Need for multi-stakeholder systems to monitor, evaluate and report on land policy formulation and implementation.

*Eg: UNDP Governance Assessment Programme*

*Eg: ILC Land Reporting Initiative regional and national monitoring trends in access to land*



# New Global context: responding to the wave of transnational commercial investment in land

## Drivers:

- Long-term increase in food prices
- Feedstock for agrofuels
- Carbon-trading

## Context:

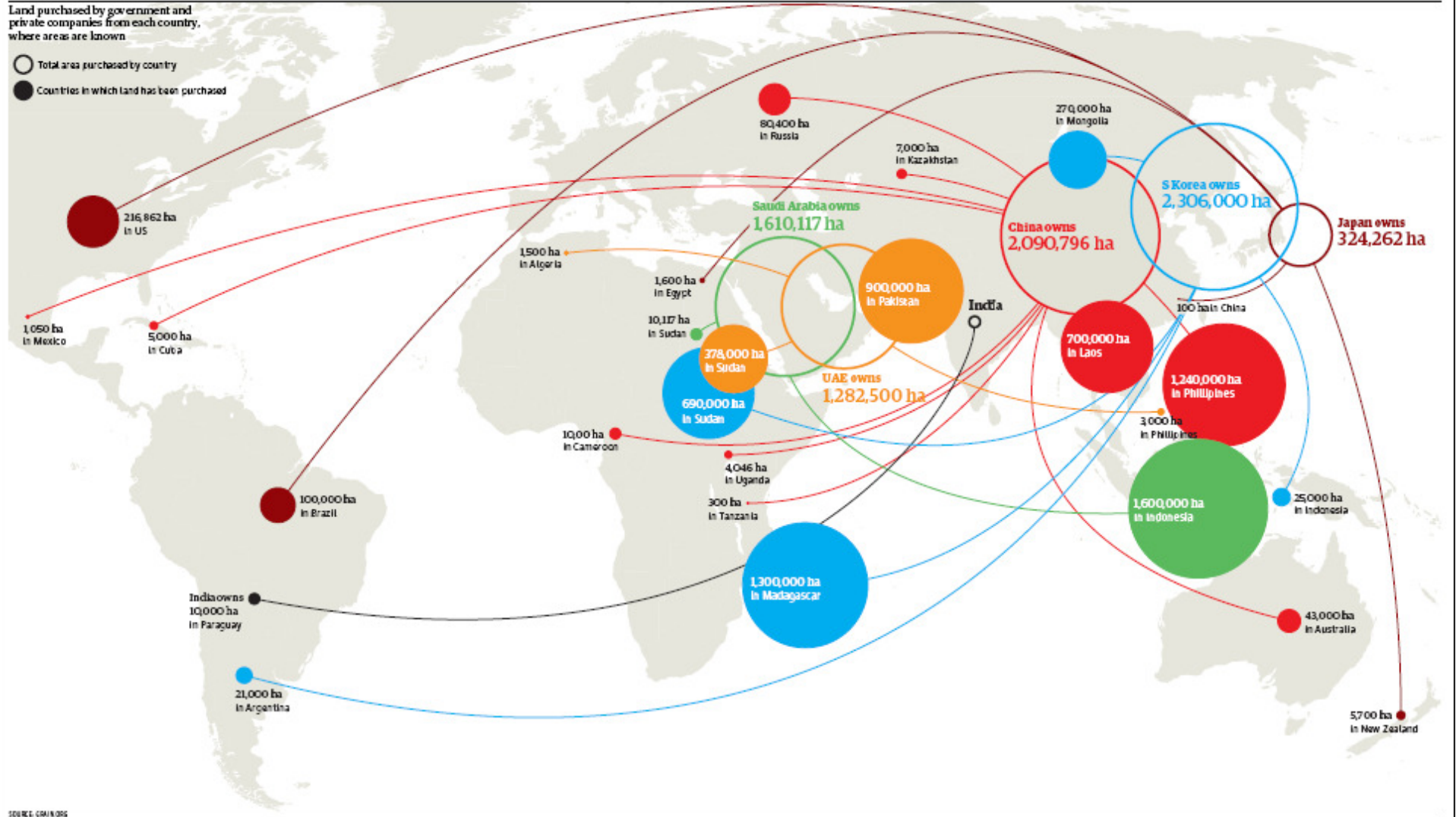
- Negotiations exclude local land users

## Question:

- Who benefits and who loses?

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



## Urgent actions

1. Develop a code of conduct for trans-national land investments, placing local land users in the centre of negotiations
2. Carbon trading mechanisms such as REDD should recognise rights of local landusers
3. Develop guidelines for the establishment of equitable community-investor partnerships
4. Support and capacity building to local institutions