



INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION

**SDC Dialogue on
Agriculture and Food Security**
Berne, 15th October 2009

**Current initiatives to
address land governance:
*How to mitigate risk and
involve local stakeholders***

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International Land Coalition

- A global alliance of 82 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.
- Members include IGOs, producer organisations, research centres, trade unions, NGOs, CSOs

Who are the world's hungry?

(> 1 billion in 2009)



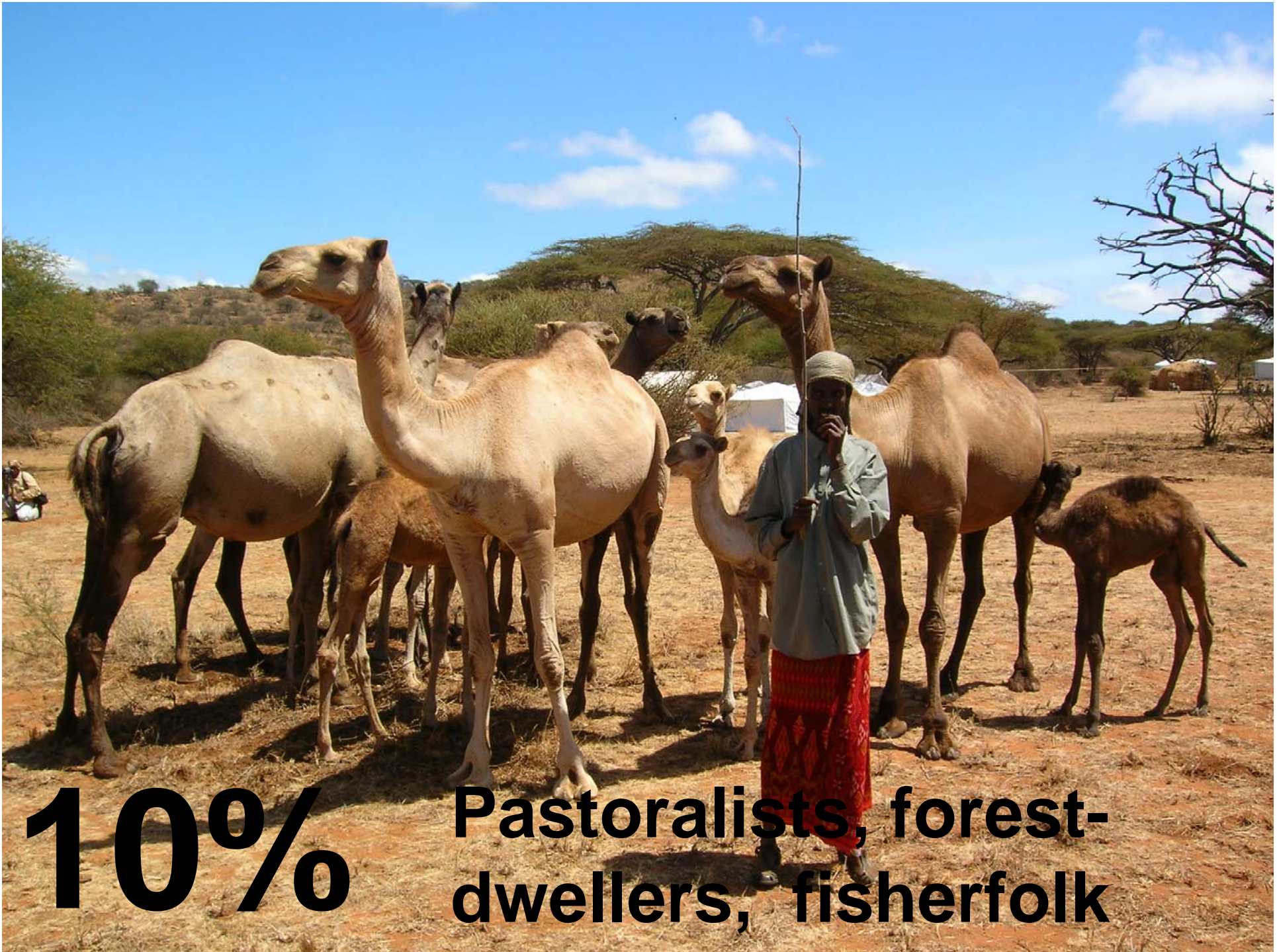
50%

Family farmers



20%

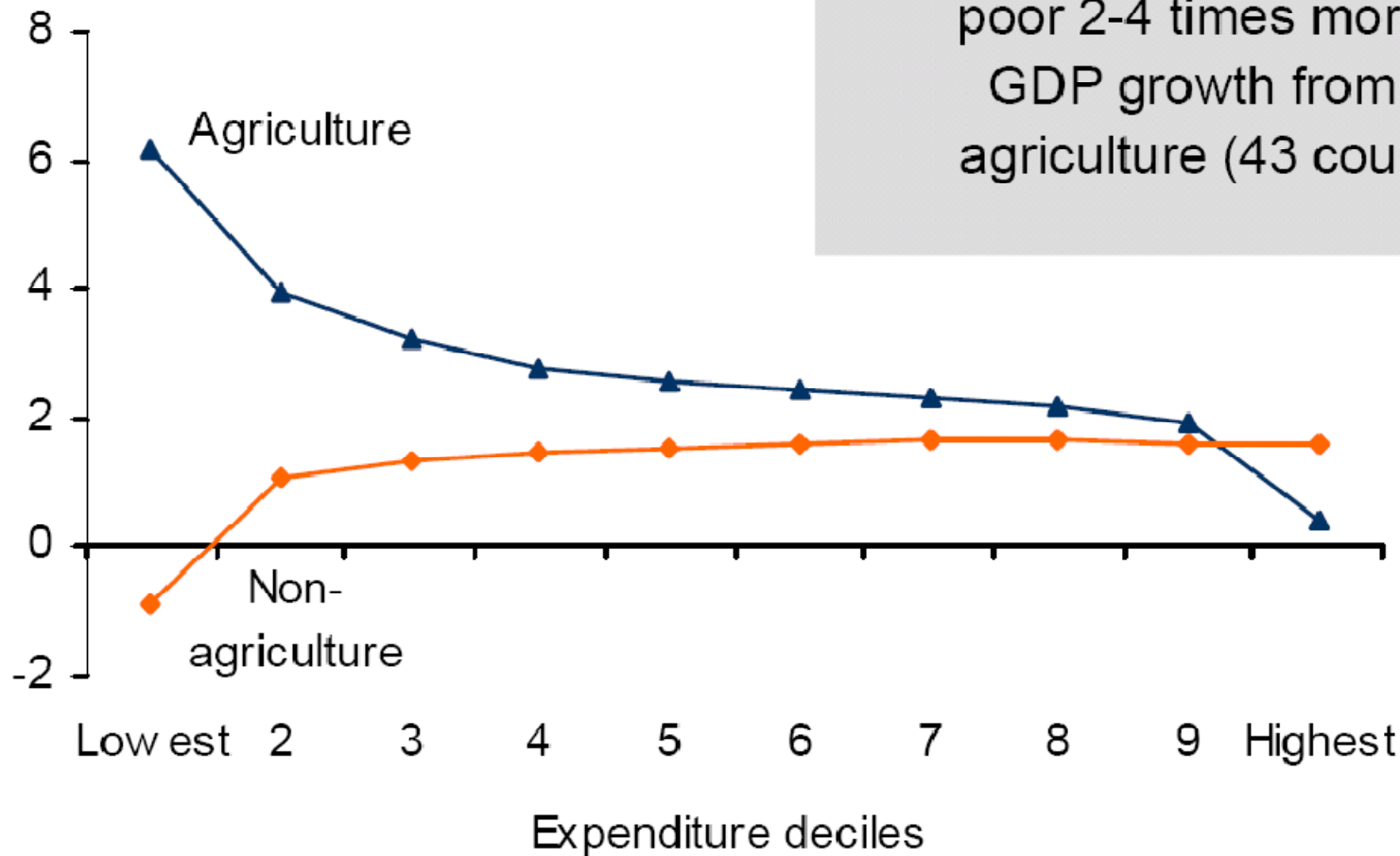
Landless



10%

Pastoralists, forest-dwellers, fisherfolk

Expenditure gains induced by 1%
GDP growth (%)



GDP growth from agriculture benefits the income of the poor 2-4 times more than GDP growth from non-agriculture (43 countries)

Opportunities

- Employment creation and stimulation of rural economies

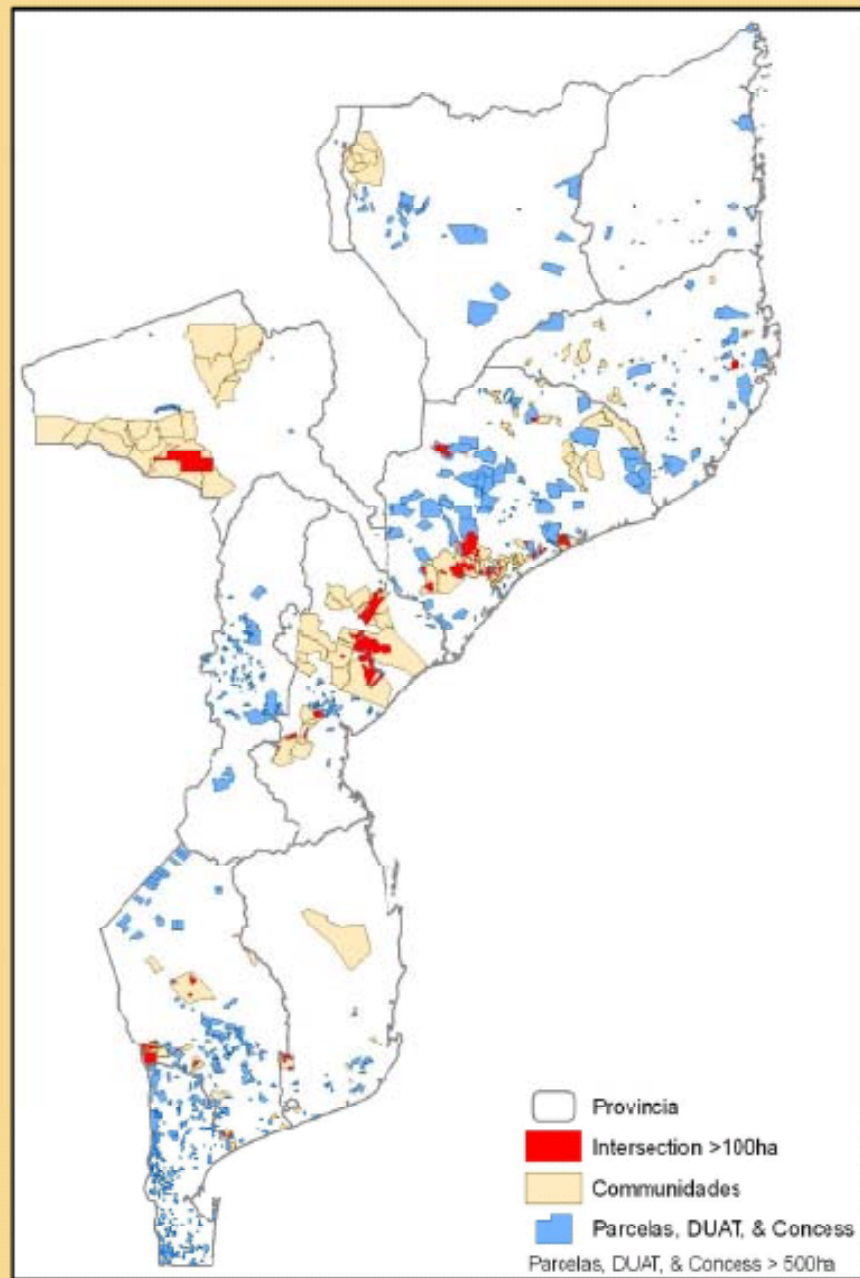
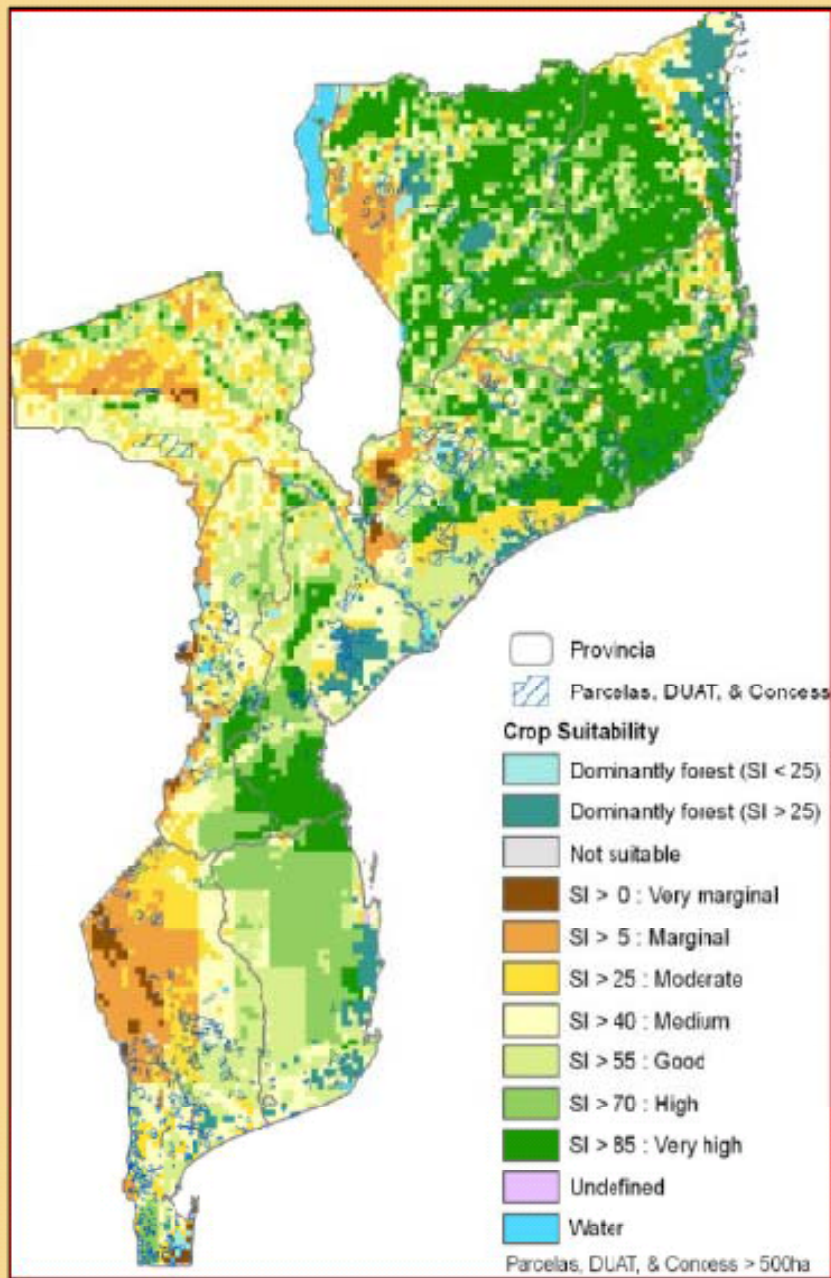


- Employment creation and stimulation of rural economies
- Food production and food security
- Technology transfer and upgrading
- Infrastructural development

Risks

- Dispossession from land and natural resources, particularly for ‘marginal populations’
- Narrowing of livelihood opportunities for local populations
- Precarious labour conditions
- Environmental considerations
- Sovereignty and political instability





Source: World Bank global study

Small farms / large farms

Issues:

- Scale
- Efficiency
- Environmental impact



Key considerations

- Impact on poverty
- Shaping of rural societies

Alternative models for agricultural investments

- Existing examples, including from agriculture, tourism and forestry sectors:
 - outcropping
 - equity sharing
 - land leasing
- But all could have negative implications without empowerment of local stakeholders

Whether or not existing (customary) land rights are recognised is **THE** key starting point in determining the extent to which benefits are shared

- The myth of *Terra Nullis*
- Land is the primary asset of local populations in deciding and negotiating investment opportunities

Ensuring the fair sharing of benefits, particularly opportunities to benefit from growing economic rents

‘Fair sharing of benefits’ means:

- Inclusion of local populations in sustained opportunities to benefit from increased opportunities for profit
- Ensuring that the poor capture opportunities for ‘unearned **economic rent**’

A fairer sharing of benefits increases the probability of sustainable returns; it maximises possible economic returns in a manner that minimises – rather than maximises - political risks



The way forward

Research and monitoring to enable an evidence-based response

- IIED/FAO/IFAD: 5 countries in Africa (June 2009)
- World Bank: 20 countries globally (December 2009)
- GTZ: four countries in Asia and Africa (End 2009)
- OECD secretariat/Club du Sahel West Africa with ILC: West Africa region (2010)
- FIAN country-case studies with selected in-country partners.
- ILC global study with 25 partners (mid-2010)



‘International framework to promote responsible investment in agriculture’

Announced by Japan at G8, and co-hosted roundtable 23rd September at UN General with FAO, IFAD, World Bank and UNCTAD

- Voluntary
- Probably aimed at investors
- Timescale undefined
- Wide expressions of support, but few firm commitments



World Bank's '7 principles':

1. **Land and Resource Rights:** *Existing rights to land and natural resources are recognized and respected.*
2. **Food Security:** *Investments do not jeopardize food security, but rather strengthen it.*
3. **Transparency, Good Governance and Enabling Environment:** *Processes for accessing land and making associated investments are transparent, monitored, and ensure accountability by all stakeholders.*
4. **Consultation and Participation:** *All those materially affected are consulted and agreements from consultations are recorded and Summary Principles for Responsible Agro-investment enforced.*
5. **Economic viability and responsible agro-enterprise investing:** *Projects are viable economically, respect the rule of law, reflect industry best practice, and result in durable shared value.*
6. **Social Sustainability:** *Investments generate desirable social and distributional impacts and do not increase vulnerability.*
7. **Environmental Sustainability:** *Environmental impacts are quantified and measures taken to encourage sustainable resource use, while minimizing and mitigating them negative impact.*

International framework: considerations

Existing frameworks/codes - a starting point or sufficient?

- FAO's Voluntary Guidelines
- AU land Policy Framework and Guidelines
- Equator principles,
- Roundtables on sustainable biofuels, palm oils and others
- EITI
- Santiago Accord
- Equator Principles

International framework: considerations...

Role of civil society:

- Widespread acknowledgement that civil society involvement - especially producer organisations - is crucial
- BUT as yet almost no engagement
- To what extent would formulation of an international framework be 'expert led' or participatory?

International framework: considerations...

What kind of framework?

- Code of conduct?
- Guidelines?
- Benchmarks of best practice?
- Toolbox of approaches to be used by investors and governments?

In medium term, probably different products by different stakeholders

International framework: considerations...

Enforceability?

Could a targeted code of conduct be developed that would attract adequate adherence and support of all key stakeholders, including investors, home and host governments and civil society?



Possible roles in 'international framework'

IGOs:

- Catalysing process
- Norm-setting
- Providing support to host governments for good decision-making

CSOs

- Watchdog
- Ensuring focus on neglected areas, eg human rights
- Developing informed inputs into existing processes
- Developing complementary products, eg for FPIC

Possible roles in 'international framework'

Bilateral agencies

- Motivating for adherence by investors to existing agreements
- Support civil society engagement
- Upscaling collective land registration efforts in vulnerable areas



Private Sector:

- Developing positive investment models

Moving beyond the headline-grabbing “land grabs”

- The “land grabbing” phenomena can be used as a springboard for coordinated efforts to scale up and advance efforts to strengthen the land rights and economic opportunities of the rural poor, but this should go beyond the immediate contexts of high profile investment projects