Gender Implications of Land Deals

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Why gender matters

- Women are essential to planting, weeding, harvesting, processing, marketing, food preparation etc.
  - Productivity constraints already exist due to lack of key assets and inputs
- Households do not act in a unitary manner when allocating food and non food resources
  - Women play a key role in improving household food security and nutrition
- Large scale land deals that take resources away from women can reduce the welfare of women and their families (even if there are income gains to men). Including attention to gender is not only a matter of social equity, but is also central to poverty reduction.
Considering gender in each phase of the land deals

- Pre-existing situation
- Consultation and negotiation
- Contracts and compensation
- Implementation & changes in production structure
- Enforceability, transparency monitoring & evaluation
Pre-existing situation

What is the existing land tenure system?
- Customary vs. Statutory
- **Special attention to common property**

Who uses the land in question?
- Going beyond ownership
- Non ‘agricultural’ uses: i.e. Grazing, Firewood, Water, Medicinal plants
- Private vs. Common property
- Cultural significance

Local levels of Human Capital
- Who will benefit from new employment opportunities?
Consultation & Negotiation

How is land acquired?
- Legal appropriation of customary land
- Joint Ventures (i.e. contract farming)
- Legal sale of privately held land
- Illegally

Who is consulted about the sale/lease of the land?
- National governments (state owned/customary land)
- Local elite
- Local farmer’s associations or communes (privately titled)
- Local small-medium scale landowners (privately titled land)

How much information is made available to local populations?
- Are men and women both represented in consultations and negotiations?
- Is information accurate?
Contracts & Compensation

Types of contracts
- Sale; Concession; Production Sharing; Joint Ventures

Who is compensated for the sale/lease of the land?

Duration of contract
- Short (15-20 years); long (50-99 years)

Investments in public goods
- Non agricultural infrastructure
- Schools, hospitals, clinics etc.
- Water related infrastructure
Contracts & Compensation

Investments in local labor—plantation systems
- Are local men and women equally hired?
- Do local men and women work in unskilled or managerial positions? Opportunities for advancement?
- Gender division in task allocation, hours worked, wages earned?
- Childcare?
- Introduction of mechanization?

Investments in local labor—contract farming
- Mixed evidence on gender implications: increasing demand for women’s paid labor vs. appropriation of women’s crops as they increase in value
- Key questions:
  - Who is the contract made with?
  - Is there any deliberate targeting of participants or crops?
Implementation & Changes in Production Structure

Eviction and Resettlement
- Are local women and men evicted, resettled or allowed to stay on land?
- Do local women and men benefit from new employment opportunities, extension services and land rights that may accompany resettlement?

Introduction of New Technology
- Application outside of the project?
- Are there concurrent increases in demand for labor?
- Are technologies targeted to women and men farmers, workers?
- Who shoulders environmental and health impacts?

Crop Choice & Export
- Staple crops vs. biofuels
- Sold into local markets vs. exclusive export
- Will local women and men be impacted by losses in biodiversity?
Enforceability, Transparency, Monitoring & Evaluation

- Are there mechanisms in place to ensure investors follow through on promises to abide by national legislation, invest in infrastructure and work with local populations?
  - What recourse do local people have if investors don’t follow through?
  - Potential for non governmental enforcement via the media, famers organizations, NGOs, donors, Intl. Orgs
- Is there a M&E system in place?
An aggregate index in two parts:

- Five domains of empowerment (5DE): assesses whether women are empowered in the 5 domains of empowerment in agriculture
- Gender Parity Index (GPI): reflects the percentage of women who are as empowered as the men in their households

Developed for USAID’s Feed the Future program but usable for other areas as well

What effect do land-related deals have on women’s empowerment?
Five Domains of Empowerment (5DE)

Production 1/5
- Input in productive decisions 1/10
- Autonomy in production 1/10

Resources 1/5
- Ownership of assets 1/15
- Purchase, sale, or transfer of assets 1/15
- Access to and decisions on credit 1/15

Income 1/5
- Control over use of income 1/5

Leadership 1/5
- Group Member 1/10
- Speaking in Public 1/10

Time 1/5
- Leisure 1/10
- Workload 1/10
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