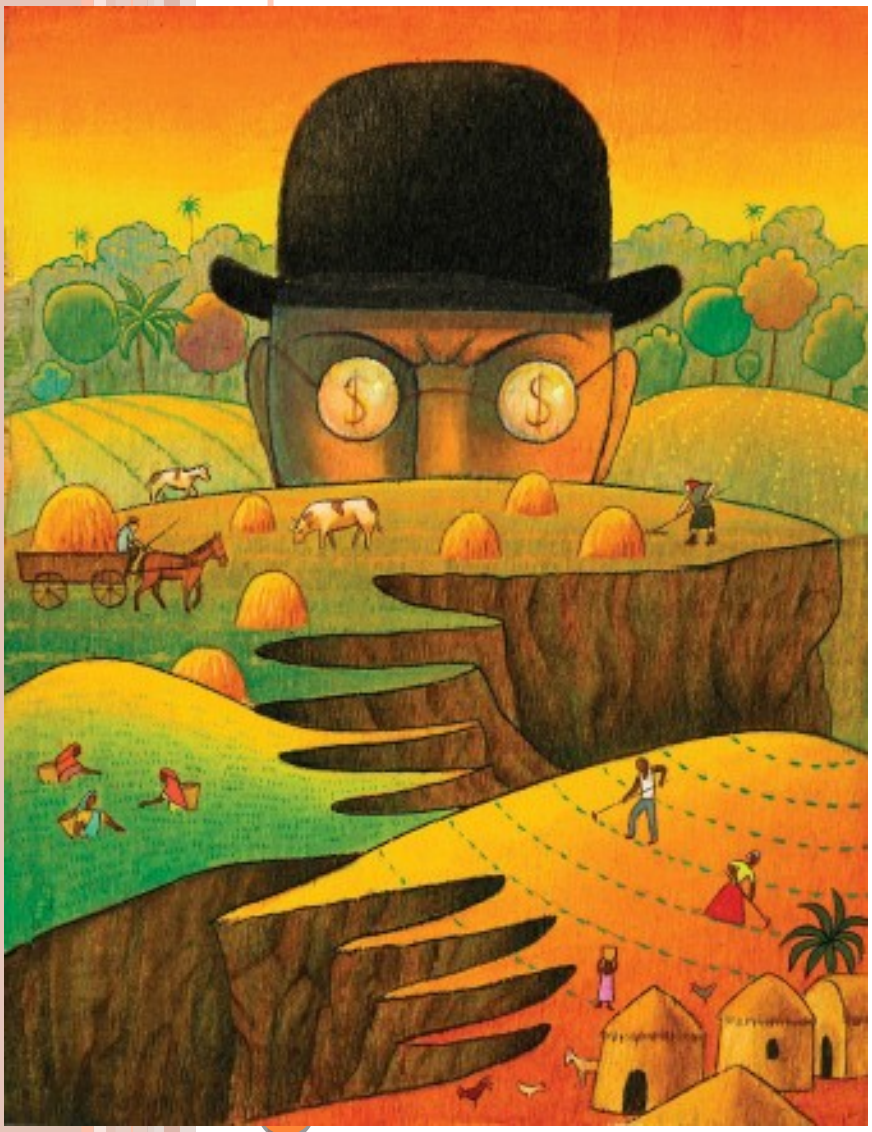


# CORPORATE CONTROL AND CONCENTRATION IN

# LAND, WATER AND TERRITORIES

GF

2018

# 10 YEARS AFTER GLOBAL LAND GRAB, WHERE ARE WE?

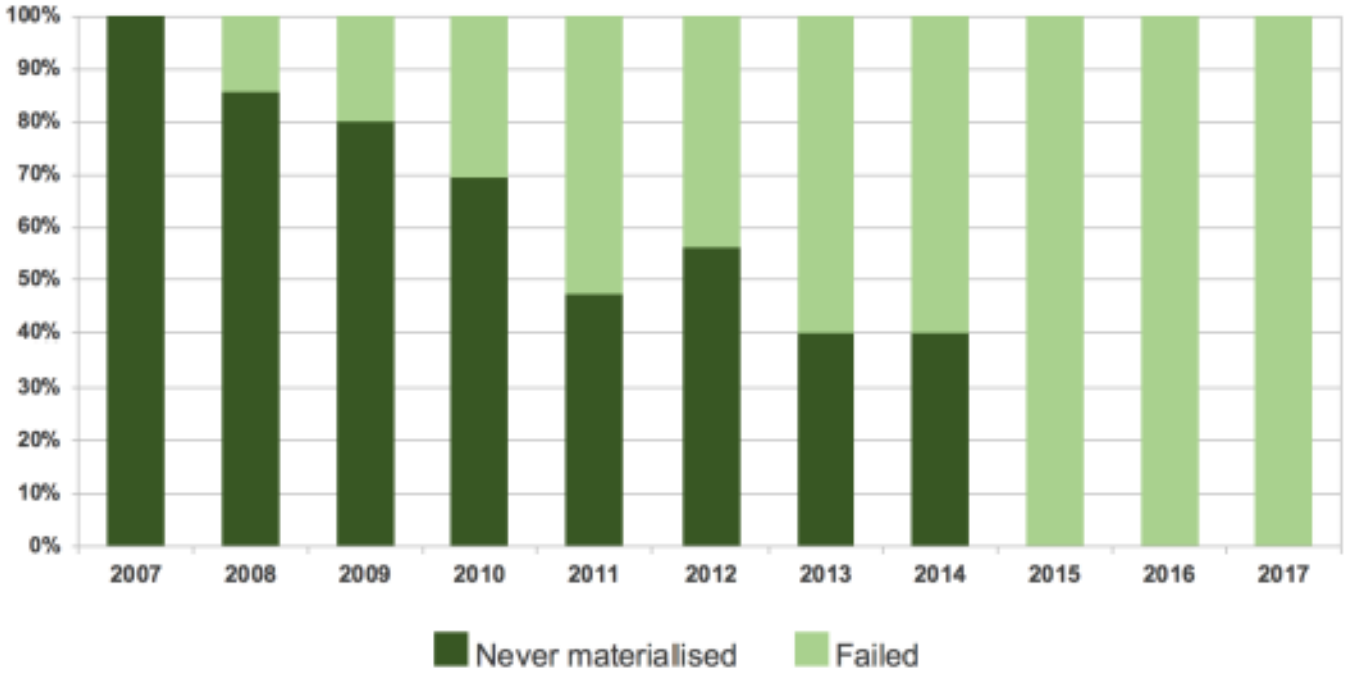
- 2007 – 2008 global food price crisis triggered the initial wave of farmland deals was driven largely by “food security” concerns.
- Food crisis → “Farming abroad” seen as new food supply strategy by import-dependent governments
- Financial crisis → Farmland seen as new source of returns (new asset class) by the finance industry

- 10 years later the food security hype has died down, plain old profit-driven agribusiness expansion now remain as dominant agenda.

- In Asia land concentration is higher now than it has ever been. Just 6 percent of Asia's farm owners hold around two-thirds of its farmland.

- The landgrabbers in Asia mainly comes from other Asian countries. Corporations from China, South Korea, India and Indonesia are some of the biggest landholders, along with political elites and military.


In 2008: 100  land grab initiatives exposed, launched by both governments and corporations
In 2012: dataset to reach 400 projects of land transfer
In 2016: dataset documents 491 large-scale land grabs cover over 30 million* hectares of land in 78 countries.




- Over the year, some of the earlier deals were either never materialiased or failed. At least 135 farmland deals for food crop production that have backfired between 2007 and 2017, as big as 17.5 million hectares, almost the size of Uruguay!
- But this doesn't mean land grabbing fails, it's the investment projects that failed but land rarely return to the community or the original land holders.

Concession area for 1,3 million ha rice field mega project part of MIFEE, located in Merauke province, Papua, Indonesia is one example of project hanging, not yet cancelled but also not being productive. (GRAIN, March, 2016)

# Trade agreements and land transfers

FTAs plays important role in increasing land concentration. By bringing about laws and policies that facilitate the transfer of lands from small farmers to big agribusiness.

Under national treatment clause for example, investors from other countries would be given the same treatment as domestic investors, have the same rights to purchase farmland as domestic investors.

Among 16 RCEP countries alone, 9.6 million hectares of farmland have been acquired by foreign companies since 2008.

- In Japan, agriculture land law revision was tightly connected to its participation in the TPP. The government is loosening various regulations on the entry of private-sector firms into farming like 49% cap of foreign investment in agriculture cooperatives and establishing two SEZ for corporate farming covers 1.5 million ha of farm land – a third of the total 4.6 million ha currently under cultivation in the country.

- Australia's FTAs with China triggered a massive flow of investment from Chinese companies into Australian farmland, for production of export commodities, risen from about 1.5 million hectares to almost 14.5 million hectares between 2015 - 2017. It's so controversial that forced Australia government established new regulation requiring its Foreign Investment Review Board to scrutinise farmland sales to foreign buyers that exceed a cumulative of $15 million. *

# VARIOUS FACE OF LAND GRABBING

- Some land grabbing form is not as evidence as others. PPPs in agriculture for example creates indirect land concentration.

Fujitsu vegetable factory in Vietnam. Using high-technology to enable remote control of farm. (GRAIN, July 2016)

Unilever's contract tea production project in Vietnam started in 2013 to increase Unilever's procurement of high quality tea under sustainability program in 6 provinces of Vietnam.

# FARMLAND GRABS IS ALSO WATER GRABS

- The global farmland grab remains as much about water as it is about land. With few exceptions, most land deals include access to water.
- In many of the cases which we have been able to see the legal agreements rights to water and access to water are explicitly guaranteed in the text.
- large-scale monocultural plantation like oil palm that's highly water intensive for example also drive water grabbing.

# CAUSE FOR HOPE: RESISTANCE IS GROWIN


- In case after case, we see opposition to these investments from local communities and the organisations that support them. Various campaigns launched to stop the financing of land grabs at the source, direct confrontation. Not without consequences, we witnessed some of the deadliest years ever for land defenders.
- We need to use this accumulated evidence of failed deals to press more urgently for moratoriums, bans or stricter controls on the acquisition of farmlands by foreign companies,  even domestic companies. Critical to avoid traps like “responsible investment” and have to keep the focus on reversing the expansion of agribusiness.

# THANK YOU

E-mail: karlin@grain.org

www.grain.org
www.farmlandgrab.org
www.bilaterals.org