



«Land grabbing»

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September 2011

***« We all have the duty to resist land grabbing
and to support the communities fighting for their dignity! »***

*“Dakar Appeal against the land grabbing”
World Social Forum – January 2011*

FIMARC Human Rights Group
(FIMARC : International Federation for Rural Adult Catholic Movements)

INTRODUCTION

Since few years, some States as well as private investment groups rent or buy thousand of million hectares of land in Asia, Africa or Latin America in order to produce agro fuels or food to be export to the buyers or renting countries

This phenomenon is not new. But it has taken more and more importance since 2007. The international food crisis, with a raise of food stuffs-costs has pushed the States to try to produce food for their population, even out of their own country.

What we are explaining in this document is about the acquisition (rent, lease, buy) by the TNCs or by States of vast agrarian land (more than 10 000 hectares) from abroad and in a long term (mainly for 30 to 99 years) in order to produce food for export.

It is difficult to have concrete data's. Actually the "contracts" are in constant evolution. And on the other hand, the transactions are made in a total secret, in an opacity decided by the States and the private enterprises. Even if a sour caution is necessary in this evaluation, we can notice tendency: land grabbing has become a very important phenomenon since 2007. These private enterprises consider that 25 billion US \$ were already allocated all over the world, and they say that they want to multiply this figure by three in a very close future.

This working document contains 3 parts each ending by questions proposed to the groups, the movements and the organizations:

I – Land grabbing at a large scale

- 1) Different situations
- 2) The actors: « buyers » and « sellers »
- 3) Privatisation and concentration
- 4) « Motors » and objectives of the different actors
- 5) Questions to raise

II – Land grabbing and consequences for the Human Rights

- 1) What is «land» ?
- 2) Is it possible to «moralize» land grabbing?
- 3) Human Rights in question
- 4) FIMARC condemns land grabbing

III – How to act?

- 1) Towards Food Sovereignty
- 2) Rural people get organized
- 3) Objectives and grounds for action
- 4) To act at all levels

I – LAND GRABBING AT A LARGE SCALE

1 – VARIOUS SITUATIONS

Cameroon is feeding China

Along the river Sanaga, in Cameroon, a Chinese enterprise was settled to produce rice that will be export to China. Because of a catastrophic agricultural policy, Cameroon produces only 70,000 tons of rice per year. To satisfy its needs, the country imports 500.000 tons of rice every year. But 71 % of the arable land is not exploited. The Chinese enterprise employees Cameroon people, who receive very low salary, to drive the machinery, to dig channels and built water castles in order to derive water from the river. Cameroon is thus producing rice that is not consumed in the country and eats imported rice. The country is depending of the world market controlled by the North.

Mozambique is given its land

Mozambique is a rich country with 36 million of arable land; 46% of the territory is fitting for cultivation. The country produces too much maize, cassava, rice and corn. The 2007 food crisis got repercussion all over the country. 40% of the population is suffering from hunger. In between 2004 and 2008 the country has conceded 6.6 million of arable land to foreign states and enterprises. This is how Mauritian Island has got 23.500 hectares of land to produce rice, corn... for its own population. Other lands had been given to cultivate sugar cane or jatropha to produce agro fuels for export.

Saudi Arabia invests

Saudi Arabia delocalizes his rice food production to Senegal or Mali; everything is done in secret by Arabian investors with the complicity of local private investors.

- **In Mali**, the project consists in creating a vast pilot farm of 5000 hectares, integrating the latest technological tools. The plan is to extend it from 50.000 to 100.000 hectares!
- **In Senegal**, the project is to produce 1 million ton of rice in the valley of the Senegal river, on 120,000 hectares of irrigated land, with an investment of 100 million US\$ in a period of 5 years. The local populations who are living on those lands are expelled, or spoiled. The families are living on less than 1 hectare farms, producing 70% of the Senegalese rice; this area allows 600,000 persons to live; those lands are important also for the cattle growers and for the sorghum cultivation.
- Sudan Arabia invests **in Brazil**, aiming to have a food source for his people, not to sell its production to Brazilian.

A more and more important number of investors and governments of Asian and Gulf countries are concentrating their efforts in Latin America.

Indonesia: in order that the farmers can eat in their hunger

For several years, the Indonesian government favours in an exaggerated way the development of the agro fuels industry, and thus the expansion of palm trees plantations. These last years, 31 000 farmers' families were expropriated by their land. We count several hundreds of conflicts bound to the land issue, involving farmers wishing to defend their plots of land. The intimidation is often the rule on behalf of the authorities. In 2008, we regretted the murder of at least 6 persons. Since 1993, the number of farmers possessing less than half a hectare is crossed from 11 million to more than 16 million.

The World Bank stands that an "enormous" land grabbing movement has started. The WB notes that she is aware of 463 projects in between October 2008 and June 2009 for 46,6 millions of hectares, the majority being **in sub Saharan Africa**; 21% of these projects are in operation; 70% of the projects have been approved.

In April, 2011, a "collective" of 11 non-governmental organizations (NGO) precise:

«Although it's difficult to obtain precise information, it is clear that at least 50 million hectares of fertile lands have past, during the last years, from the hands of the farmers to those of the big companies and every day, new investors join the quarry. These land surfaces would be enough to feed 50 million Indian families. »

Questions proposed to the groups, the movements and the organizations:

- *In your country, what is the reality of land grabbing?*
- *What is the situation of the surfaces conceded?
To whom? For which objectives?*

2 – THE ACTORS « BUYERS » ET « SELLERS »

Actors are diverse and their motivations are different.

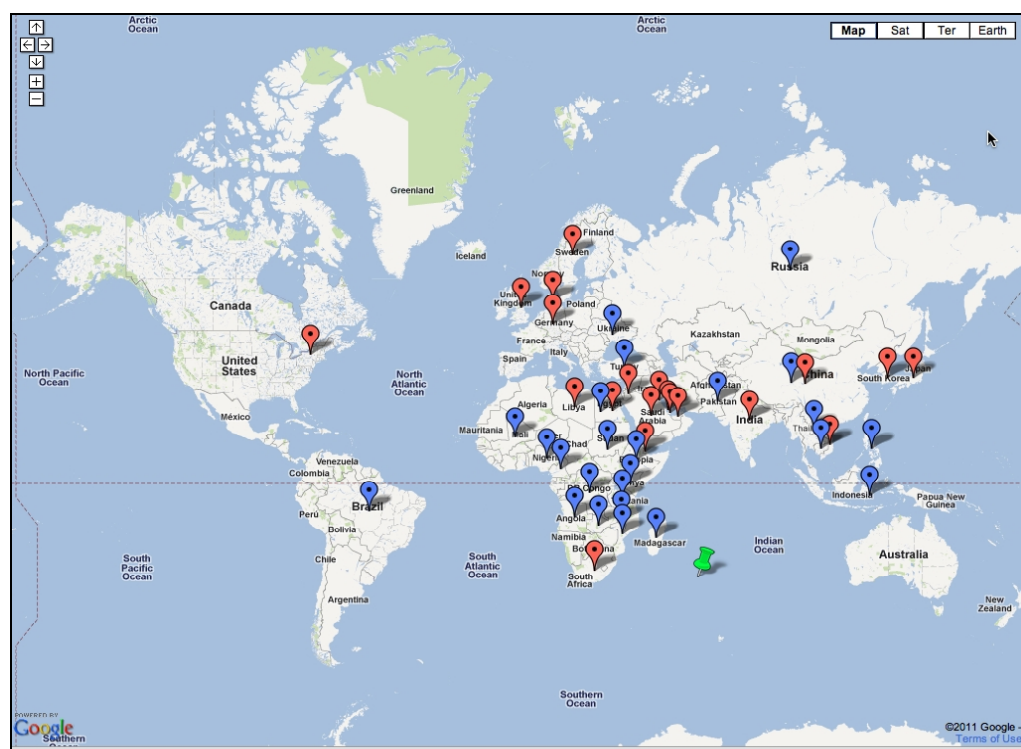
The investment are realized by :

- Enterprises or transnational companies (TNC's)
- States from the North as well as from the South, whether managed by militaries or civils
- National investors
- Public or para public enterprises
- Public banks of development
- Governmental agencies
- Local elites or actors, included real estate companies
- International organizations or institutions: World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Regional bank of development...

They have a direct or indirect influence, while financing projects or enterprises or while ensuring the active promotion of direct investments abroad.

The "buyers" or "renters" of land are some African States but mainly the Gulf States, Japan, China, some countries of Western Europe and the USA.

The "'sellers ' countries are mainly located in Sub Saharan Africa, Middle East, Latin America, Asia and Eastern Europe.



RED: « Buyers/Renters » - BLUE: Sellers»
Source : <http://www.tlaxcala-int.org/article.asp?reference=1007>

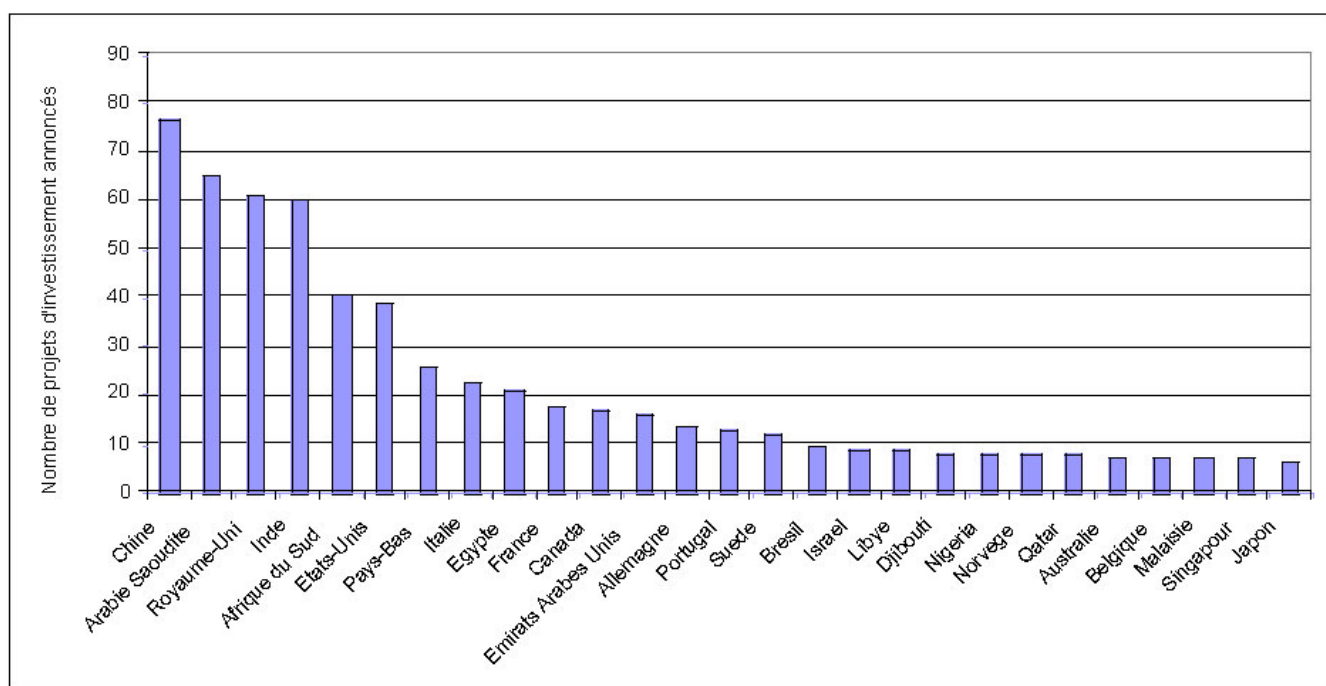
3 - PRIVATIZATION AND CONCENTRATION

Privatization

We are speaking of privatization of common resources. We are speaking about land, especially in Sub Saharan Africa and in the indigenous communities of Latin America; where the property is from the community or from the village. The transactions to rent or to sell land are occurring given them a private land statute. It is a violation of the right of the communities - as they use to have land in a community based approach.

Concentration

It is a matter of land concentration that has a private statute. Landowners - whether from small or big surfaces - accept to sell or to rent their land to foreign investors. Those investors want to have more and more arable land. The land property is thus concentrated in the hands of TNC's or local enterprises.



*Countries investors in the agriculture and the land tax in Africa
Source: Anseeuw & Taylor, 2011.*

There is another phenomenon not to be neglected: **young people** from the villages or rural people are looking for employment, fascinated by the new proposed technologies. The technical modernity seems to be sign of material success. They thus become allies and promoters of transnational companies who want to invest of their land.

4 – « MOTORS » AND FINALITY OF DIFFERENT ACTORS

We can underline 5 "motors" that are linked together.

- **The food crisis** leads the actors to a new strategy: in order to not depend from world food products, States are looking to new lands in foreign countries, to produce their necessary food. The lack of local food products can be worsening by the growing population and the more and more important urbanization. We can thus see that there are fewer producers for a more important population.
- Several countries, technologically developed have decided to incorporate **agro fuels** in their transport economy. They thus need to produce agro fuels. In order to reach this objective, countries like West European Countries, USA, Japan and others buy or rent land in Africa or Latin America to produce the agro fuels they need. Those productions are in direct competition with the local food production, worsening the situation of food crisis and mal nutrition.
- **Mining, fuel or gas exploitation companies** grab big surfaces of land, without taking into account the local populations. Even States or local powers utilize a big amount of fertile land for the settlement of economic or industrial zones. Those activities help for few, and often for nothing, to the local population; the benefits are exported.



Gold mining – Guatemala, 2011 (D. Herman)

- For the enterprises or financial organisms, land becomes a **financial investment**. They are looking to "secured" regions, where the public authorities close their eyes on injustice situations thus created. Millions of dollars are invested, just to make benefits. "We are producing rice as other enterprises are producing computers or socks". This quotation from a TNC's representative perfectly translates the objective of earning money while investing in land and food production.
- **Water** is also an essential "motor" in this run for land. 70% of pure water for the human consumption serves to agriculture. Gulf countries spend 80% of their resources in water in the agricultural sector. Facing the shrinking of water, some countries have decided to limit irrigation. With the consequence of a reduction of the local food production and the decision to cultivate the food products in other countries where water flows exists in abundance. Africa that spends only 2% of its water resources for agriculture is thus a privileged country for those investments. This is thus essential to make the links in between investment in land and water resources.

5 – SOME QUESTIONS ...

Some States and enterprises are investing in agriculture. But for which purposes? For which kind of agriculture? Projects of Saudi Arabia in Senegal will deprive 600,000 farmers from their traditional lands. In Mozambique, thousands of small farmers are deprived from their traditional lands for the benefit of industrial agriculture. Everywhere, people are expelled from their land and get poorer or are being employed as work force with very low salaries.

One of the main issues is to know to whom the land is belonging and to know whether the power of money will give all power to those who got it and if this give them the power to do what they want on the land, whether being their land or not.

What are the investments to promote in agriculture?

- Big scale farms with a salaried working force, or a family and peasant based agriculture ensuring a decent life to the actors?
- Should we give priority to land concentration with industrial technologies or should we plan the land with a soil protection in order to ensure a sufficient local food production?
- Do we have to go for an industrial agriculture, playing on the international markets? Or implement other means to ensure food sovereignty?

Questions proposed to the groups, movements and organizations:

- *Who are the owners or keepers of land that are grabbed or controlled by foreigners?*
- *Who are the investors for land grabbing; with whom do they have local alliances? What are their interests?*
- *How comes that our governments are giving such big surfaces of land to TNC's or foreign governments?*

II – LAND GRABBING AND CONSEQUENCES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The relationship to land is essential to understand the issues in regards with human rights..

1 – WHAT IS LAND?

In several cases, land is the living environment of agro pastoral or indigenous communities where from they are finding their subsistence means. Soils are dedicated to diverse users and for different purposes. Around the land itself, there are complex social relations organized by the traditions and the costumes. The land was usually meant and utilized by the population for its needs in firewood, in culture, for cattle fields, culture and water. The transfer of land-by-land grabbing can affect the delaying the social relationships, de-structure the local communities and exacerbate the tensions and conflicts.

For the rural communities of India, especially for the Dalit, land is power; it's the social statute, food, education and health. If someone owns land, he is considered as independent and self-sufficient. This means that land can serve as a base for essential human rights. "Land is a life space to realize the right to food for all and the right to live in dignity for each human being"

(FIMARC Exco declaration – May 2005).



Demonstration of Dalit women - WSF 2004

« It is important to recognize other rights on land, such as the food cattle space or the collection of wood, as there are often essential subsistence resources, especially for women". The pastor's rights are often not said in public debates. Even if the dry land represents nearly half of the land surface of the Sub Saharan Africa, the pastoralism has a great importance for the continent: nearly half of the 120 million pastors and agro pastors from the entire world are living in Sub Saharan Africa»

(Olivier de Schutter, special rapporteur on the right to food in the UNO – December 2009)



Egypt 2009

« Behind those projects, there is a fundamental problem: traditionally the land is sacred. Land is not only a place for the agricultural culture, but this is also the place where died bodies are buried, the place where the ancestors are living, the place from where our live is coming. This is the place for the family live. Land is our mother (Pachamama): it is sacred and we must respect her. But nowadays she is more and more considered like a simple commodity that can be sell or buy as a radio or a bike. If we are not reacting this is the full sense of live and the respect of the earth that we will lose, with all the consequences that we can already see ».

(One Guinean priest – World Social Forum, Dakar, January 2011)

Those conceptions of land uses and vocations are mainly questioned by the agro fuels development at the detriment of the food production, by the climatic changes affecting the means of production from several farmers' communities and by land grabbing for food production exports.

2 – CAN WE MORALIZE THE LAND GRABBING ?

International institutions want to « moralize » the land grabbing, proposing voluntary principles, non-bindings. Those principles should allow the respect of Human Rights.

« Win-win » ?

Land grabbing proponents argue arguments demonstrating the positive aspects of these projects for a “win-win dynamic”

The list is instructive on the cynicism of the promoters of projects:

- Creation of local jobs, while the peasants on the spot are generally reduced to be labour operated at low cost and without security;
- Technology transfer is considered as a tool for the development of local agriculture; it is in fact industrial and polluting technologies;
- These cultures would facilitate the access of peasants and States to global markets for grains produced; but in fact it is to produce for export, with the minimum of customs taxes and therefore more profits for investors, it is the host country which supports indirect costs in social terms and conflicts around the world;
- The “purchasers” countries refer to their food security: "We're growing food where we can do, for us"; it is contempt towards local populations and traditional cultures enabling people to live decently.
- Investors are doing their best to get favourable conditions to facilitate and protect agricultural investment, eliminate embarrassing land laws for their projects, reduce and if possible cancel the export restrictions. These behaviours are a denial to the right of States and peoples to decide on the orientation of their economies.



*Fraudulent land grabbing by the state with the aim of
the construction of an eco-complex on the coastal band - Sri Lanka 2011*

The RAI, or seven principles for a «win-win» land grabbing

Worried of the possible repercussions that could generate the actual phase of land grabbing, some concerned governments and international agencies, from Japan to G8, have hurried to formulate criteria's supposed to make those transactions acceptable.

Among these, those who had most echo are the «Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments which respect the rights, the means of subsistence and the resources", (RAI) launched by the World Bank (WB). RAI are the object of a common formulation on behalf of the WB, of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and of the United Nations Organization for agriculture and food (FAO).

These criteria consist of seven principles to which the investors can agree to submit themselves voluntarily when they enter in a commitment in acquisitions of large-scale farmlands. It is interesting to note that the RAI principles were never subjected for approval to the administrative authorities of these four institutions:

1. Land rights and Resources rights: the land rights and resources rights are recognized and respected.
2. Food Security: the investments are not putting in danger the food security, but at the contrary are reinforcing it.
3. Transparency, good governance and creation of a proper environment: the process of land acquisition and the associated investments are transparent, are followed up and guaranty the responsibility of the concerned actors.
4. Consultation and participation: those who are materially affected are consulted; the agreements reached after those consultations are registered and implemented.
5. Economic viability and responsible investments of the agricultural enterprises: the projects are sustainable at all sense; they respect the law, show the best practices of the enterprise and have a sustainable added value as a result.
6. Social sustainability: the investments create social and distributable desirable effects and are not increasing the vulnerability
7. Environmental sustainability: the effects on the environment are quantified and measures are taken to encourage a sustainable use of the resources, while minimizing and reducing the negative effects.

(The main promoters of the RAI since 2009: WB, UNCTAD, United States, FAO, IFAD, G8, G20, Japan, Switzerland, UE).

Farmers' organizations denounce those principles

In April 2010, 130 organizations and networks all over the world, in between those some of the most representative of the farmers, peasants, and small fisherman coalitions have denounced the RAI initiative. Their declaration demystified the RAI as an effort to legitimate the land grabbing and affirm that this is absolutely unacceptable to encourage the big enterprises (national or foreigner) to grab land on a long term from the rural population, whatever the principles implemented.

The declaration was adopted in the entire world by a good number of other groups and social movements. Some time afterwards, the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations for the right to food has publicly criticize the RAI, accusing them to be "totally inadequate" and he declared: **"this is regrettable that, instead of tackling the issue and encourage a sustainable agriculture in a social and environmental point of view, we are acting as if accelerating the destruction of the farmer's word could be done in a responsible way"**. (*«How to destroy the world farming community in a responsible way» by Olivier de Schutter, Brussels, 4 of June 2010*).

In September 2010, The World Bank published a report on the land acquisitions on a large scale. After two years of researches, the WB did not find convincing examples of “benefits” for the poor communities or for the countries, but only a long list of lost. The enterprises and governments concerned by the agreements have refused to share with the WB their information in regards with the agricultural investments.



World Social Forum – Dakar (Senegal) 2011

3 – HUMAN RIGHTS IN QUESTION ...

Many human rights are violated or undermined by the development of this process. It is essential to properly identify and enforce them.

- **Right to live** – Land grabbing often causes the desperation of peasant populations. Between 1993 and 2007, in India, not less than 120 000 farmers ended their life. Currently it is estimated that each year, 30,000 farmers on average commit suicide in India, including women farmers.
- **Right to land** - Local populations are deprived of their only means of subsistence, the land. Local communities have no legal protection to defend their land, and are often expelled. It should also be noted that investors often violate laws and regulations of the countries where they operate. This phenomenon does not leave room for other agricultural policies oriented towards the development of a family based and peasant farming. For the private enterprises, land is a financial investment. The invasion of powerful foreign corporations who are capturing the arable land for the benefit of the interests of the agro fuel industries and others, are generating instability in the food chain and lead to the expulsion of the farmers from their own land. The WB estimates that all capital flow for the expansion of the industrial farming is good and has to develop.
- **Right to food** - It is scorned because productions are intended for export, and not to the local population. There is an exacerbation of the problem of hunger, and an increase in extreme poverty. Because industrial agriculture produced for export. In Senegal, farmers are deprived of access to the water they need for their livestock. They have also to buy food in factories controlled by investors. It is the decline in peasant and family farming which provides food for local populations and regions. It is the food security of thousands of farmers and ranchers who is at risk.
- **Right to work** - In the countries where the population is largely rural, the creation of jobs is a particularly important issue. In sub-Saharan Africa, 70-80% of the active population derives its resources from nature and its monetary income of the land and livestock. Agriculture set up by companies which consumes land destroyed the traditional structures of peasant labour, by creating in return jobs employment at low cost of labour.
- **Right to health and training** – the industrial agriculture based on fertilizers and pesticides is harmful for the health of the population. Being employed in big exploitations prevent the persons to access to formation activities and the children are facing problems to attend school, due to the constraints imposed by the employers in the working rhythm.
- **Right to development**- Every people has the right to decide the paths of its economic, social, cultural and political development. Land grabbing prevents any debate on the choice of type of development, by imposing industrial agriculture. The economic and financial consequences are the acceleration of the dismantlement of the States structures and their weakness. The right to development also concerns the right to be consulted on the choice of the future, that is to say the right to self-determination.
- **Right to live on its own land** - Traditional ways of life are affected: loss of traditions, habits of life in community, loss of autonomy in decisions, break-up of families sometimes forced to leave the lands taken by multinational corporations. The massive appropriation of land can be the source of displacement of the population, causing forced economic migration to cities, accelerating the phenomenon of the rural exodus. The aim is here, in many cases, to create a social vacuum while displacing the population, so that the despoiled populations are not able to react in front of their States decisions.
- **Right to a safe environment** - Development of industrial agriculture accelerated the destruction of local ecosystems, adds to the climate crisis, sometimes causing drying of a whole region, the water being used in priority for intensive agriculture. This is the competition between the local

users of land and water and the investors who need water to develop the industrial agriculture. The balance sheet is catastrophic for the environment: reduction of biodiversity for the benefit of monoculture, loss of local species adapted to traditional ways of life, introduction of GM crops, and exhaustion of soils on the basis of intensive cultures or bad management of soils, reduction of water resources

- **Right of the minorities and the fragile groups** - The land grabbing violates the rights of indigenous peoples driven from their ancestral lands. This phenomenon still erode over the situation of women, too often dependent on laws, traditions and customs depriving them of their right to the land, his estate and the family patrimony. The rights of pastoralists and herders are often ignored, whereas pastoralism (extensive farming) is important in sub-Saharan Africa
- **Right of Food sovereignty** - The development of crops for export is contrary to the principle of food sovereignty of peoples and countries, causing deforestation or destruction of peasant and family farming. The food security of the host countries deteriorates, because production is for export and not to the local population.



Representation of the Declaration of human rights and citizen of 1789 by Le Barbier. (Wikipédia)

4 – FIMARC CONDEMS LAND GRABBING

Conscious of these issues, the Executive Committee of the FIMARC, gathered in April 2011 has clearly taken a position:

“While joining the struggle against the land grabbing, we are acting for the defence of the resources in land, water, in favour of the biodiversity, of the environment...”

In this context, the FIMARC wants to express its solidarity to the struggle of the local populations where our movements are actively implicated. For example:

- The struggle of the Orissa populations, in India, who are expelled from their land by the construction of a big mining exploitation and a steelwork by Posco (South Korean TNC);
- The struggle of the Fray Ventos population close to the coasts of Uruguay and Gualaguaychu in Argentina who are in danger of land expulsion for the construction of a big paper factory of Finland that will severely pollute those rivers.

We are convinced that the small family farming agriculture can feed the population of a country, of a region and has to be promoted. It is urgent to invest in organic farming or in a agriculture more respectful of the environment to save the biodiversity which is in danger everywhere in the world.

It is necessary to implement agrarian reforms based on food sovereignty to fairly redistribute the land, to ensure an access to natural and productive resources to the small farmers, especially access to land and water, and to ensure a fair and just control on the resources.

Finally, **we affirm that we cannot accept any form of land grabbing**, and we strongly call for the immediate stop of all land grabbing projects as the robbery of land is not acceptable, neither negotiable by the local populations”.

(Assesse April 8, 2011).

Questions proposed to the groups, movements and organizations:

- *In your country, in case of land grabbing what are the Human rights that are put in danger?*
- *What are the actions implemented to make the Human Rights respected?*
- *With whom are you making alliances for these actions?*
- *Do the States act in favour of the agricultural and farming populations? If not, for what reasons and for which interests?*

III – HOW TO ACT?

« We demand that states, regional organizations and international institutions guarantee people's right to land and support family farming and agro-ecology. Appropriate agricultural policies should consider all different types of producers (indigenous peoples, pastoralists, artisanal fishermen, peasants, agrarian reform beneficiaries) and answer specifically to the needs of women and youth. Finally, we invite people and civil society organizations everywhere to support - by all human, media, legal, financial or popular means possible - all those who fight against land grabs and to put pressure on national governments and international institutions to fulfill their obligations towards the rights of people.»

(World social forum 2011 Dakar – « Appeal of Dakar against the land grabbing»).



World Social Forum - Dakar (Senegal) 2011

1 – TOWARDS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Peasant and family agriculture should be promoted, because it is capable of feeding the population of a country and a region, in respect of each human community's own cultures and traditions.

Land should be considered as a non-speculative property, controlled by the farmers and customary law. The agricultural policy must be decided by the people, to restore power to farmers, in a dynamic of broad social alliances to build a different future.

Any prospect of actions must take into account the requirement of food sovereignty as a right of peoples and States to produce appropriately to their local population, to transform this production and to have access the market according to the needs of populations.

2 – RURAL PEOPLE GET ORGANIZE

The struggle of rural people and farmers against land grabbing refers to human rights, as well as to local customs and traditions. It is a collective action. (trade unions, peasant groups, NGOs, women's groups) ...

- To deny the restructuration of agriculture for the benefit of financial powers
- To denounce the development of industrial agriculture induced by land grabbing which is a bad response to the food crisis;
- To deny large agri-food farms, energy consuming and producing greenhouse gas;
- To require a genuine agricultural policy at the service of the people and expressed by the voice of the people;
- To promote agriculture, peasant and family farming implementing food sovereignty;
- To regulate land grabbing legally and socially



Asian seminar – Colombo (Sri Lanka) 2011

3 – GOAL AND ACTION FIELD

Food sovereignty, reference of any action, means clear choices to counter the land grabbing:

- **Land policy** to secure the land of populations and local communities and to maintain the land in the hands of the farmers;
- **Policies of agrarian reforms** based on the principles of food sovereignty with the implementation of policies for the redistribution of land, access to natural and productive resources - in particular, land and water - and fair and equitable controls to those resources;

- **Policies that invest in sustainable agriculture**, based on agro ecological strategies, focusing on family and peasant based agriculture, on artisanal fishery. The self-reliance of local food production is the best way to mitigate the fluctuations of prices on international markets. Public authorities must therefore implement this policy, by means of adapted credits, targeted subsidies, local investment aid. Public authorities have a duty to assist local agriculture by developing markets of proximity, in refusing the development of agro fuels, GMO crops, of industrial agriculture;
- **Trade policies for the local production** in favour of farmers and local communities primarily indigenous people, for access to the local, national and regional markets, with the refusal of dumping on imports;
- **Policies that guarantee the autonomy of Indigenous people**. Peasant organizations and indigenous peoples acting in the dynamics of food sovereignty know that without the control of the land, they lose control of their diet. They require having control of the land, of their own cultures, local seeds, local know-how, water, forests, soils, villages; they claim for autonomy, so that decisions are taken in local assemblies. It is to base the future on the sense of joined responsibility;
- **Public policies complementary to the agricultural development policy**, in the service of populations: health, education, training (especially for women youth), infrastructures in the countryside.



Croatia 2008

4 – ACT AT ALL LEVELS

Any proposed action must rely on the defence and promotion of human rights (2nd part of this document - paragraph 3 and 4 in particular). Any action must register at the local, national, international, context. These 3 levels of action are interconnected and non-separable.

To be heard various means can be used :

- The media, to inform and sensitize and create local and national opinion
- Protests, to mobilize the producers, consumers, elected officials, economic decision makers of local government, traditional leaders;
- Awareness of public opinion, particularly on the facts that take place, by unveiling the objectives of the multinationals and foreign States and local authorities involved in this process;

Work in networks:

- From the local to the global search for coordination and solidarity with all the NGOs and organizations working with the same objectives;
- Join all the struggles against this process, the goal is to put a brake on these transactions, or even better to denounce them in order to stop them;

Promote the transparency:

- Make public all the details of the projects of land grabbing: the people concerned have the right to know what is negotiated, and with whom, for what purpose;
- Promote transparency and accountability of local and national political powers.

Recourse to justice and law:

- Denounce the land grabbing;
- Require moratorium and bans to give land for the single purpose of profit making;
- Protect customary land; users
- Require national legislation to protect the land;
- Impose binding measures to multinational corporations and States buyers or renters of land, by global legislation;

Questions to propose to the groups, movements and organizations:

- *Which kind of actions have you started or are you going to launch to struggle against the land grabbing?*
- *With whom are you going to make alliances?*
- *What are the objectives that you want to put forwards, and what are the action plans you want to privilege?*
- *Which results did you get from these actions?*

CONCLUSION

"Agriculture is the activity that allows human being to produce or collect its own food from the land». This is not a purely economic activity aim but first of all a live model. Agriculture is based on an organic link in between human beings and natural resources. As long as this organic link remains intact, the food security of human beings can be ensured. But the search of profit by exploiting forces that are operating very fast to destroy this link has already caused a world food crisis and could in the future be a severe global threat for the life on this earth.

As long as the communities will access and control their land, they will have the capacity to decide what they want to produce, when to produce what they want to keep to satisfy their basic needs or what they want to exchange to satisfy other's needs. But in the actual context, all the agricultural food chain, from the production of seeds, to the processing of food is controlled and regulated by the markets forces. Even the type of food that has to be consumed is determined by the same forces.

"In those conditions, it is an urgent need to mobilize the communities on the issue of access to land and its control, so that we can reach food sovereignty in the world".

*(Nicholas Chinnappan, India- "Access and control of land in India, a challenge for the farmer's communities"
Text translated by Daisy Herman, published in the book " pressure on land - future of the peasant agriculture"
Alternatives Sud - Entraide et Fraternité - Belgium - August 2010).*

ANNEXE I.
- Dakar Appeal against the land grabbing -
World Social Forum 2011, Dakar (Senegal)

We, farmer organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious organizations, unions and other social movements, gathered in Dakar for the World Social Forum 2011:

Considering that small and family farming, which represent most of the world's farmers, are best placed to:

- meet their dietary needs and those of populations, ensuring food security and sovereignty of countries,*
- provide employment to rural populations and maintain economic life in rural areas, key to a balanced territorial development,*
- produce with respect to the environment and to the conservation of natural resources for future generations;*

Considering that recent massive land grabs targeting tens of millions of acres for the benefit of private interests or third states - whether for reasons of food, energy, mining, environment, tourism, speculation or geopolitics - violate human rights by depriving local, indigenous, peasants, pastoralists and fisher communities of their livelihoods, by restricting their access to natural resources or by removing their freedom to produce as they wish, and exacerbate the inequalities of women in access and control of land;

Considering that investors and complicit governments threaten the right to food of rural populations, that they condemned them to suffer rampant unemployment and rural exodus, that they exacerbate poverty and conflicts and contribute to the loss of agricultural knowledge and skills and cultural identities;

Considering also that the land and the respect of human rights are firstly under the jurisdiction of national parliaments and governments, and they bear the greatest share of responsibility for these land grabs;

We call on parliaments and national governments to immediately cease all massive land grabs current or future and return the plundered land. We order the government to stop oppressing and criminalizing the movements of struggle for land and to release activists detained. We demand that national governments implement an effective framework for the recognition and regulation of land rights for users through consultation with all stakeholders. This requires putting an end to corruption and cronyism, which invalidates any attempt of shared land management.

We demand that governments, the Regional Unions of States, FAO and other national and international institutions immediately implement the commitments that were made at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) of 2006, namely securing land rights of users, the revival of agrarian reform process based on a fair access to natural resources and rural development for the welfare of all.

We ask that the elaboration process of the FAO Guidelines on Governance of Land and Natural Resources be strengthened, and that they are based on Human Rights as defined in the various charters and covenants - these rights being effective only if binding legal instruments are implemented at the national and international level to impose on the states compliance with their obligations.

Moreover, each state has to be held responsible for the impact of its policies or activities of its companies in the countries targeted by the investments. Similarly, we must reaffirm the supremacy of Human Rights over international trade and finance regimes, which are sources of speculation on natural resources and agricultural goods.

Meanwhile, we urge the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to definitively reject the World Bank principles for responsible agricultural investment (RAI), which are illegitimate and inadequate to address the phenomenon, and to include the commitments of the ICARRD as well as the conclusions of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) in its Global Framework for Action.

We demand that states, regional organizations and international institutions guarantee people's right to land and support family farming and agro-ecology. Appropriate agricultural policies should consider all different types of producers (indigenous peoples, pastoralists, artisanal fishermen, peasants, agrarian reform beneficiaries) and answer specifically to the needs of women and youth.

Finally, we invite people and civil society organisations everywhere to support - by all human, media, legal, financial or popular means possible - all those who fight against land grabs and to put pressure on national governments and international institutions to fulfil their obligations towards the rights of people.

We all have a duty to resist and to support the people who are fighting for their dignity!

ANNEXE II. Bibliography

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