What can recent portfolio overviews tell us about donor investments in land and agricultural investment?

Giles Henley, ODI, 29 June 2017
Donor programming on land and investment

- What is the current scale of donor-supported work on land and (commercial) investment?
- How does/can programming on land and investment fit into broader donor portfolios?
- What are the main approaches being used to promote beneficial outcomes for land investment?
Scale of donor programming with (some) focus land and commercial investment

Back-of-the-envelope estimate:
• 25 land programmes (19 ongoing) (c. USD 180 million).

• 3% of entries GDWGL Land Governance Programme Map
BUT as we know lots of unknown ongoing work…
LEGEND reviews of DFID’s portfolio

Portfolio Overviews:
Since 2015, LEGEND output that reviews DFID’s own central and country-level programming on land.

Aim to review:
- What are DFID land programmes doing? (thematic areas, objectives, timeframes)
- Where and how programmes are delivering (countries and partners)?
- What opportunities and challenges have programmes faced?
- Recommendations for future programming.
What did we find?

Distribution of DFID Land Programmes

C 17 active programmes

£25 million of current spending

Active in 22 countries.
Findings: typology of programmes

- Land reg. and adm.
- Business environment
- Forestry
- Commercial ag. + infrastructure
- Vulnerable groups
- Urban land

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<th>Types of engagement supported through DFID programmes</th>
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<td>Improve regulatory framework around land investment (CSOs) (Forest programmes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve government capacity to deal with land issues (int. agencies/CSOs) <em>(support on VGGTs)</em></td>
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<td>Increase transparency around investment issues (researchers, analysts platforms)</td>
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<td>Structure partnerships between investors and communities (new coordination mechanisms) <em>Moz, Tanzania</em></td>
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<td>Provide legal and other support to communities (CSOs) <em>(GLEI)</em></td>
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<td>Improve company practices (Roundtables, CSO efforts)</td>
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Main findings on programmes and commercial investment

• **Land registration + administration programmes** Either by design or request, land registration activities often occur in areas of high commercial ag interest. So it makes sense to ensure these programmes are well-equipped to deal with investment issues.

• **Forest programmes** Large scope to address land issues as part of broader forest governance agenda as part of zero-deforestation commitments. Quite a lot happening in this space.

• **Support to financial intermediaries for commercial ag and infrastructure.** Have been doing more to ensure appraisal of investees explicitly considers land issues.

• **Business reform programmes** Traditionally taken a narrow view of land administration reform (reducing time for land acquisition, license approval). But scope to do more to promote responsible investment. E.g. GEMS3 in Nigeria.

• **Support to vulnerable groups** Important opportunities to provide land-related legal support to groups that can help reduce risks in context of land investments (e.g. GET Tanzania, GLEP)
Main findings and conclusions from the reviews

- Opportunities exist to integrate work on land and commercial investment under programmes aligned with current donor goals. Some work needed in strengthening the case and the links.
- Globally-endorsed and used benchmarks and frameworks (VGGTs, PRAI) appear to broaden opportunities to do address governance issues for programmes.
- There continue to be challenges associated with bundling land into broader programmes (slow progress -> pressure to drop land component).
THANK YOU