



LANDac ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
4-5 July 2019

LAND GOVERNANCE IN TRANSITION

How to support transformations that work for
people and nature?

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Theme 5: Land Governance and Agribusiness

PANEL

Cooperation and Conflict in Inclusive Agribusiness: The impacts of Chain Integration on Food Security and Local Development

Ellen Mangnus & Guus van Westen, Utrecht University

CONTACT: A.C.M.vanWesten@uu.nl

In recent years, private sector players have been assigned a leading role in pursuing local development. This to the extent that even the promotion of such critical objectives as Food Security are framed in terms of private sector agency. As a corollary of their increased role in the realization of broader societal goals, private businesses are expected to widen the scope of their business models to become 'inclusive', i.e. inserting poor communities and smallholders in their business operations. Frequently, public sector and donor resources are made available to companies that embark on such 'inclusive business models', as a compensation for the expected increase in transactions costs of dealing with many small producers and agents. In practice, business models are often deemed 'inclusive' once small operators perform a role in them – irrespective of the scale of inclusion and the wider effects on local wellbeing. While inclusive agribusiness can certainly bring new opportunities to rural people, they may also exacerbate inequalities within local communities when some are able to benefit while others fall behind or face negative spillovers – such as land loss. In this panel we envisage to explore the potential of inclusive agribusiness for local development and food security in particular by highlighting the scope for cooperation between the different players in the value chain, as well as the tensions and conflicts between these partners. In the end, both cooperation and conflict may actually contribute something useful to local development.

Conference theme: Inclusive Business and Local Development

This session welcomes abstract submissions.

PANEL

For better or worse: Agri-food systems transforming land governance needs and outcomes

Dr. Marc Wegerif, Human Economy Programme, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

CONTACT: Marc Wegerif marc.wegerif@up.ac.za

Since the acceleration of land grabs in response to the food and financial crises of 2007-2008, investor interest in land and its produce has not subsided, but has changed from direct land grabs to an approach of increasing control of land use through control of the agri-food system within which agricultural land rights holders have to operate. From inputs to markets and financing, the agri-food sector is being concentrated under corporate control backed by policies supportive of this accumulation in the name of economic growth and modernisation. The mode of production, including high external inputs and having to meet inflexible standards of buyers, is tending to generate negative impacts on people and nature.

Women and other small-scale farmers may find opportunities in these developments or find themselves adversely incorporated into out-grower schemes and value chains. Many farmers are finding their space for manoeuvre limited. Some farmers are building on old practices and developing new innovations that work better for them and for nature. These involve production practices and markets that work with ecological processes and increase farmer autonomy from the corporate agri-food system. What has become clear is that effective land governance can only contribute to food security, livelihoods and sustainable development, if situated within a supportive agri-food system.

We welcome papers that explore these developments focussed on the interface between land governance and the agri-food system that small-scale farmers have to operate within. We would like papers that in the context of these changes: show the impacts on women and other small-scale farmers; give examples of the responses of farmers to these pressures; contain suggestions to improve the situation for the majority of women and other small-scale farmers; and take into account the wider impacts on food security and nature.

Reference to the conference theme: This panel specifically address the theme of LANDac 2019 through analysing the agri-food system/s that enable land rights and land use to contribute to creating societies that work for people and nature. The presenters are requested and expected to address key issues identified as important for this conference including, gender, food security and livelihoods. This panel also addresses the particular developments that have arisen post the “land grab “hype”” that informs the debates for this LANDac Conference.

Potential speakers/presenters

- Dr. Marc Wegerif, University of Pretoria. On Women Farmers links to markets.
- Sylvia Kay, Transnational Institute (TNI). On Territorial Markets.
- Dr. Ward Anseeuw, CIRAD and International Land Coalition. On Financialization.
- Dr. Tracy Ledger, Public Affairs Research Institute. On Supermarkets in South Africa.
- Shiela Chikulo, Wageningen University. On Food Markets in Zimbabwe

This session welcomes abstract submissions.

PANEL

The roles of interdisciplinary research in sustainability transition of palm oil production

Birka Wicke, Copernicus Institute for Sustainable Development, Utrecht University & Ari Susanti, Faculty of Forestry, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta Indonesia

CONTACT: Birka Wicke B.Wicke@uu.nl

Sustainability challenges of oil palm expansion in Southeast Asia continue to be high on national and international policy agendas and public debates. This is the result of very rapid increases in palm oil production in the last three decades mainly through land expansion which is facilitated by government policies and market incentives. This was done with the assumption of increasing demand in the future and lucrative financial returns. While the environmental and social impacts of oil palm plantations have been studied in detail, most studies have separately addressed the various impacts, or looked at solutions for one isolated impact or only from one perspective. However, there are many links between impacts and feedback mechanisms, and therefore solutions must take a comprehensive perspective on them. Interdisciplinary approaches and methods can help to provide such a comprehensive perspective by better accounting for links between impacts, scale and time and thereby increase the effectiveness, feasibility and adoption of newly proposed solutions. The central question will be where can interdisciplinary approaches and methods help the most in the sustainability challenges of palm oil production?

To unravel the role and value of interdisciplinary for a sustainable transition in the oil palm complex, this panel aims at presenting and discussing interdisciplinary research on palm oil. We welcome papers that address i) interdisciplinary methods and approaches relevant for the palm oil complex; ii) specific applications of these approaches that explain the interdisciplinary research collaborations and their value; or iii) the challenges of interdisciplinary collaborations and how these may be overcome.

Potential contributors: Pita Verweij, George Schoneveld, Otto Hospes, Maja Slingerland, Frederico Brandao, Idsert Jelsma

This session welcomes abstract submissions.

INTERACTIVE PANEL

Foreign investments versus local food security: Food production in the context of climate change

Romy Santpoort, Utrecht University & LANDac

Description will follow.

This session welcomes abstract submissions.