Making agricultural growth zones work for Africa: The role of donors & the private sector

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THE RISE OF AGRICULTURAL GROWTH POLES (AGROPOLES)

Agricultural growth poles: 36
Growth corridors: 9
3.5 MILLION HECTARES OF LAND
WHO ARE THE MAIN SUPPORTERS?
DONORS

WORLD BANK GROUP

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

AFD

JICA

UNIDO

BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

BADEA

BOAD

ABU DHABI FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT
WHAT ARE THE MAIN ISSUES?
1. SEPARATE LEGAL SYSTEMS

**Problems:** Most countries set up special legal systems, including tax incentives. This can create a two-tier system that undermines domestic laws on land, water, labour, etc.

**Solution:**
GOVT/DONORS – more due diligence to ensure that special laws uphold and reinforce domestic laws
PRIVATE SECTOR – no broad stabilisation clauses
2. LAND DISPUTES & COMPETITION

**Problems:** Agropoles cover large areas of land and can involve land disputes and conflict. This can undermine land rights of smallholders and communities with informal rights.

**Solutions:**

**DONORS/GOVT:**
- Ongoing support for the implementation of the VGGT and related tools and guidebooks: USAID, AFD, DFID;
- Support participatory land mapping exercises and community dialogues
- Support land reform efforts

**PRIVATES SECTOR:**
- Provide corporate training on land rights
- Include land conflict indicators in monitoring and evaluation documents;
- Integrate land tenure issues into social and environment impact assessments
3. INTEGRATING SMALLHOLDERS THROUGH FAIR CONTRACTS

Problems: Smallholders are not always integrated into large-scale projects. And when they are, contracts can be unfair.

Solution:
DONORS/GOVTS:
• Include the establishment of an outgrower scheme with local farmers e.g. Lao PDR;
• Prepare contract templates that strengthen the rights of smallholders, particularly women e.g. IISD-FAO-IFAD contract farming templates

PRIVATE SECTOR:
• Adopt fairer contract, including the IISD-FAO-IFAD templates;
• Ensure fair price-setting mechanisms