

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**

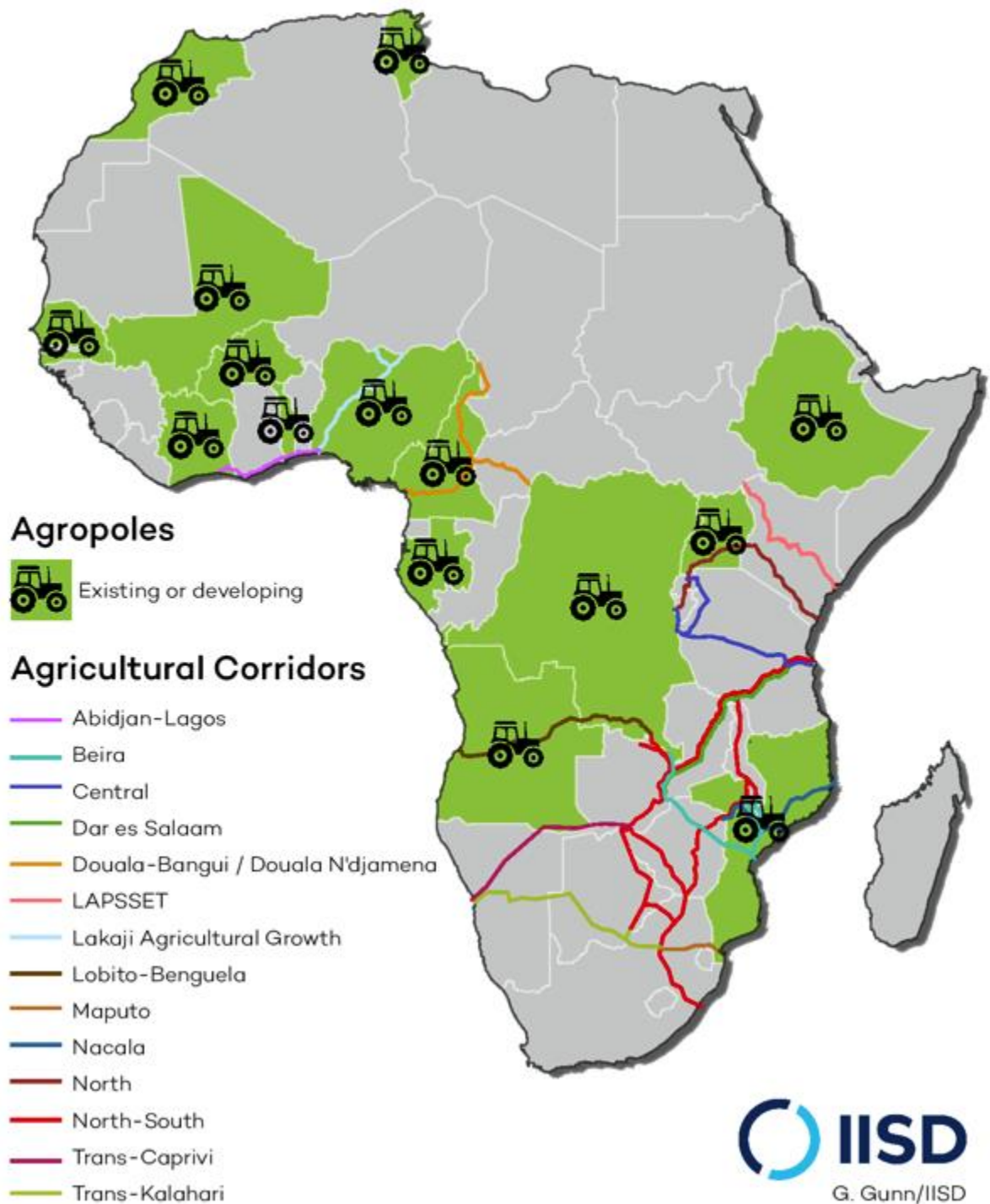
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**Growth
corridors**

9

3.5 MILLION HECTARES OF LAND

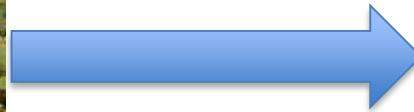




WHO ARE THE MAIN SUPPORTERS?



GOVERNMENTS





DONORS



BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation





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

