



## Research Article

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# Large-Scale Land Acquisition and Its Effects in Africa

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**Abstract:** This study examines the phenomenon of large-scale land acquisition in Africa and its wide-ranging effects. Through a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic, environmental, and political impacts, this research sheds light on the complex dynamics surrounding land grabs and their implications for local communities, governments, and the continent as a whole.

**Keywords:** Land acquisition, Africa, Foreign countries, large scale.

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## INTRODUCTION

Land acquisition is an essential process for development of any country. Without land most of the industries may not be possible. Government of any country gives various arguments against the land acquisition of a country as there may be deployed force for acquiring land. On depending land and its acquisition process the politics of the countries may be governed. But land acquisition process, size of land, uses of lands and compensation process of the lands determine positive or adverse effects of the land acquisition on the land losers or inhabitants of the area. In Africa there were acquired the lands in large scale but not for infrastructural development of their own countries, but for uses of foreign countries. The compensations have been spent for food production of their own countries. The controls of the lands are being transferred to the foreign countries.

## LITERATURE REVIEWS

Agribusiness investment companies and governmental organisations have recently acquired long-term rights to huge tracts of land in Africa (Cotula, 2011). A growing body of evidence demonstrating the detrimental social and environmental repercussion of concern from civil society has firmly established “global land grabs” as a topic of public discussion and land use change at the global scale. These widespread land exchanges are expanding (German *et al.*, 2011). Loss of rights and access to land, water resources, fuel wood, sufficient shelter, compensation, and livelihood are some of the effects of large-scale land acquisitions (LSLAs) on women. (Lotsmar, 2011).

## OBJECTIVES

In this study it was tried to find out the differences between the process of land acquisition and uses of the lands, compensation packages and effects of these types of land acquisitions.

## METHODOLOGIES

The study was done on the basis of secondary data from various sources.

## DISCUSSION

Due to Africa’s fertile land and abundant natural resources, lack of adequate protection for indigenous communities’ land rights, and multiple investment opportunities made available by host nations, Africa is the continent most frequently associated with large amount of land grabbing.

Farmland acquisition by foreigners is a divisive political issue in African Nations. In an instance, it was shown that in Southern Africa only, totalling 21,422,221 hectares of land were purchased by foreigners in 375 cases of purchasing. In most cases, the money received from the transactions was used for subsidies for agricultural purposes used by local farmers. That encourages the local industry and manufacturers to create jobs. In other cases, the various African governments leased local lands to foreign investors. (Anseeuw & Boche, 2012)

Many recent investments in agriculture are supported by government worries about food and energy security and private sector hopes of rising profits from agriculture. (Cotula, 2011).

Land acquisitions in Southern Africa are substantially more focused on bio-fuels than in other regions of the world, which is shocking given that most of these nations import most of their food. (Anseeuw & Boche, 2012).

Reasons for choosing the Africans nations the most preferably: It is debatable why Africa is the focus of this new trend. One argument made is that Africa has unclaimed land that is available. According to the 2009 World Bank research *Awakening Africa's Sleeping Giant: Prospects for Commercial Agriculture in the Guinea Savannah Zone and beyond*, most of Africa's land is underutilised and ready for commercialisation. It contends that this section of the Guinea Savannah stretches across most of inland West Africa, along the east coast to Mozambique, through much of central Africa (FAO. *Future Agricultures Consortium*, Ruth Hal, 2011).

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the nation most severely impacted by land grabs, which are defined as foreign corporations purchasing, leasing, or obtaining concessions to use the land for commercial purposes on previously communally used property.

Demand for agricultural products is rising and will keep rising for at least a few more decades due to the world's continuing population growth, rising consumption of meat and other animal products among the developing world's middle classes, and rising demand for renewable energy derived from agricultural sources. Fertile land is needed to produce agricultural goods; this land is now scarce internationally.

However, the need for land is not solely for food security for the African nations but mainly for food security of the foreign investor. The significance of land purchases with an agricultural focus does not indicate that most investments are focused on food crops. Indeed, just 31% of crops are used for food. According to the observation of the World Bank, the most interest in land grabbing by foreigners in Africa is for the food security of foreigners. Native Americans typically settle close outside the newly acquired area after they cede their ancestral territories. As a result, new peripheral villages are created, and history has shown that environmental degradation is common in these new settlements (Ngama, 2006).

According to a recent Misereor analysis, LSLAs may not outperform small-scale agriculture despite having substantial capital endowments. People who cultivate their land for subsistence they are utilising labour-intensive techniques and don't just rely on monocultures get better yields per hectare. Despite more labour and capital efficiency, huge farms produce less per hectare.

As a result, there will be a tremendous shortage of agricultural land due to increased demand for fertile land and a limited global resource base (Voget-Kleschin 2013).

Despite the good intentions behind the land acquisition, the process frequently has adverse effects. The group most negatively impacted are indigenous people, whose territory is frequently taken over. Land acquisition initiatives in the study region negatively impact indigenous people's ecology and livelihood. Loss of land, loss of means of subsistence, interruption of economic activity, ongoing land-related conflicts, relocation to underdeveloped areas, insufficient and tardy compensation, and environmental degradation are a few of the issues mentioned. One of the leading causes of land acquisition-related disputes was identified to be disagreements about how the requirements of the land acquisition legislation should be put into practice.

Foreign investors frequently flock to countries with large amounts of undeveloped land and/or poor governance. A study proposes that laws and regulations controlling the process of LSLA emphasise a required participatory approach that includes women because land is essential for rural people's survival, especially for women. To mainstream women's land rights, it is important to revise national laws. Loss of rights and access to land, water resources, fuel wood, sufficient shelter, compensation, and livelihood are some of the effects of large-scale land acquisitions (LSLAs) on women, (Lotsmar, 2017).

Another reason for land-related issues was the bulk of the indigenous population's low level of education and ignorance of the law. The indigenous people like Native Americans typically experienced a variety of negative impacts, disruption of economic activity, including land loss, loss of means of subsistence, ongoing land-related issues, and migration to underdeveloped areas, and inadequate and tardy compensation. (Kusiluka *et al.*, 2010).

Large scale land acquisition may not effect on population of Africa instantly, but its long term negative effect may fall on the population as the control of the lands have handed over the owner of the lands of foreign investors. As Africa is the owner of large amount of land, they are not feeling any crisis of the lands now, but in future due to shortage of the lands and for increasing growth of population some nations of Africa may fall in crisis of development.

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