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NELGA KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE - NEX

WEDNESDAY, 7 JUNE AT 15:00 EAT | VIRTUAL

THEME: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: EXPLORING
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESPONSIBLE
INVESTMENTS ON LAND IN AFRICA

Brief

The NELGA Knowledge Exchange Forum is a platform that brings together land specialists, policymakers, practitioners, students, and other stakeholders in Africa's land governance field. Its primary objective is to facilitate sharing of information, ideas, and best practices pertinent to African land administration.

Since land is a limited resource that can significantly affect the trajectory of sustainable development, it is imperative to conduct a webinar on the topic of responsible governance of land investments in Africa. The seminar aims to promote the responsible use of land resources, which can potentially result in Africa's economic and social transformation. This will be achieved by identifying best practices regarding "what works." The webinar will make emphasise techniques for minimising negative outcomes and maximising positive outcomes, as well as measures to ensure that land investments are transparent, inclusive, and participatory. In addition, the ideas will emphasise methods for maximising positive land investments.

The NELGA Knowledge Exchange Forum contributes significantly to promoting sustainable land management, equitable access to land, and inclusive management of the continent's land resources.

This edition of the NEX focuses on the **Responsible Governance of Investment in Land (RGIL) project in Ethiopia, Laos and Uganda** as funded by GIZ as they share insights on responsible land investments in Ethiopia and Uganda. This webinar brings together NELGA members from

different regions and any relevant stakeholders to discuss how best the other principles, guidelines and tools reviewed through land-governance lens can be disseminated and used in practice.

Background

Since the global food price spiked in 2007/08 and the associated trend in large-scale land acquisitions, the importance of secure land rights has been increasingly recognized by the international community. This led to several international initiatives and guidelines to improve land policy. These include the VGGT (Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure), which were adopted by the UN (United Nations) Food and Agriculture Committee in 2012 and ratified by 124 countries (including Ethiopia, Laos, and Uganda). Other important initiatives include the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) of the Committee on World Food Security and the setting up of the African Land Policy Centre under the African Unions' Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program, and many more.

Responsible land governance has also been included in African Unions 50-year transformative agenda tagged Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals with agenda 2030 explicitly recognizing the importance of access, ownership, and control of land for sustainable development. Responsible land use (including investments on land) and fair and secure land rights are preconditions for sustainable rural development. Commercial investments in agriculture and forestry are increasingly exerting pressure on land as a resource. Due to a lack of safeguarding measures, these investments can lead to loss of access to land, conflicts and forced evictions, thereby restricting, and preventing inclusive and sustainable development pathways. There are several guidelines and principles to ensure responsible investment and preservation of the environment for example in addition to the CFS RAI principles the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) has been mandated by the African Union, the African Development Bank, and the United Nations Economic commission for Africa to support the implementation of the AU Agenda on Land one of which is the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program. Other frameworks include the AU endorsed Guidelines on Large Scale Land-Based Investments (LSLBI) as well as the ASEAN Guidelines for Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, and many others developed by different country investment bodies.

Despite these principles and guidelines being developed, their implementation poses considerable challenges as per their dissemination, interpretation, enforcement, and

applicability. This has prompted the need for continental/worldwide discussions on the topic. NELGA is hosting one of these discussions on a NEX forum as a focus topic.

Key questions

1. What are the existing principles and guidelines on responsible investments in land?
2. How can these principles/guidelines be incorporated in relevant academic curricula development/ review?
3. How can different communities be engaged in practising these principles?

Details

- Date: June 7th 2023
- Time: 14:00 – 15:00 (EAT)
- Venue: Virtual

To participate and receive an invitation, send a request to saron.tekie@giz.de.

Reference knowledge materials

- [Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food systems](#)
- [CSF RAI Principles](#)
- [Promoting responsible investments on Land project brochure](#)
- [RGIL Capacity building tools](#)
- [Promoting Responsible Governance of Investments in Land - YouTube](#)
- [The Investment Compliance Monitoring Guidebook 2.0 in English, Luganda, Ateso and Lango – Socadido](#)
- Guiding Principles of [Large Scale Land-Based Investments in Africa](#)