

## Call for Paper

### International Workshop on Large-Scale Agricultural Investments

**11 May 2012, Hamburg**

The German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) invites submissions for an international conference on large-scale agricultural investments on **11 May 2012 in Hamburg**, Germany. Large-scale agricultural investments and land deals have recently received considerable media coverage. Typically, these deals are perceived as “land grabs” of dubious legal import and of little use to the population in target countries. Notwithstanding these perceptions, surprisingly little is known on the nature and consequences of land deals: Neither on the scale of the phenomenon, nor on the underlying contractual arrangements, and even less on the consequences for the local population.

The academic and practical debate on large-scale land investments is just starting, as are several research projects on different aspects of these land deals. The workshop aims at bringing researchers and practitioners together, structure the debate, exchange ideas, shed light on various dimensions of the problem – in short, it aims at stimulating the discussion. It is organized by a research team at GIGA working in a joint research project on “Large-scale land acquisitions and sustainable development” with the Kiel Institute for the World Economy and the University of Greifswald and supported by PEGNet. The workshop will address the following dimensions of large-scale land deals:

- *Legal and political dimensions:* In which regulatory framework do large-scale land deals take place? Which are the actors in land deals and how do they behave? Does the process of “land grabbing” change power relations among different actors?
- *Socio-economic dimension:* What are the socio-economic consequences of large-scale land deals? How does the reality of large-scale land deals compare to the contractual arrangements (e.g. compensation) and is there any empirical evidence on the effects on local populations?
- *Ecological and ethical dimensions:* Are ecological and ethical (e.g. human right to food) considerations taken into account? What about the environmental sustainability of new cultivation schemes?
- *Historical dimension:* A historical dimension would cut across the above issues: Are large-scale land deals a new phenomenon, or are there parallels to earlier similar phenomena (e.g. during or the post-colonial establishment of plantations)?
- *Conflict dimension:* Again a cross-cutting dimension: Land-use changes and related population dynamics can be a long-term cause of violent conflicts?

Other papers of relevance to large-scale agricultural investments are also welcome.

We are delighted that the keynote lecture will be delivered by Stein T. Holden from the Department of Economics and Resource Management at Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway. Prof. Holden has published several leading articles on land markets, land registration, land rights, and land tenure.

Please send an abstract (200 up to 1000 words) and a short CV as pdf files to [land-issues@giga-hamburg.de](mailto:land-issues@giga-hamburg.de) and indicate “Workshop 2012” in the subject heading. The submission deadline is 30 January 2011. Notification of acceptance will be sent out by the beginning of March 2011. The deadline for full paper submission is 29 April 2012. Further information on the conference will be placed at <http://www.landgrab.de>.

Submissions should be in English, which is also the conference language. The workshop will bring together about 50 researchers and practitioners. Participation in the workshop is free; however, travel and accommodation expenses cannot be covered.