

Farmland and Water: China invests abroad

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Introduction

Farmland and water have become important targets for a growing number of foreign investors over the past few years. Private sector investors are looking to capitalize on rising agricultural commodity prices and growing global demand, as well as speculating on rising land prices. Governments are also investing abroad to secure their country's food and energy needs in the context of volatile world market prices, scarce or depleted natural resources at home and the global hunt for water resources. China is often singled out as one of the big government investors in a phenomenon that has come to be referred to as the global "land grab."¹

The World Bank (2010, September) found that in 2009 alone investors were reported to have acquired² 45 million hectares of land, 32 million of it in Africa alone. In 2012, the Land Matrix project revised those figures, and now estimates that over the past 10 years investors have acquired 83.2 million hectares of land, mostly in Africa (Anseeuw et al., 2012). In terms of China's role, the authors found reports of 86 Chinese projects covering 9 million hectares of land in developing countries. We were able to confirm the existence of 55 projects covering 4.9 million hectares.

Different types of investors are interested in agricultural land and water. First, a group of cash-rich but food-and water-insecure states, which operate mostly through sovereign wealth funds and state-owned enterprises. Second, multinationals companies, including traditional western agribusinesses, energy companies (for biofuels production) and industrial enterprises (like tire or clothing manufacturers), who depend on agricultural inputs for their industries and are looking to expand market opportunities. And third, a new group of actors from the financial sector, including banks, private equity funds, hedge funds and pension funds, either privately or publicly funded, looking to diversify their investment portfolios and increase their returns.

The purpose of this paper is to explain China's investment strategy in agriculture abroad. We first highlight the public debate that often exaggerates or inaccurately portrays China's global ambitions in agriculture. Second, we discuss China's domestic agricultural policy. While China has remained largely self-sufficient in producing staple foods, the growing demand for agricultural inputs to supply the food processing, manufacturing and energy sectors cannot be met by domestic production alone. Third, we look at how China secures these agricultural inputs through trade and investment abroad. This policy is shifting from a strategy based on dependence on global markets (and the commodity traders who dominate those markets) to a strategy based on foreign direct investment, including by acquiring large tracts of farmland with associated water resources.

¹ Other countries often cited are South Korea, Japan, India and the Gulf states. The Gulf states acquiring land abroad include Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman.

² For the purposes of this paper, the terms "acquiring," "acquired" or "acquisition," refer to the purchase or long-term lease of land and related rights to use and access natural resources, particularly water and forests. Leases are typically for a period of 30 and 99 years and often contain provisions for renewing or extending the lease period. The host state provides the investor with title to the land and rights to use water and other natural resources for agricultural purposes. The legal contracts take various forms, including lease agreements, concession agreements, contracts for sale, cooperation agreements, conventions and memoranda of understanding (MOUs).

The Public Debate About China's Agricultural Ambitions

China is frequently accused of “land grabbing” in countries that are particularly poor and vulnerable. In July 2011, Germany's Africa policy coordinator, Guenter Nooke, blamed China's practice of buying up land in the Horn of Africa for worsening the famine in the region. He told the German daily *Frankfurter Rundschau* that Chinese investments were focused on farming for export, which can lead to “major social conflicts in Africa when small farmers have their land and thus their livelihoods taken away” (Agence France Presse, 2011).

The Economist wrote about a Chinese deal with Zambia to grow biofuels on 2 million hectares of land,³ reporting that Chinese farms produce a quarter of the eggs sold in Zambia's capital, and that 1 million Chinese farm labourers work in Africa (*The Economist*, 2009). There do not appear to be any official Chinese or Zambian statistics publicly available to support or refute these claims. *The Guardian* cites a contract between China and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), whereby a partly state-owned Chinese telecommunications enterprise, ZTE International, bought 2.8 million hectares of forest in the DRC to plant oil palms (Vidal, 2010; Gray, 2008). In reality, the company acquired 100,000 hectares of land (see Annex 1 below or for an Excel version, visit www.iisd.org/publications/pub.aspx?pno=1663).

One African leader told *The Economist* (2009) that the number of Chinese labourers working in Africa is “catastrophic.” The President of the Brazilian Association of Vegetable Oil Industries, Carlo Lovatelli, told *The New York Times* that the Chinese are “moving in. They are looking for land, looking for reliable partners. But what they would like to do is run the show alone” (Barrionuevo, 2011).

In 2008, *The Financial Times* claimed that there was a draft proposal from the Ministry of Agriculture to make “offshore land acquisition by domestic agricultural companies a central government policy” (Anderlini, 2008). It was also reported in the Chinese media.⁴ The Ministry of Agriculture denied the claims.

China refutes claims that it has been buying up land in Africa. “China always seeks food self-sufficiency through its own domestic output,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told the Xinhua state news agency in December 2011. “Instead of grabbing land in Africa, China has been providing as much technical assistance as it can to help develop agriculture there and enhance the continent's capability of using its natural resources and addressing issues such as climate change and food security. . . . There is indeed neo-colonialism in Africa, but absolutely not from China,” Hong said (Xinhua, 2011).

In 2009, Niu Dun, China's deputy agriculture minister, told *The Financial Times* that China will not join the growing trend of outsourcing food production by investing in overseas farmland, particularly in Africa, expressing doubts that such deals could improve its food security. He said Beijing preferred to depend on its own land to maintain self-sufficiency in grain. “We cannot rely on [investments in] other countries for our own food security. . . . We have to depend on ourselves” (Blas, 2009).

³ The authors were unable to confirm the existence of the Zambia project.

⁴ 海外买租地种粮政策建议方案上报国务院 (Policy Proposal to Buy And Lease Land Overseas to Grow Grain Reported to State Council), *21st Century Economic Herald*, May 8, 2008 (available in Mandarin only).

China's Domestic Agriculture Policy

Before examining China's global strategy, it is important to look at the domestic policy that is being pursued to satisfy China's growing demand for agricultural products. A key priority for the Chinese government is to boost and develop domestic agricultural production (Freeman, Holslag & Weil, 2007). According to China's 2011 notification to the WTO, government support to agriculture almost doubled between 2005 and 2008, from US\$48 billion (CNY310 billion) to US\$93 billion (CNY593 billion) (WTO, 2011).

The OECD strongly praises China for its domestic agricultural reform policies, noting that one of the remarkable achievements of China's agricultural reform has been the strong growth in rural incomes, which rose more than three-fold between 1980 and 2000. This has led to a dramatic fall in poverty: 400 million people rose above the poverty line between 1979 and 2002 (OECD, 2005). Other estimates from World Bank research suggest that over 517 million people in China were lifted out of poverty between 1981 and 2005 (Chen & Ravallion, 2008).

As Chinese government officials claim above, China's agricultural ambitions abroad are not focused on producing food grains, such as rice, wheat and corn. China imports relatively small quantities of these grains because of its food self-sufficiency policy (U.S. International Trade Commission, 2011). As a result, China has remained largely self-sufficient in food production, and will probably continue to do so in the future through increasing productivity, modernization and commercialization of the domestic farm sector (U.S. International Trade Commission, 2011). However, China's growing demand for agricultural goods to supply the food processing industry, manufacturing and the energy sector cannot be met by domestic production alone.

China's Dependence on Global Markets: Supplying the food industry, manufacturing and energy sectors

China is increasingly dependent on global commodity markets for a few key agricultural imports, accounting for 9 per cent of world agricultural imports in 2010. China's main import is soybeans, which accounts for 38 per cent of total agricultural imports. Other key imports are cotton (9 per cent), palm oil (8 per cent), dairy products (4 per cent), hides and skins (4 per cent), and wool (3 per cent) (See Freeman, Holslag & Weil, 2007; Freemantle & Stevens, 2011; U.S. International Trade Commission, 2011).

These commodities are needed for a range of sectors, including processed foods, animal feed, manufacturing and energy. Palm oil, for example, is used to make instant noodles, snack foods, milk powder, margarine and bio-diesel. Soybeans are used as animal feed for the livestock industry, for cooking oil, and to produce bio-diesel. Other products, such as cotton, wool, hides and skins are used in manufacturing. Most imports come from Asia and the Americas, with Africa's share comprising only 4 per cent, predominantly cotton.

In order to facilitate these imports, and in conformity with its WTO commitments, China has significantly cut tariffs. China's average agricultural import tariff is 15.3 per cent (WTO, 2006). In 2002, for example, the tariff on soybean imports was reduced from 114 per cent to 3 per cent, leading to a profound increase in soybean imports (Freemantle & Stevens, 2011). China also uses other trade measures, such as export restrictions on staple foods, as a way to protect domestic stocks when world prices spike (Freeman, Holslag & Weil, 2007).

Between 2001 and 2010, Chinese soybean imports increased ten-fold, from US\$2.8 billion to over US\$25 billion, and rubber imports increased eight-fold, from US\$2 billion to US\$16.9 billion (Freemantle & Stevens, 2011). Furthermore, China aims to replace 12 million tonnes of petrol with 2 million tonnes of biodiesel (which can be made from soybean and palm oil) and 10 million tonnes of bio-ethanol (which can be made from sugarcane and corn) each year, much of which will need to be supplied by imports (Freemantle & Stevens, 2011). To secure these commodities, China relies on U.S. and European transnational agribusinesses, such as Archer Daniel Midlands, Bunge, Louis Dreyfuss and Cargill, who dominate the trade in soybeans and other agricultural commodities (Soyatech, 2012).

China is concerned about its dependence on global commodity markets, both in terms of costs associated with purchasing from traders, and the high volatility of agricultural prices. In an interview with *The China Daily*, the president of a state-owned Chinese agricultural company, Chongqing Grain Group, said “most Chinese companies import soybeans through the four largest grain dealers However, if importers can purchase from the producers, 18 to 24 per cent of the profit could be saved” (Chang, 2011).

As a result, China is actively investing abroad to allow its companies to directly manage and control agricultural production, buy directly from producers, and to expand their market opportunities in third countries. Acquiring farmland is one of the investment strategies that China is pursuing. But it is part of a much broader strategy that includes joint ventures with local governments or local companies and contracts with local farmers.

The Shift to Foreign Investment: Going Global

Over the past few years, there has been a shift from relying on world markets to relying increasingly on foreign direct investment to secure imports. China reached a turning point in 2001 when it formally adopted the “Go Global” strategy. The policy is the first major drive by the government to encourage investors to go abroad. In many ways it is China’s “coming out” and shows a desire by the government to turn Chinese enterprises into global players.

The policy makes it easier for Chinese companies to invest abroad. This involves removing legal and administrative barriers—it was previously impossible or extremely difficult for Chinese companies to get permission to invest abroad—providing generous incentives,⁵ and concluding bilateral investment treaties (BITs) to protect Chinese investors (Bernasconi & Johnson, 2012).

A 2006 Outward Investment Direction Policy was issued to help shape and implement the “Go Global” policy. The aim is to increase access to resources abroad, expand markets for export, and enhance technological capacity, management skills and human resources for Chinese businesses (Bernasconi & Johnson, 2012). Agriculture is listed as one of the priority sectors in this directive.

A food security strategy issued on November 13, 2008 makes specific reference to the Go Global strategy.⁶ On June 29, 2012, the National Development and Reform Commission—formerly the State Planning Commission, which has administration and planning control over the Chinese economy—in association with several other ministries, released a

⁵ Including subsidies, credits, grants and loans.

⁶ 国家粮食安全中长期规划纲要（2008—2020年）（Mid and Long term plan for State Food Security (2008-2020)), November 13, 2008, http://www.gov.cn/jrzq/2008-11/13/content_1148414.htm (only available in Mandarin).

policy guideline, whereby agriculture is identified as a priority sector and the government will provide financial support to Chinese investors and reduce the administrative hurdles.⁷

Since the launch of the “Go Global” strategy, overseas investment has increased dramatically. Throughout the 1990s, China’s overseas direct investment was around US\$2 billion per year. In 2001, annual flows of overseas direct investment totalled US\$6 billion and in 2010 totalled US\$68 billion (placing it fifth among other economies in terms of annual foreign direct investment outflows, but only representing 5 per cent of total global outflows) (Freeman, 2008; Bernasconi & Johnson, 2012).

Chinese overseas investment in agriculture is significant when compared to other countries. In 2007, stocks of Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) in agriculture were roughly US\$1.2 billion, making it the third largest source, behind only the United States and Canada (UNCTAD, 2009). And the number is growing. In 2010, China’s Ministry of Commerce reported that stocks had grown to US\$2.6 billion (Ministry of Commerce, 2010).

Nevertheless, agriculture still remains a small fraction of total Chinese investment abroad. In 2010, stocks of Chinese FDI were roughly US\$300 billion. The agriculture sector accounted for 1 per cent of the total. The largest sectors were business services and leasing (30 per cent), finance (19 per cent), mining (16 per cent) and wholesale and retail (14 per cent) (Bernasconi & Johnson, 2012). The sectors growing most rapidly are mining and other extractive industries, particularly oil and gas (Bernasconi & Johnson, 2012). In short, when it comes to the agriculture sector, China is one of the biggest investors abroad, but when it comes to China’s overall investment stocks, agriculture is still only a fraction (although growing steadily).

A Diverse Strategy for Agriculture

China’s foreign investment in agriculture takes different forms. First, there are **aid projects** where land is sometimes purchased abroad to set up demonstration farms. This type of investment dates back to the 1950’s but has become increasingly profit-driven. In the 1980’s, China’s aid projects “began to blur the line between aid and profit” (Brautigam & Xiaoyang, 2009, see Box 1 and Table 1). This approach was further expanded in the mid-1990s. Today, an important motivation for China’s demonstration farms and other aid projects is helping to establish new markets for Chinese agricultural enterprises abroad—not unlike the strategy that is used by many industrialized countries (Brautigam & Xiaoyang, 2009). For example, the Chinese state-owned enterprise, China-Africa Cotton Development Limited, has a joint venture in Malawi to produce, process and export cotton back to China. The project combines aid and commercial ventures. The project involves construction of a processing plant and purchasing cotton from local farmers (Magombo, 2011; “The Miracle of Malawi Cotton Industry,” 2010). Further research is needed to examine the impacts of this project, but this type of investment could potentially provide an opportunity to improve Africa’s agricultural development and to ensure benefits accrue to local farmers and the economy.

Second, Chinese companies **invest in agricultural production**, for example, through joint ventures and contract farming, as a way to bypass the dominance of U.S. and European agribusiness traders. In Latin America, for example, Chinese investors have been more actively pursuing investment in agricultural production, particularly soybeans. This is often

⁷ 《关于鼓励和引导民营企业积极开展境外投资的实施意见》(Implementing Opinion concerning Encouraging and Assisting Private Enterprises to Invest Overseas), June 29, 2012. http://www.mof.gov.cn/pub/mof/zhengwuxinxi/zhengcefabu/201207/t20120704_664002.htm

because of the strict foreign ownership laws in Latin America. In Brazil, China was interested in acquiring land, but regulations on foreign ownership meant that Chinese investors have now chosen to go down the path of contract farming. They are negotiating contracts for the supply of agricultural commodities, particularly soybeans, and setting up joint ventures for production, processing and storage facilities and infrastructure. In 2011, a mix of four private and state-owned Chinese enterprises were negotiating a US\$7 billion agreement in the state of Goiás to produce 6 million tons of soybeans a year for export to China (Mr. A. Camilo de Lima, personal communication, November 8, 2011; Barrionuevo, 2011). In addition, Chinese investors are expected to invest US\$2 billion in a soybean crushing plant and storage facility and US\$100 million to improve port facilities in Sao Francisco do Sul (Soybean and Corn Advisor, 2011).

And third are **investments in land and water** resources, which are dealt with in detail in section 7. China is pursuing this strategy to various degrees all over the world. To date, Asia has been the main target, but local resistance has sometimes forced China to find more socially and politically acceptable business models. China has also pursued other models in Asia including, contract farming and joint ventures, as well as aid and development cooperation, particularly with the Mekong River Basin countries, to help improve agricultural productivity.⁸

BOX 1: AID PROJECTS

For decades, China has used aid projects, known as agricultural cooperation, to boost agricultural production abroad, particularly in Africa. It often involves purchasing or leasing farms, but production is typically not intended for export back to China. It is more likely to be sold to local markets or third countries. Brautigam and Xiaoyang provide an overview of how China's global agriculture policy has evolved since the 1950s (see Table 1) (Brautigam & Xiaoyang, 2009).

Agricultural cooperation was strengthened in 2006 with the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and through the creation of the China–Africa Development Fund in 2007.⁹ According to a 2011 White Paper from the Ministry of Commerce, by 2010, China had completed 221 agricultural cooperation projects including 35 demonstration farms, 47 technology stations, 11 livestock projects, 15 fisheries projects, 47 irrigation and water conservation projects, and 66 other types of projects (Information Office of the State Council, 2011). The government has sent hundreds of senior agricultural experts to work in 33 African countries and provided training to a large number of local agricultural technicians (Ministry of Commerce, 2011).

China has also signed a number of Memoranda of Understanding on agricultural cooperation with some Asian countries (Chinese Foreign Ministry, 2011). In April 2007, China endorsed the 2006–2010 Strategic Framework for Sub-Regional Cooperation in Agriculture and Core Agriculture Support Program (CASP) with Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. China has held training classes, undertaken model biogas projects, launched rubber and pig-breeding projects and signed agreements to set up agricultural technology parks (National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Ministry of Finance, 2008).

⁸ See Annex 1 for further details of Chinese investment projects in Asia.

⁹ The fund is projected to reach US\$5 billion (Freeman, 2008)

TABLE 1: EVOLUTION OF CHINA'S OVERSEAS AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT

YEAR	POLICY	ACTIVITIES
Since mid-1950s	Agricultural cooperation through aid	Developing large, state-owned farms in the host countries, such as state-owned sugar or tea plantations in Africa.
Since 1970s	Agricultural cooperation through aid	Developing small- and medium-sized agricultural demonstration projects.
Since mid-1980s	Principles of foreign cooperation including, the principles of mutual benefit, promoting the economic growth of host and home countries, and implementing sustainable development projects.	Revitalize faltering and failed projects and embarking on new initiatives, particularly experimenting with and incorporating new market principles, and partnerships with international organizations. Types of business models included joint ventures, co-operation contracts, debt-equity swaps, public-private partnerships and aid-sponsored joint ventures.
Since 1995	Contribute to the host state while providing opportunities for Chinese businesses abroad.	Setting up 221 agricultural cooperation projects. Provision of agricultural machinery and equipment. Activities implemented with a combination of aid and other types of state assistance such as loans with preferential terms, export credits, and diplomatic support.
Since 2001	"Go Global" strategy and enhanced cooperation, particularly with Africa, through FOCAC.	Encourage Chinese companies to invest abroad in a number of priority sectors, including agriculture. Removal of barriers to outward investment and incentives to invest abroad.

Sources: Brautigam & Xiaoyang (2009), pp. 689-690; Bernasconi & Johnson (2012).

Investment in Farmland and Water

Annex 1 provides an overview of Chinese investments involving purchases or long-term concessions for large tracts of agricultural land and water resources (over 2,000 hectares). It also includes examples of aid projects where demonstration farms were bought or joint ventures that include land concessions. The information is based on research from official government sources, company sources, reports from NGOs, academics, think tanks and the media, and interviews with government officials. The list of projects is not exhaustive. Due to the lack of transparency related to foreign investment projects—not only from China but from investors all over the world—it is extremely difficult to provide a complete picture.

The authors found reports of 86 Chinese projects covering 9 million hectares of land in developing countries. Not all the reports are accurate. If we were able to find a company or official government source to support the report, then we considered the information reliable. Reports from the Xinhua News Agency and the People's Daily were also considered reliable given their reputation in China as authoritative sources of government information. If we were only able to find a media or NGO source, we classified the project as “not confirmed,” and where the media source was extremely vague or ambiguous we classified the project as “unknown.”

Of the 86 reported projects, we were able to confirm the existence of 55 projects covering 4.9 million hectares. Not all 55 projects are in operation, but, at a minimum, a contract or memorandum of understanding had been signed. In three cases the projects were suspended:

- One due to local opposition in the Philippines for a project covering 1 million hectares.
- One due to a court order in Argentina for a project covering 300,000 hectares.
- One in the Democratic Republic of Congo for a project covering 100,000 hectares.

In Africa, there are 18 confirmed Chinese projects covering 380,000 hectares, many of which are part of China's aid and cooperation program, although those projects only cover around 10 per cent of the total area under concession. This is compared to estimates by the Land Matrix of a total of 408 projects in Africa covering 17 million hectares (Land Matrix, n.d.).

In Asia, there are 29 confirmed Chinese projects covering 2.5 million hectares of land. This is compared to estimates by the Land Matrix of a total of 342 projects in Asia covering 23 million hectares. In Central Asia, there are three confirmed projects covering just over 1 million hectares. And finally, in Latin America there are five confirmed projects covering 770,000 hectares. This is compared to estimates by the Land Matrix of a total of 150 projects in Latin America covering 6.6 million hectares (Land Matrix, n.d.).

Among the confirmed Chinese projects, there are a number of very large projects that are in operation or in the planning phase. This includes one project covering 1 million hectares of land in Kazakhstan by the state-owned Jilin Grain Group for soybean production. There are five projects over 100,000 hectares for a mixture of biofuels and food production and seven projects over 10,000 hectares and seven projects over 2,000 hectares.

These large projects are of most concern because of a growing body of evidence demonstrating the seriously negative effects of the current model of investment in land— not only from Chinese investors but from investors from all over the world. In 2010, the World Bank released a report about the impact of large-scale agricultural projects in poor countries (World Bank, 2010). The World Bank said that, in general, investors were targeting countries with weak land governance, resulting in land transfers that often neglected existing land rights. They pointed to a culture of secrecy in which communities (and even government officials) are not consulted or informed about land deals until after they had been signed. The World Bank also found that investment projects failed to generate employment (World Bank, 2010). Since then, a number of other intergovernmental organisations, academics, and NGOs have conducted research and field visits and made similar findings.¹⁰ While these findings do not specifically point the finger at China, any government or investor acquiring land abroad, including China, should proceed responsibly and in compliance with domestic laws and international treaties and standards.

¹⁰ Studies were undertaken by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Foodfirst Information and Action Network (FIAN), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Grain, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), International Land Coalition, Land Deals Politics Initiative, Oakland Institute, Oxfam International, and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Bank.

Recommendations

A number of tools can be used to help design responsible and sustainable investment projects and assess their performance. First, a series of guidelines and principles for foreign investment have been developed at the global level over the past few years to respond to the massive rise in foreign investment in the agriculture sector.¹¹ They remain at a general level but can be used to inform investment choices and to assess the performance of existing projects.

Second, getting the contracts right is essential. Many governments and investors have signed contracts covering thousands of hectares of land that are vague and ambiguous on key investment issues, including land tenure rights, access to and management of water resources, expected employment opportunities and skills training, managing pollution and other potential environmental hazards, and ensuring that business plans are feasible. The contract forms the legal basis for the life of the investment project. It is crucial that expected benefits for the host country from the investment are clear, verifiable and measurable. The investor's rights and responsibilities must also be spelled out.

Third, very few agricultural projects have carried out environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs). ESIAs are increasingly becoming part of the global norm around investment, and impressive international standards and practices exist. They can be easily deployed. In addition, many countries now have an environmental protection agency that can oversee such assessments and suggest appropriate expertise to ensure independence. ESIAs should be conducted, their findings taken seriously, and the results made public.

Finally, increased transparency and participation. The culture of secrecy worldwide that surrounds agricultural investment raises concerns about government conduct in relation to issues of public interest. The lack of transparency undermines government accountability, and increases opportunities for corruption and other inappropriate acts. While certain provisions in contracts can contain sensitive commercial information that may require a level of confidentiality, this can be resolved through restricted confidentiality clauses.

The scale of these agricultural projects and the extensive use of land and water resources go beyond simple business transactions. They form the basis of the host country's economic and social development strategy and therefore require public participation. If contracts are made public, there is a much greater chance that the terms of the deals will be more fair and balanced. There is a lower risk of corruption and bribery and more likelihood for community support.

At a minimum, the communities that are living on the land or using the natural resources where the investment takes place must be consulted and involved in the decision-making process. Other stakeholders, including all relevant government ministries, national parliaments and the public should be informed of the proposed project and involved where appropriate.

¹¹ These include: African Union's *Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa* (2010); World Bank, UNCTAD, FAO and IFAD's *Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments* (2009); Committee on World Food Security's *Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests* (2011); UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights, *Principles for Responsible Contracts* (2010); Pension Funds' *Principles for Responsible Investment in Farmland* (2011); and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, *Large-Scale Land Acquisitions and Leases: A Set of Minimum Principles and Measures to Address the Human Rights Challenge* (2009).

Conclusion

China is actively pursuing investment opportunities abroad. In 2010, China became the fifth largest source of annual foreign investment outflows around the world, although only representing 5 per cent of the total. In addition, China is now the world's third largest source of foreign investment stocks in agriculture, behind only the U.S. and Canada. Agriculture has become a priority sector for Chinese overseas investments, and is expected to continue increasing in significance.

Importantly, China has a strong domestic agricultural base and a sound food security policy that enables it to be largely food self-sufficient. However, there are a few agricultural products that China does not produce in sufficient quantities. These products, particularly soybeans, cotton, palm oil, dairy products, hides, skins, and wool, are heavily used for the livestock, manufacturing and energy sectors. China is dependent on world commodity markets to obtain them. To reduce this dependence, China is implementing a complex investment strategy that includes purchasing directly from producers, investing in production abroad through contract farming and joint venture arrangements, and directly acquiring foreign land and water resources.

As with all investment projects that involve transfer of land title and water resources to foreign investors, there is cause for concern about China's investment ambitions abroad. The few large-scale agricultural projects that currently exist require further examination and assessment to measure the impacts on the host state and on people's livelihoods. We recommend a few simple measures as a starting point.

Investment in the agriculture sector, particularly in the poorest countries, is desperately needed, and China can play a positive role. Ensuring that foreign investment operates within a sound economic, legal and public policy framework is essential. The key is for host countries to have investment policies that will ensure investment projects contribute to improving livelihoods, strengthening food security, creating jobs and using natural resources in a sustainable manner.

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Annex 1: Chinese Investment in Agriculture Abroad

Host State	Investor	Ownership (State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) or private)	Size (hectares)	Purpose and targeted market	Crops	Type of project	Status[1]	Source
Africa								
Benin	China National Complete Plant Import and Export Corporation Group, COMPLANT	SOE	4,800		Cassava, sugar cane	Joint venture, part of China-Africa Development Fund	In operation	Official government source: 中成集团与贝宁政府签署关于生物燃料项目的备忘录(COMPLANT-Benin government memorandum concerning bioluel project) November 14, 2009. http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/jlyjyk/201007/201007042267.html . 中國在貝投資情況介紹(Introduction of Chinese investment in Benin), March 4 2009. http://bj.mofcom.gov.cn/article/dd/gk/zwzwhcnou/200903/20090306076373.html (only available in Mandarin) NGO source: GRAIN, Land Grab Deals, January 2012
Cameroon	Shanxi State Farm Agribusiness Corporation Group	SOE	10,000	Food production for local market, bioluel, ostrich for local market and export.	Rice, corn, fruit, vegetables, cassava	Agricultural technology demonstration center, part of Chinese aid program	In operation, More money will be invested.	Company source: 新时期中非投资合作：现状、问题与对策——以喀麦隆为例 (Investment Cooperation of Sino-African in New Era: Current Situation, Problems and Solutions - Case Study in Cameroon), November 8, 2011, China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation, http://219.141.227.201/sinosure/xwz/ydzl/zyz/dwzxs/139343.html (only available in Mandarin) 陕西农垦的领袖人 (Leader of Shanxi SFAO), May 5, 2009. http://www.sxdlnc.cn/news/show.asp?tid=61 (only available in Mandarin) 陕西农垦的领袖人 (Leader of Shanxi SFAO), May 5, 2009. http://www.sxdlnc.cn/news/show.asp?tid=61 (only available in Mandarin) NGO source: Unpacking a Chinese company's land grab in Cameroon, GRAIN, October 22, 2010. http://farmlandgrab.org/post/view/16485
Democratic Republic of Congo	ZTE Energy Company	SOE	10	Food production for local market	Corn, soybean, kidney bean, cassava and vegetables	Demonstration farm	In operation	Company source: Congo (Kinshasa) Agricultural Development Project. http://www.zte-e.com/en/prod_js.aspx?ID=738
Democratic Republic of Congo	ZTE Energy Company	SOE	100,000	Producing bioluels for local energy needs.	Palm oil, corn, cassava	Commercial operation	Memorandum of Understanding signed. Project currently on hold.	Company source: 中兴能源股份有限公司介绍(Introduction of ZTE International Investment CO.LTD), ZTE International Investment Co. Ltd. http://ztec.com/investments_detail.php?tid=65 (only available in Mandarin) Media source: Chinese company in DR Congo to offer thousands of jobs for locals, Xinhua, July 10, 2009. http://www.globaltimes.cn/china/diplomacy/2009-07/445226.html
Ethiopia	Hunan Dalingyuan	Private	25,000	Export	Sugarcane	Commercial operation	Contract signed	Official government source: http://farmlandgrab.org/uploads/attachment_data/file/91494/Hunan-Agreement.pdf
Ethiopia	Adventure Ethiopia Agricultural Development	Joint venture with South African and Ethiopian companies	50,000	Bioluels for export			Not confirmed	NGO source: Rapid Assessment of Bioluels Development Status in Ethiopia And Proceedings of the National Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment and Bioluels. http://www.melca-ethiopia.org/images/stories/Publication/Eth_Bioluel_Assessment-Final.pdf . Land Matrix: Agroluel Development in Ethiopia. http://www.bioluelwatch.org.uk/docs/Agroluel-In-Ethiopia.pdf
Ethiopia	ABSA Biofuels PLC	Joint venture with South African and Ethiopian companies	30,020	Bioluels for export			Not confirmed	NGO source: Rapid Assessment of Bioluels Development Status in Ethiopia And Proceedings of the National Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment and Bioluels. http://www.melca-ethiopia.org/images/stories/Publication/Eth_Bioluel_Assessment-Final.pdf . Land Matrix: Land deals advanced search: A B S A Bioluels PLC http://www.commercialpressuresonland.org/land-deals/search/advanced/results?field_id_investor_name%3A%22A.B.S.A.%20Bioluel%20PLC.%22

[1] If we were able to find a company or official government source to support the media reports, then we considered the information reliable. Reports from the Xinhua News Agency and the People's Daily were also considered reliable given their reputation in China as authoritative sources of government information. If we were only able to find a media or NGO source, we classified the project as "not confirmed," and where the media source was extremely vague or ambiguous we classified the project as "unknown."

Ethiopia	Africa Ethiopia Biomass Energy PLC	Private	2,000	Biofuels for export			Not confirmed	<p>NGO source: Rapid Assessment of Biofuels Development Status in Ethiopia And Proceedings of the National Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment and Biofuels. http://www.meca-ethiopia.org/images/stories/Publication/Eth_Biofuel_Assessment-Final.pdf, Land Matrix, Land deals advanced search: Africa Ethiopia Biomass Energy PLC http://www.commercialpressuresonland.org/land-deals/search/advancced/results/field_id_investor_name%3A%22Africa%20Ethiopia%20Biomass%20Energy%20PLC%22</p>
Madagascar	COMPLANT International Sugar Industry Co. Ltd	SOE	22,000	Sugar production and refinery for local market and EU Bioethanol for local market	Sugar cane	Commercial operation	In operation	<p>Company source: 马达加斯加那吉亚糖业投入生产 (Madagascar sugar refinery into production), June 8, 2010, China National Complete Plant Import & Export Corporation, http://www.complant.com/yw/16.htm (only available in Mandarin), Media source: 中成集团马达加斯加糖业投资项目将于2010年糖季生产 (COMPLANT Sugar Investment in Madagascar Began in 2010), http://www.sdic.com.cn/zxxzyq/dt/201006/1277080614710056.htm (only available in Mandarin)</p>
Mali	China Light Industrial Corporation for Foreign Economic and Technical Cooperation (CLETC)	SOE	20,000	Sugar and biofuel for local market	Sugarcane	A joint venture between CLETC and Mali government and private enterprise	In operation and plant expansion planned	<p>Official government source: 驻马里大使张国政和马总统杜尔共同为中马合资糖厂项目奠基 (Foundation ceremony for China-Mali joint venture of sugar refinery), August 3, 2009, http://mi.china-embassy.org/chn/zxxzy/76612.htm (only available in Mandarin), Official source: Contract between Government of Mali and CLETC. http://farmlandgrab.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Nsukiala-convention.pdf</p>
Mali	China Geo-Engineering Corporation, China National Hybrid Rice R&D Center	SOE and academic institute	100,000		Hybrid rice and wheat	Joint venture with Libya (Maliya)	In operation	<p>Official government source: Contract between Libya and Mali. http://farmlandgrab.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Convention.pdf Government research: GITZ, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Land in Mali, 2009 (2010), www2.giz.de/dokumentation/bib/giz2010-0064-en-foreign-direct-investment.html NGO source: www.grain.org/seedling/?id=679 Media sources: www.aqter.asso.fr/article/392_fr.html, www.ipisnews.net/af/ricar/india.asp?ndnews=51160 Company source: 马里利姆农水粮研发项目简介 (Introduction of rice R & D project between China-Libya in Mali) http://www.chinageo.com.cn/news/detail.asp?N_Lid=317 (only available in Mandarin)</p>
Mozambique	Hubei State Farm Agribusiness Corporation	SOE	1,000	For local market	Rice	Demonstration farm	In operation	<p>NGO source: GRAIN, Land Grab Deals, January 2012 Official government source: 湖北省农森在莫桑比克建农场 (Hubei Nongken establishes farm in Mozambique) September 6, 2007, http://ncr.com.gov.cn/news/2656802.html; 湖北农森海外投资 走出农村 蹚新空间 (Hubei Nongken goes abroad and explores new areas), 25 March 2010, http://pre.hubei.gov.cn/zqkzwdt/bmdt/201003/120100325_114898.shtml (only available in Mandarin) Media source: Rice/Cassava, Vietnamese, Chinese set to boost production in Edo, Business Day Online, 5 July 2010 http://www.businessdayonline.com/NG/index.php/news/jales/12404-ricecassava-vietnamese-chinese-set-to-boost-production-in-edo NGO source: GRAIN, Land Grab Deals, January 2012</p>
Nigeria	Chinese Investors		15,000	Export	Cassava		Unknown	<p>Media source: INTERVIEW: China near Senegal deal to grow peanuts: Wade Reuters, 10 July 2009 http://ar.reuters.com/article/AR-LAS7094920090710_ 中国或租塞内加尔10万公顷土地种植花生 30%产量可供出口 (China may lease 100,000 hectares land to grow peanuts, 30% may be exported) 10 July 2009, http://finance.ifeng.com/news/bq/20090710/920628.shtml (only available in Mandarin)</p>
Senegal	Chinese government	govt	100,000	30% for export, 70% for local market	Peanuts	Unknown	Not confirmed	

Senegal	Dalong Trading Enterprise	private	60,000	Export to China	Sesame	Commercial operation	In operation	Media source: Senegal's Wade reaffirms support Chinese investor. China English People's Daily Online, February 10, 2009. http://english.people.com.cn/0002/96397/96401/6589642.html . Official government source: 中國民營企業首次投資塞內加爾農業領域, (Chinese private enterprise's first investment in Senegal's agriculture sector), July 12, 2011. http://www.ccpl-cclt.org/newsread.asp?de=313&type=3 (only available in Mandarin)
Sierra Leone	COMPLANT	SOE	2,000	Export	Cassava, sugarcane	Commercial operation	In operation	NGO sources: GRAIN, Land Grab Table, 2012. Oakland Institute, Understanding Land Investment Deals in Africa: Sierra Leone. http://www.oaklandinstitute.org/UNDERSTANDING-LAND-INVESTMENT-DEALS-AFRICA-SIERRA-LEONE Official government source: 中視身格巴新糖業有限公司正式開始投入生產 (MAGBASS sugar company starts to operate), February 6, 2005. http://si.mofcom.gov.cn/article/jmw/200502/20050200344716.html (only available in Mandarin)
Sierra Leone	Shanghai construction investment	SOE	30,000	Unknown	Rice and rubber plus infrastructure development (construction of railroads and irrigation)	Commercial operation.	Not confirmed	Media source: Chinese firm investments \$1.3bn in S.L. leone farmland. Capital Alternatives, 18 January 2012. http://www.capitalalternatives.com.au/chinese-firm-investments-1-3bn-in-si-leone-farmland-afj/ ; African investment planned http://www.laipeletimes.com/News/biz/print/2012/01/20/2003523638
Sudan	ZTE Energy Company	SOE	10,000	Food production for local agriculture development	Wheat, corn, kidney soybean etc.	Agricultural Experimental Park and commercial operation	Experimental park in operation	Company website: China-Sudan Agricultural Experimental Park. http://www.zte.com/en/prod_us.asp?ID=739 Media source: 中國苏丹加東農業合作 前景光明 (Promising Prospect for China-Sudan Agricultural Cooperation) Xinhua. http://news.ifeng.com/world/detail_2010_05/11/1506101_0.shtml (only available in Mandarin)
Tanzania	China International Water and Electric Company	SOE	100,000	unknown	Corn	Unknown	Unknown	NGO Source: Cecile Frits & Anette Reenberg, Land Grab in Africa: Emerging land system drivers in a teleconnected world. The Global Land Project International Project Office, GLP Report No.1 2010, August 2010. http://www.globallandproject.org/Documents/GLP_report_01.pdf
Tanzania	China State Farms Agribusiness Tanzania Ltd	SOE	1,218	Sisal[2] production and processing, product export to EU and China	Sisal hemp	Investment for profit	Not confirmed	Media source: 中國農業發展集團國際農業合作開發有限公司 (Introduction of China Agriculture International Development Co. Ltd), China National Agriculture Development Group Corp. http://www.xiemaowang.com/detail/3083744.html (only available in Mandarin); 中國農業發展開發股份有限公司第三屆董事會第十五次會議決議公告及召開2008年第三次臨時股東大會通知(notice of the 3rd board meeting and shareholder meeting of China State Farms Agribusiness Corp. Tanzania Ltd), 8 November 2006. http://stock.stocksstar.com/A/2009030400029623.shtml?ID=12429 (only available in Mandarin)
Tanzania	Chongqing Zhongyi Seed CO.LTD	SOE	62	Food. Production for local market.	Rice, maize and vegetables	Agricultural technology demonstration center	In operation	Official government source: 重慶遠中國糧租桑尼亞農業技術中心成功移交. (China-Aid Agricultural Technology Demonstration Center Successfully Transferred to Tanzania Government), 26 May 2011. http://www.cq.gov.cn/oldday/news/317861.htm (only available in Mandarin)
Tanzania	Chongqing Zhongyi Seed CO.LTD	SOE	300	Food. Production for local needs, and surplus export to China.	Rice	Investment for profit	Not confirmed	Media source: 重慶企業將租桑尼亞種植 (Chongqing enterprises will go to Tanzania for grain plantation), 7 May 2008. http://www.africanwindows.com/html/feizhoushangxun/20080507/18350.shtml (only available in Mandarin)

[2] Sisal is a plant that yields a fibre that was traditionally used for making rope. It is now used to make paper, cloth, wall coverings and carpets.

Uganda	Hebei Hanhe Co.	private	8,100	Food, Production and livestock for local market	Poultry, cattle, corn, rice and wheat	Part of China aid program, and investment for profit	In operation	Company source: 公司位于农场快讯 (Brief News from Uganda Farm), Hebei Hanhe Agricultural Technology Company. http://www.hibanhe.com/shownews.asp?id=251 (only available in Mandarin) Media source: 超越梦想——白燕汪汶娟 (与千农) 农场9.29竣工典礼纪实 (Surpass the dream- the ceremony for the establishment of Shijiazhuang Hanhe (Uganda) farm), 2012-01-26. http://blog.sina.com.cn/s/blog_4bc18bc0101230n.html (only available in Mandarin)
Zambia	Chinese government	Government	2,000,000	Biofuels	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Media source: Outsourcing's third wave : Rich food importers are acquiring vast tracts of poor countries' farmland. Is this beneficial foreign investment or neo-colonialism? The Economist, 21 May 2009 http://www.economist.com/node/13692889
Zambia	China State Farms Agribusiness Corporation (Group)	SOE	6,667	Food, Production for local market	Rice, corn, vegetables and livestock	Part of Chinese aid program, also investment for profit	Not confirmed	Academic source: Li Weiguo and Zeng Yande. 中国与赞比亚农业合作发展前景 (Prospect of Agricultural Cooperation between China and Zambia). World Agriculture, Volume 11, 2006. http://weas.cas.cn/upload/2011/06/d20110613085741218.pdf (only available in Mandarin)
Zambia	Jilin Agricultural University, China	Academic Institute	120	Food, Production for local market	Corn, soybean, etc.	Agricultural technology demonstration centre	In operation	Official government source: China-aid agricultural technology demonstration center in Zambia. http://202.198.0.222/zy/english/xmgs.asp
Zimbabwe	China International Water & Electric Corporation	SOE	100,000	Local market	Corn, sorghum	Commercial operation	Contract signed	NGO source: Cecillie Friis & Anette Reenberg. Land Grab in Africa: Emerging land system drivers in a teleconnected world. The Global Land Project International Project Office. GLP Report No.1 2010, August 2010. http://www.globallandproject.org/Documents/GLP_report_01.pdf ; Official government source: 中水电网中标津巴布韦农业开发项目 (China International Water & Electric Corp. wins the bid for the biggest agricultural project in Zimbabwe). February 27, 2003. http://www.hnrw.net/news/view.php?nodeid=14228 (only available in Mandarin)
Zimbabwe	Anhui State Farms Agribusiness Corp. Group	SOE	700	Food, Production for local market.	Wheat	Agricultural demonstration plot	In operation	Company source: 安徽农垦出席在津巴布韦建立示范农场 (Anhui SFAC Agricultural Investment in Zimbabwe). October 29, 2011. http://www.ahnk.com.cn/display.asp?id=6492 (only available in Mandarin)
Subtotal Confirmed Hectares								463,792

Cambodia	Grand Land Agric Dvpt		9,854		Indigenous trees as teak and hinccornales wood		Contract signed and in operation	Official government source: Cambodian Ministry of agriculture, forestry and fisheries www.maf.gov.kh/en/profile/24-sig/85-st-grandland.html ; GTZ, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Land in Cambodia, 2009, www2.gtz.de/wb/14dx9kw63gma/gz2010-0061en-foreign-direct-investment-cambodia.pdf NGO source: Land Matrix
Cambodia	Great Asset Agricultural Development (Cambodia) Co., Ltd		8,985		Pistacia Chinasis Bunge and other trees plantation		Contract signed and in operation	Official government source: Cambodian Ministry of agriculture, forestry and fisheries www.maf.gov.kh/en/profile/16-kt/48-katle-greatasset.html Government research: GTZ, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Land in Cambodia, 2009, www2.gtz.de/wb/14dx9kw63gma/gz2010-0061en-foreign-direct-investment-cambodia.pdf ; NGO source: Land Matrix
Cambodia	Land and Developing (Cambodia)		7,000		Acacia and Rubber		Contract signed	Official government source: Cambodian Ministry of agriculture, forestry and fisheries http://www.maf.gov.kh/en/profile/18-ndk/62-mkr-hand.html ; NGO source: Land Matrix
Cambodia	Phou Mady Investment Group		10,000		Acacia, teak and other trees		Contract signed and in operation	Official government source: Cambodian Ministry of agriculture, forestry and fisheries www.maf.gov.kh/en/profile/24-sig/88-st-phoumady.html ; NGO source: Land Matrix
Cambodia	Seang Long Green Land Investment (Cambodia) Co., Ltd		7,000		Acacia and rubber		Contract signed	Official government source: Cambodian Ministry of agriculture, forestry and fisheries www.maf.gov.kh/en/profile/18-ndk/64-nkr-seanglong.html ; NGO source: Land Matrix
Cambodia	Unigreen Resource Co., Ltd		8,000		Rubber		Contract signed	Official government source: Cambodian Ministry of agriculture, forestry and fisheries www.maf.gov.kh/en/profile/18-ndk/66-nkr-unigreen.html ; NGO source: Land Matrix
Cambodia	Un-Inter Trading and Development Group (Cambodia)		7,000		Acacia and rubber		Contract signed	Official government source: Cambodian Ministry of agriculture, forestry and fisheries www.maf.gov.kh/en/profile/24-sig/94-st-uninter.html ; NGO source: Land Matrix
Cambodia	Wuzhishan L.S Group	Private	10,000	Merkusii plantation and construct processing factory	Indigenous Pine (pinus mercusii)	Commercial operation	Contract signed	Official government source: Cambodian Ministry of agriculture, forestry and fisheries www.maf.gov.kh/en/profile/18-ndk/61-nkr-wuzhishan.html ; GTZ, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Land in Cambodia, 2009, www2.gtz.de/wb/14dx9kw63gma/gz2010-0061en-foreign-direct-investment-cambodia.pdf ; NGO source: Land Matrix Media source: http://www.aimnes.com/ainnes/Southeast_Asia/HL08A01.html ; 海南五指山集团有限公司 (Hainan Wuzhishan Group) http://www.qjjob.com/company/company-show-268.htm (only available in Mandarin) Government research: GTZ, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Land in Cambodia, 2009, www2.gtz.de/wb/14dx9kw63gma/gz2010-0061en-foreign-direct-investment-cambodia.pdf ; NGO source: Land Matrix; List of land concession companies signed contract with MAFF http://www.wtjgfe.org/Docs/Statistics/Land%20Concession.pdf
Cambodia	Kimsville Corp.		3,200		Apple, Cashew, Cassava		Unknown	

Indonesia	ZTE Energy Company	SOE	7,000	Biofuel for export	Oil palm	Acquisition for profit	In operation	Company source: Palm Industry in Southeast Asia. http://www.zte-e.com/en/prod_js.aspx?ID=726
Indonesia	China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC)	SOE	1,000,000	bio-ethanol for export	oil palm, sugar cane and cassava	Commercial operation with plantation and palm oil refinery	Not confirmed	Media source: China's CNOOC in \$5.5 billion Indonesian Biofuel Deal, Reuters, 9 January 2007. http://uk.reuters.com/article/2007/01/09/indonesia-bioenergy-venture-idUKJAK17155320070109 ; 中国将在印尼投资生物燃料 (Biofuels Deal in Indonesia is Agreed to CNOOC), 10 January 2007, http://www.khinese.com/story/001008859ce (only available in Mandarin)
Indonesia	Tanjun Julong Group	Private	24,000	Biofuel for export	Oil palm	Commercial operation	In operation	Company source: 天津聚龙集团入股“最具全球竞争力”中国公司50强 (News about Julong Group), 1 November 2011, http://www.longoil.com/news/news_detail.asp?id=3139 (only available in Mandarin)
Indonesia	Citic Group	Joint venture with Indonesian companies (Sinar Mas Group and Artha Graha)	500,000	Biofuel for export	Oil palm	Commercial operation	MoU signed	Media source: 天津滨海新区民企聚龙集团入股“最具全球竞争力”中国公司50强 (Tianjin Binhai districts private company Julong Group is selected as one of the top 50 Chinese companies which have the most global competitiveness) November 7, 2011, http://news.163.com/11/1107/16/719708K4U0014J56.html (only available in Mandarin)
Laos	Yunnan State Farms Group Co., LTD	SOE	4,613	Rubber for manufacturing industry for export to China and third countries	Rubber	Commercial operation. Rubber plantation. Establish demonstration farm and contract farming arrangements.	In operation	Company source: 云南农垦加强与老挝经济合作 (Yunnan State Farms Group strengthens economic cooperation with Laos) September 13, 2011, http://www.yn-videa.com/new/Ebz4/EbzPortalEbzPortal/htm/Content.htm?intP=ubish_infoID=5373e930e0233328e4e5c20035f32 (only available in Mandarin)
Laos	ZTE International	SOE	50,000	Export	Cassava	Unknown	Not confirmed	Media source: Laos and the Resource Curse, Asian Sentinel, 21 Oct 2010, http://farmlandgrab.org/post/view/17039 ; 中兴新战略：海外种植 (New strategy of ZTE: overseas plantation) 4 September 2008, http://finance.sina.com.cn/changjib/20080904/10125271563.shtml (only available in Mandarin)
Laos	Ari Construction and Building Repairment Co.		100	Export	Rubber	Commercial operation	Not confirmed	Government research: GITZ, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Land in the Lao PDR, http://www.gtz.de/wb/4Dx9w63gna/gz2010-0062en-foreign-direct-investment-lao.pdf ; NGO source: Land Matrix: Land deals advanced search: Ari Construction and Building Repairment Co http://www.commercialpressurereasonland.org/land-deals/search/advanced/results/field_id_investor_name%3A%22Ari%20Construction%20and%20Building%20Repairment%20Co%20
Laos	Cherchanghang Co.		200	Export	Rubber	Commercial operation	Not confirmed	Government research: GITZ, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Land in the Lao PDR, http://www.gtz.de/wb/4Dx9w63gna/gz2010-0062en-foreign-direct-investment-lao.pdf ; NGO source: Land Matrix

Laos	Mengla Jiachuang Rubber Trading Co.	Private	2,000	Export	Rubber	Commercial operation	Contract signed	<p>Government research : GITZ, Weiwei Shi, "Rubber Boom in Luang Namtha: A Transitional Perspective", February 2008, www2.gtz.de/wb/4tdxqk63gmsa5hiv_rubber_Luang_namtha_0802_final.pdf, www.landcoalition.org/cpl-blog/?p=4764#more-4764;</p> <p>Company source: 越南嘉成橡胶公司简介 (Introduction of Mengla Jiachuang Rubber Trading Co.) http://www.mjlcoj.com/news/about.html</p> <p>Media source: 西双版纳勐腊县加强与老挝经贸合作 (Xishuangbanna Mengla county strengthens the economic cooperation with Laos) 6 January 2009, http://yn.yunnan.cn/bri/html/2009-01/06/content_187007.htm (only available in Mandarin)</p>
Laos	Yunnan Native Produce Import and Export Corporation	Private	5,000		Rubber		Contract signed	<p>Official Government Source: 老挝云南加大橡胶种植合作 (Laos and Yunnan strengthen cooperation to plant rubber) August 29, 2007, http://yunnan.motcom.gov.cn/aarticle/sjdxlansw/200708/20070805039747.html</p>
Laos	Yunnan Power Biological Products Group	Private	267	Export	Rubber	Commercial operation with participation of local farmers	In operation	<p>Official Government Source: 老挝云南加大橡胶种植合作 (Laos and Yunnan strengthen cooperation to plant rubber) August 29, 2007, http://yunnan.motcom.gov.cn/aarticle/sjdxlansw/200708/20070805039747.html</p>
Laos	Yunnan Power Biological Products Group	Private	100,050	Provide seeds, fertilisers and technology to local farmers and let them plant, afterwards purchase back from local farmers	Sugar cane, Cassava	Alternative plantation, Commercial operation	In operation	<p>Company Source: 中国助老挝赶糖季 (China helps Laos extinguish poppies), October 23, 2009, http://www.power.com.cn/news/ShowArticle.asp?ArticleID=17; http://www.power.com.cn/gjll/ShowClass.asp?ClassId=23</p>
Laos	Thien Loui Ye Company		7,000	Export	Rubber	Commercial operation	not confirmed	<p>Academic Research: Svenja Haberecht, From Rice To Rubber: Development, Transformation, And Foreign Investment in Northern Laos, An Actor-Oriented Approach, diploma thesis presented in the winter term 2008/2009 at the University Of Bielefeld, Faculty Of Sociology, (2008), www.uni-bielefeld.de/de/rtcr/ag_sozanth/publications/working_papers/wp365.pdf, www.landcoalition.org/cpl-blog/?p=4764#more-4764</p> <p>NGO source: http://landportal.info/landmarktxyget-the-detailby-investor/237</p>
Laos	Tongfheun Lao-China Agriculture Development		500	Export	Trees	Commercial operation	Not confirmed	<p>Government research : GITZ, "Foreign direct investment (fdi) in land in the lao pdf", December 2009, www2.gtz.de/wb/4tdxqk63gmsa5hiv_giz2010-00062en-foreign-direc-investment-lao.pdf</p>
Malaysia	Guangdong Guangken Rubber Group	SOE	12,000	Rubber for manu-facturing industry for export to China and third countries	Rubber	Commercial operation, Rubber plantation.	In operation	<p>Media source: 广东农垦海外战 (Overseas Investment of Guangdong State Farms Agribusness Corporation Group), the South, June 26, 2010, http://www.nrkx.com/gd/ShowArticle.asp?ArticleID=2857 (only available in Mandarin); 广东农垦海外建橡胶基地 种植面积18万亩 满足国内消费需求 《人民日报海外版》 (Guangken rounds overseas rubber plantation base which has 12,000 Hectares in order to satisfy domestic demand) Peoples Daily Overseas Edition, May 26, 2009, http://paper.people.com.cn/rmhwb/html/2009-05/26/content_261026.htm (only available in Mandarin)</p>
Pakistan	China Green	Private	4,000	Food production for local market	Fruit and vegetables	Unknown	Planning stage	<p>Media source: China agri-firm to buy Pakistan farmland, 29 Nov 2011, http://www.landbusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?nid=259070277;</p> <p>巴基斯坦欢迎中国投资农业领域 提供最大援助 (Pakistan welcomes and is willing to provide best assistance to Chinese companies to invest in agricultural sector) 26 November 2011, http://news.china.com.cn/olive/2011-11/26/content_11388203.htm (only available in Mandarin)</p>

Philippines	Helongjiang Beidahuang Group	SOE	200,000	Food production for local market and export	Rice and corn	Establishing demonstration farm and investment for profit	Contract signed and in operation	Media source: 中国北大荒集团计划在黑龙江种植玉米 (Beidahuang Group plans to grow corn in Philippines) 22 November 2006. http://futures.stockstar.com/GA2006112200379869.shtml (only available in Mandarin)
Philippines	Jilin Fuhua Agriculture Science and Technology	Private	530,000	Food production for local market	Corn	Establish demonstration farm, promote hybrid corn seed and help improve local food production.	In operation	Official government source: 外经媒体采访: 菲省企业在菲推行合作项目 甘露: 菲 (Eyes on cooperative project in Philippine), Department of Commerce of Jilin Province, China, Jan. 26, 2007. http://www.jlcc.com.gov.cn/gz/gzjlyzc_29045f02994201110120111009_1085710.htm (only available in Mandarin)
Philippines	Jilin Fuhua Agriculture Science and Technology	Private	1,000,000	Food production for local and export	Corn, sorghum and rice	Commercial operation, Plantation.	First phase of construction approved by National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), but suspended by Philippines government due to local opposition.	Official government source: 吉林省晋华公司菲菲粮粮食生产基地合作项目取得积极进展 (Progress of Jilin Fuhua Company in Philippine cooperative grain production base construction), Office of the Leading Group for Revitalizing Northeast China, May 16, 2007. http://chinanews.com/2007-05/16/content_10036216.htm (only available in Mandarin)
Philippines	Jilin Fuhua Agricultural Science and Technology Co	Private	3,000	Food production	Corn	Commercial operation.	Contract signed	Official government source: 长春市赴东南亚招商收效丰 (Changchun City investment cooperation with Southeast Asia), September 27, 2011. http://www.cic.mofcom.gov.cn/web/cic/info/Article.jsp?2a_no=273492&col_no=459 (only available in Mandarin)
Philippines	Jilin Fuhua Agricultural Science and Technology Co	Private	30,000	Food production	Rice	Commercial operation.	Contract signed	Official government source: 长春市赴东南亚招商收效丰 (Changchun City investment cooperation with Southeast Asia), September 27, 2011. http://www.cic.mofcom.gov.cn/web/cic/info/Article.jsp?2a_no=273492&col_no=459 (only available in Mandarin)
Philippines	Eastern Renewable Fuels Corp	Private	4,500	Biofuels	Cassava	Commercial operation	Unknown	Government research: GTZ Field Information "Private Land Investments For Food & Biofuels" By Riza Bernabe (2011) http://www.easternpetroleum.com.ph/eastern-renewables-fuels-corporation.php
Philippines	Green Future Innovations, Inc.	Private venture among Japan's corporations, the Philippine corporation, and Taiwanese holding company GCO	11,000	Biofuels	Sugar cane	Commercial operation	Unknown	Government research: GTZ Field Information "Private Land Investments For Food & Biofuels" By Riza Bernabe (2011). Company source: http://www.greenfutureinnovations.com/

Philippines	Fresh Wind Bio-technology Corp.	Private, Joint venture with Australian company (Curcas Energy Australia)	240,000	Biofuels	Jatropha	Commercial operation	Not confirmed	Government research: GTZ Field Information "Private Land Investments For Food & Biofuels" By Riza Bernabe (2011) NGO source: Land Matrix, http://landportal.info/landmatrix/get-the-detail/by-investor/362
	Patche Footwear	Private	1,400				Not confirmed	
India								NGO source: Social Development Foundation, Delhi, Land Matrix
Subtotal Confirmed Hectares								2,565,269

Host State	Investor	Ownership (State- Owned Enterprise (SOE) or private)	Size (hectares)	Purpose and targeted market	Crops	Type of project	Status ^[1]	Source
Central Asia								
Kazakhstan	Jilin Grain Group Co. Ltd.	SOE	1,000,000	Food production for export to China	Soybean	Commercial operation	Planning stage	Official government source: 我省海外农业合作稳步向前推进 (Overseas agricultural cooperation of Jilin Province move forward). Office of Jilin overseas agriculture development, 21 March 2010. http://www.jilinnongye.com/Abansanongshizheng/2010-03-21/1371.html (only available in Mandarin)
Russia	Hunchun Quansheng Overseas Agriculture Development Co. Ltd.	Private	3,000	Food production for export to China	Rice	Commercial operation	In operation	Official government source: 我省海外农业合作稳步向前推进 (Overseas agricultural cooperation of Jilin Province move forward). Office of Jilin overseas agriculture development, March 21, 2010. http://www.jilinnongye.com/Abansanongshizheng/2010-03-21/1371.html (Only available in Mandarin)
Russia	Heilongjiang Beidahuang Group	SOE	80,000	Food production and processing for export to China	Wheat, barley, soybeans, maize, rice	Commercial operation	In operation	Official government source: 黑龙江省委实施“走出去”战略 (Agriculture go abroad strategy) in Heilongjiang Province. Heilongjiang Nongken Group. http://dzbzs.ndrc.gov.cn/zjpb/20090416_272935.htm (only available in Mandarin)
Tajikistan	China	Govt	2,000	Local market	Rice	Commercial operation	Not confirmed	Media source: 中国租赁吉克斯坦2千公顷土地 用于种植水稻 (China leases 2000 hectares land to plant rice in Tajikistan), 20 January 2011. http://news.qq.com/qjoo/20110120/041807.shtml . Tajikistan Signs Over 2000 Hectares to Beijing. http://www.dailymotion.com/video/huzux_tajikistan-signs-over-2000-hectares-to-beijing_news
Subtotal Confirmed Hectares								1,083,000

Host State	Investor	Ownership (State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) or private)	Size (hectares)	Purpose and targeted market	Crops	Type of project	Status[1]	Source
Latin America and the Caribbean								
Argentina	Heilongjiang Beidahuang Group	SOE	300,000	Food production for export to China	Soybean, wheat, and oilseed rape	Argentina will initially provide the investor with 3,000 hectares free of charge for a demonstration farm. China will help Argentina build an irrigation system and develop port infrastructure, which will be leased to the investor for at least 50 years.	Contract signed, Project suspended following court order	Official government source: contract between government of the province of Rio Negro, Argentina, and Heilongjiang Beidahuang Group. http://farmhandgrab.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/2/acuerdo.pdf NGO source: New agricultural agreement in Argentina: A land grabber's instruction manual. January 27, 2011, GRAIN. http://www.grain.org/article/entries/4139-new-agricultural-agreement-in-argentina-a-land-grabber-s-instruction-manual NGO source: New agricultural agreement in Argentina: A land grabber's instruction manual. January 27, 2011, GRAIN. http://www.grain.org/article/entries/4139-new-agricultural-agreement-in-argentina-a-land-grabber-s-instruction-manual , GRAIN, Land Grab Deals, January 2012
Argentina	Heilongjiang Beidahuang Group	SOE	237,000	Export	Soybean	3000 hectares for demonstration farm, 234000 hectares for commercial operation	Planning stage	Media source: Chinese Investments in South American Agribusiness. Robobank Industry Note 276-2011. http://www.institutionalinvestorchina.com/arty/uploads/soit/110808/1_1504223371.pdf Official government source: 北大荒商投集团在阿根廷圣克鲁斯省进行土地开发 (Beidahuang Business Trade Liability Group Co. explores land in Argentina). July 20, 2011. http://www.nj.gov.cn/zxwd/system/2011/07/20/010207919.shtml (only available in Mandarin)
Bolivia	Pengxin Group	Private	12,500	Exports	Maize and soybean	Commercial operation	Unknown	Company source: http://www.peng-xin.com.cn/eng/Groupinfo106100104.shtml , http://www.peng-xin.com.cn/hongye/change/10102102.shtml , NGO source: GRAIN, Land Grab Deals, January 2012 Media source: CCG is setting up a soybean base in Brazil. China Daily, Nov. 24, 2011. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bz/zchna/2011-11/24/content_14153948.htm ; 重庆市长梁洪波会见中粮集团代表 (Chongqing mayor talks about purchasing land in Brazil to plant soybean). January 14, 2011. http://futures.stockstar.com/G2011011430000722.shtml (only available in Mandarin) Official government source: 重庆粮食集团57亿建巴西大豆基地 (Chongqing Grain Group invest 5.7 billion in soybean base in Brazil). April 21, 2010. http://www.cq.gov.cn/today/news/206355.htm (only available in Mandarin) 重庆粮食集团首批巴西大豆出油 (Chongqing Grain Group refines oil from the first shipment of soybean from Brazil). October 12, 2011. http://www.cq.gov.cn/today/news/206355.htm (only available in Mandarin)
Brazil	Chongqing Grain Group	SOE	200,000	Cooking oil to be sold in the Chinese and Brazilian markets. Biodiesel fuel and soy technin product.	Soybean	Joint venture, Commercial operation	In operation	Media source: CCG is setting up a soybean base in Brazil. China Daily, Nov. 24, 2011. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bz/zchna/2011-11/24/content_14153948.htm ; Official government source: 中国企业巴西两地每年“收成”等八 (Chinese companies harvest well for the past two year's plantation in Brazil). November 30, 2010. http://www.hrbj.gov.cn/content/161/68528.html (only available in Mandarin)
Brazil	Pengxin Group	Private	200,000	Export	Cotton, soybeans	Commercial operation	Not confirmed	NGO source: GRAIN, Land Grab Deals, January 2012; Land Matrix
Brazil	Zhejiang Fudi Agriculture Group and Heilongjiang Beidahuang Group	Private	17,000	Export to China for animal feed	Soybean, rice	Commercial operation	In operation	Media source: 中國投資者巴西兩地受挫調查 (Chinese Investor failed in Acquisition of Land in Brazil). China Economic Net, 13 June 2011. http://intl.ce.cn/zqjy/201106/13/20110613_22276625.shtml
Brazil	Heilongjiang Beidahuang Group	SOE	Unknown	Unknown	Soybean	Commercial operation	Not confirmed	

Brazil	Hopeful Sanhe, Hopeful Grain and Oil Group Co.Ltd	Private	Unknown	Soybean production export to China	Soybean	Commercial operation	Not confirmed	Media source: Chinese Investments in South American Agribusiness, Robobank Industry Note 276-2011, http://www.institutionalinvestorchina.com/arty/uploads/soft/110808/1_1504229371.pdf ; China plants bitter seeds in South American farmland, 1 February 2012 http://farmlandgrab.org/post/view/19981
Brazil	Chinese government and Pallas Investment Corporation	Mix of government and private company	200,000	Land purchase for production of renewable energy	production of renewable energy, i.e. biodiesel, solar, wind and biomass	Commercial operation	Not confirmed	Media source: Chinese Investments in South American Agribusiness, Robobank Industry Note 276-2011, http://www.institutionalinvestorchina.com/arty/uploads/soft/110808/1_1504229371.pdf NGO source: Situation and Outlook Grain Industry, http://www.nopa.org/content/newsroom/2012/David%20Neilson%20Presentation_2012%20NOPA%20Industry%20Forum_Grain%20Situation-Outlook.pdf
Colombia	Chinese government	Government	400,000	Export	Cereals	Commercial operation	Not confirmed	Media source: Allitlanura está en los planes de empresas extranjeras para el cultivo de palma de aceite, maíz, soja y caña, Portafolio, Martes 19 de Junio de 2012 http://www.portafolio.co/archivo/documento/CMS-7884750 , NGO source: GRAIN, Land Grab Deals, January 2012 Media source: Sugar rush - Chinese firm close to acquiring state-owned factories, The Gleaner, July 14, 2010, http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20100714/lead1.html , 中成糖业公司收购牙买加三家糖厂完成最后交接仪式 (the completion of purchasing three Jamaican sugar estates by COMPLANIT) August 19, 2011, http://www.cacs.gov.cn/cacs/news/xiangguanshow.aspx?articleid=88199 (only available in Mandarin)
Jamaica	COMPLANIT International Sugar Industry Co. Ltd	SOE	18,000	Sugar production for local market	Sugarcane	Acquisition of three sugar estates for profit	Contract signed	
Subtotal Confirmed Hectares								772,000
Total reported hectares								9,149,055
Total confirmed hectares								4,884,061

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