



The 4th International Conference of BICAS
November 28-30, 2016
China Agricultural University, Beijing, PR China

[Agro-extractivism inside and outside BRICS: agrarian change and development trajectories]

Conference Paper No. 21

The Impacts of Land Grabbing on The Livelihood of Small Scale Farmers in Tanzania; A Case of SAGCOT Areas in Ruvuma Region

Frank Ademba & Denis Mpagaze

Organized jointly by:



COHD 人文与发展学院
College of Humanities and Development Studies (COHD)



Universidade de Brasília



Disclaimer: The views expressed here are solely those of the authors in their private capacity and do not in any way represent the views of organizers and funders of the conference.

November, 2016

Follow us on websites and social media:

Websites:

www.iss.nl/bicas

<http://cohd.cau.edu.cn/>

www.plaas.org.za/bicas

<http://www.ufrgs.br/english/home>

www.tni.org

www.future-agricultures.org

Weibo:



<http://weibo.cn/developmentstudies>

WeChat:



Check regular updates via BICAS website: www.iss.nl/bicas

For the conference information, please visit: <http://cohd.cau.edu.cn/bicas>

**Agro-extractivism inside and outside BRICS: agrarian change and
development trajectories**

**The impacts of land grabbing on the livelihood of small scale farmers in
Tanzania; A case of SAGCOT areas in Ruvuma Region**

Frank Ademba and Denis Mpagaze

ABSTRACT

In recent years, agriculture in Tanzania has been affected by repeated climatic and economic shocks, resulting in sustained low crop yields and leading to food insecurity at both household and national levels. The challenge for Tanzania is therefore to use the potential surrounded in agriculture to contribute towards poverty reduction, economic growth, and food security. In an effort to address the challenges and enhance the potential opportunities presented by the Tanzanian economy and her agrarian sector, the Tanzanian government introduced the Tanzanian Development Vision (TDV) 2025 Strategies for implementing TDV 2025 include: The National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUKUTA I-II) and Agricultural First (KILIMO KWANZA).The government of Tanzania has prepared the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor Programme (SAGCOT), to make southern parts of Tanzania a hub of food to feed the world. Ruvuma is among of committed region in Tanzania to transform Agricultural and has been identified a huge potential land of investment . In Lipokela village 5,000 acres of land, previously used by people within the village for cultivation, were transferred to the control of a Singaporean coffee investor, Olam-Aviv company which is a SAGCOT partner since May 2014, villagers unanimously agreed that it was without their consent. Montara Farm in Lutukira village control over 50,000 acres slated for investment as a part of SAGCOT plan . This is the same-grabbing land through force and without people consent. This paper informs how big investors become a threat to the survival of small scale farmers in Ruvuma .The paper also cautions us that bragging ourselves that we have large piece of land for investors is deceiving nobody but ourselves. Land in SAGCOT is being offered cheaply to investors, often leasing at less than \$1 per hectare per year. This increases the reality of rural communities losing their access to and control over land, water, seeds and food to large investors, largely through policy commitments on land titling and land reform. It shows that some corporate partners involved in the New Alliance are already accused of taking part in land grabbing. Thus why land conflicts increase every single day. Today Tanzania has an average of five land conflicts every day, and of these five, three occur between big investors and small scale farmers.

1.0 Introduction

The convergence of the food and financial crises in recent years has shifted the development agenda in ways that reprioritize food and agriculture¹. In this new context, agriculture is now considered as a channel for governments and donors to meet the ongoing challenges of food insecurity and hunger. In Tanzania the agricultural agenda is implemented through Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), the idea which emerged from Norwegian fertilizer giant Yara for the purpose of developing unutilized land². The aim of SAGCOT is to make agriculture a business rather than development activity by linking small scale farmers to global agribusinesses through outgrower model. By 2030 SAGCOT has planned to bring 350,000 hectares of land under commercial production, transition of 10,000 small scale farmers to commercial farmers, generate 420,000 new jobs, build and rehabilitate agriculture supporting infrastructure such as roads, railways, dams and irrigation systems, generate USD \$1.2 billion in annual farming revenue and lift two million people out of poverty.³

The assumption behind SAGCOT is that land in Tanzania is available and abundant and thus can be allocated to investors. This misconception about abundant land has triggered many foreign investors to occupy our fertile land without accounting for where this land originates from. The result is therefore that “sowing the seed of conflicts in Tanzania”. We can therefore refer to SAGCOT programme as another name for land grabbing in Tanzania in the name of job creation and poverty alleviation. This work therefore reports the impacts of land grabbing on the livelihood of small scale farmers in Tanzania; with specific focus of Ruvuma Region.

2.0 Prevailing agenda

The majority of soil in sub Sahara Africa is infertile, to achieve intensive productive of cash crops, the use of inorganic fertilizers, pesticides and high yielding seeds will be increasingly portrayed by the companies as indispensable to reducing hunger levels on the continents and providing food for export.⁴ The convergence of the food and financial crises in recent years has shifted the

¹ Hannah, T & Christina S, (2014) Impact of large scale agricultural investment in southern high land of

² Yara in Agricultural growth Corridor; <https://mikaelbergius.wordpress.com/tag/tanzania/>

³ SAGCOT, Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania: Investment Blueprint, January 2011, Preface, www.sagcot.com

⁴ Could an alliance between big agribusiness and small-scale farmers produce enough food to feed the continent and beyond? www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/nov/23/future-farming-africa-private-sector

development agenda in ways that reprioritize food and agriculture. In this context, agriculture is considered as a channel for governments and donors to meet the ongoing challenges of food insecurity and hunger. In Tanzania the agricultural agenda is implemented through Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), the idea which emerged from Norwegian fertilizer giant Yara for the purpose of developing infertile soil and unutilized land⁵. Yara has already invested some US \$ 25 million in a port of terminal in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) for parking and distributing fertilizers in the SAGCOT corridor.⁶ The aim of SAGCOT is to make agriculture a business rather than development activity by linking small scale farmers to global agribusinesses throughout grower model.

However, in practice, SAGCOT has become source of tension and food insecurity to small scale farmers. It is a strategy which facilitates land grabbing. Everywhere with SAGCOT projects situation is not calm. Small scale farmers are in conflicts with large investors farmers because the land given to large farmers is taken away from small scale farmers claiming it to be idle land. This is a misleading statement. Very little land is truly idle in Tanzania, given the reality that investors go to where people live so that they can get cheap labours and other infrastructures. so with this reality, SAGCOT is here to impoverish people.

The ongoing large investment through agriculture under the umbrella of SAGCOT is here to impoverish life, damage resources and ecosystem. It is a strategy which places profits before humanity forgetting that food is human rights and not for profit. Agribusiness multinational companies such as Monsanto, Syngenta, Yara Unilever, Syngenta, and Bayer are already in the country doing business with the poor farmers.⁷ They are here to benefit from the poor through outgrowing schemes .

3.0 International and National policy framework underlying land grabbing situation in Agricultural Growth Corridors Tanzania

In 2008 UN General Assembly proposed the concept of African Agricultural Growth Corridor The 'African Agricultural Growth Corridor, in 2009 and 2010 then the world Economic forum (WEF) meetings in Switzerland and World Economic Forum (WEF) Africa in Dar es salaam , Tanzania describes itself as

⁵ Yara launches usd 25 million fertilizer terminal in tanzania,
<http://www.sagcot.com/fileadmin/documents/2015/Yara.pdf>

⁶ Launch of Yara fertilizer terminal: The launch of Yara's fertilizer terminal project marks the first investment in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor. 13 Jan 2011.
http://www.norway.go.tz/News_and_events/Private-Sector/Launch-of-Yara-fertilizer-terminal-/

⁷ <http://www.weforum.org/issues/agriculture-and-food-security>

committed to improving the state of the world by engaging in the business, political and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industrial agendas⁸

In 2011 the World Economic Forum (WEF) put forward a Roadmap for stakeholders in preparation for their New vision for Agricultural which according to WEF, the aim is to promote food security, environmental sustainability and economic growth and opportunity and identify the particular role of the private sector in achieving these things, this all presented in the context of feeding the 9 billion in 2050 and the asserted need to increase production by 70. the new vision initiative includes the G7 and G20, plus 11 countries in Africa , Asia and Latin America.WEF also jointly convenes the Growth Africa Partnership with the Africa Union and The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)⁹

Ten African countries including Tanzania have signed up to the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition – the G7 (formally G8) countries’ main strategy for supporting agriculture in Africa which was launched in 2012. This initiative seeks to catalyses private sector investment into Africa, with partner governments committing to investor-friendly reforms in return.¹⁰ The Cooperation Frameworks to which these African governments have agreed collectively involve 213 policy commitments covering a range of agriculture and food security issues such as trade, tax, land, seeds and inputs.¹¹ The New Alliance claims that: “Through these policy commitments, governments are making headway on some of the most longstanding constraints to agricultural investment and food security.”¹²

In an effort to address the challenges and enhance the potential opportunities presented by the Tanzanian economy and her agrarian sector, the Tanzanian government introduced the Tanzanian The National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUKUTA I-II) Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP) and KILIMO KWANZA. the implementation of KILIMO

⁸ Helen Paul and Ricarda S,(2013) *African Agricultural Growth Corridor and the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, Who benefit, who loses - Report*

⁹ Helen Paul and Ricarda S,(2013) *African Agricultural Growth Corridor and the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, Who benefit, who loses - Report*

¹⁰ *New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, Tanzania: Progress in Public Private Partnership [sic] in Agriculture Transformation, June 2014, p.28, www.new-alliance.org*

¹¹ SAGCOT, *Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania: Investment Blueprint, January 2011, Preface, www.sagcot.com*

¹² ‘G8-Tanzania Land Transparency Partnership’, June 2013,

<http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/20674633/197938021/name/Tanzania+Land+Transparency+Partnership+Final+clean.docx>

KWANZA Policy (Agricultural First) required a massive investment of which the government and his people could not attain, in order to achieve the Agricultural investments, the Private sector were attracted by introducing the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor.

This sound super beautiful but the truth is that more than any other time in history outside forces is deciding the future of our farming systems because the poor small farmers who are the target are not involved in deciding on issues which touch their lives. The small scale farmers who are the owner of agriculture are completely underrepresented in the partnership. For example here in Tanzania neither government nor SAGCOT bother to consult with those who have the biggest stake in rebuilding agriculture in Tanzania. Instead all the Tanzania Policy Framework has kicked out small farmers in the movie.

4.0 SAGCOT: Who is Behind the Deals

SAGCOT was born out of the deliberations of the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Africa held in May, 2010 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania as part of a broader push for the development of 'agricultural growth corridors' across Africa by the WEF and other powerful economic actors, first presented before the United Nations General Assembly in 2008 (Hannah, T & Christina, 2014). The idea which emerged from Norwegian fertilizer giant Yara for the purpose of developing unutilized land through incorporating the private sector in agriculture. The government of Tanzania warmly received the idea because it reflected what was already in place. The Tanzania KILIMO KWANZA police for example which was launched in 2009 strived to incorporate the private sector in agriculture through the formation of 'public-private partnerships' model. Through this model, private sector would participate actively in agricultural production, provision of agricultural inputs, crop marketing and in the agricultural value chain.

The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition the G8 countries' main strategy for supporting for agribusiness in Africa that was launched in 2012, **Tanzania**, whose New Alliance Cooperation Framework is being coordinated by the US, has allocated 350,000 hectares to large companies in the SAGCOT (Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor) project, funded by the US and UK¹³. Land in SAGCOT is being offered cheaply to investors, often leasing at less than \$1 per hectare per year. This increases the reality of rural communities losing their access to and control over land, water, seeds and food to large investors, largely through policy commitments on land titling and land reform.

¹³ *G8 cooperation framework to support the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Tanzania, undated, pp.5-6, <http://feedthefuture.gov/article/food-security-and-g8-summit>*

It shows that some corporate partners involved in the New Alliance are already accused of taking part in land grabbing¹⁴

5.0 Modernizing land acquisition in Tanzania

According to Deininger¹⁵, the focus of investor interest on countries with weak land governance increases the risk that investors acquire the land essentially for free and in neglect of local rights, with potentially far-reaching negative consequences such as the failure to value land at its true opportunity cost. However, according to the objectives of the SAGCOT initiative, such investments will lead to improved access to finance, infrastructure, modern farming inputs and expertise, and Tanzania's smallholder farmers could achieve much higher yields, allowing them to sell into regional and international markets. The Infrastructure diagrams for the corridors proposals suggest that production is more likely to focus on commodities for international markets, rather than helping local communities practice agriculture for local food security/ sovereignty, placing them in the role of contract farmers and outgrowers rather than independent food providers

Though the SAGCOT initiative makes claims of extensive benefits to Tanzania's smallholder farmers,¹⁶ observed that policy makers did not sufficiently integrate small scale farmers in the consultations and implementation of the SAGCOT project.

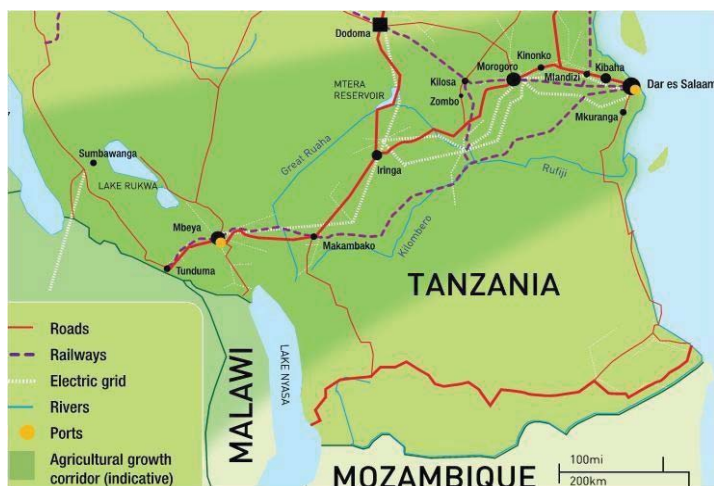
¹⁴ Action aid, *New alliance, new risk of land grab (may 2015) Evidence from Malawi, Nigeria Senegal and Tanzania*,

¹⁵ Deininger, K. (2012) 'the Rise of Large Farms in Land Abundant Countries: Do They Have a Future?' *World Development*, Vol. 40, No. 4, pp.701-714.

¹⁶ Hakiardhi and Mbunda, R. (2011) 'Kilimo Kwanza and small-scale producers: an opportunity or a curse? Research report'.

6.1 Why Southern Corridor of Tanzania?

The southern corridor covers approximately one-third of mainland Tanzania. It covers around 287,000 km² area with a population of 11 million. It involves 7.5



million Ha, of which some 2 million ha are cultivated by small scale farmers who also keep cattle's, goats and poultry. 110,000 ha are cultivated by commercial farmers mainly for sugarcane and tea for export. According to the SAGCOT Blueprint of January 2011. The corridor extends north and south of the central rail, road and power 'backbone' that runs

from Dar es Salaam to the northern areas of Zambia and Malawi. This part was opted because the area is rich in resources and great potential for agriculture production. It contains some of the country's most fertile lands, extensive forests and wildlife, and access to water, and is served by a backbone infrastructure of paved highways, rail, and electric transmission lines¹⁷. The region boasts many areas of adequate rainfall potential for irrigation, and access to domestic, regional, and international markets. The region produces most of the food we consume in the country. The production of food is mainly done by small scale farmers who own an average of 2.5-3.0 hectares of land.¹⁸ By 2030 SAGCOT has planned to bring 350,000 hectares of land under commercial production, transition of 10,000 small scale farmers to commercial farmers, generate 420,000 new jobs, build and rehabilitate agriculture supporting infrastructure such as roads, railways, dams and irrigation systems, generate USD \$1.2 billion in annual farming revenue and lift two million people out of poverty.¹⁹

¹⁷ SAGCOT, A Green Growth Investment Framework for SAGCOT: The SAGCOT Greenprint, August 2012

¹⁸ SAGCOT Investment Blueprint, <http://www.sagcot.com/resources/downloads-resources/>

¹⁹ SAGCOT, Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania: Investment Blueprint, January 2011

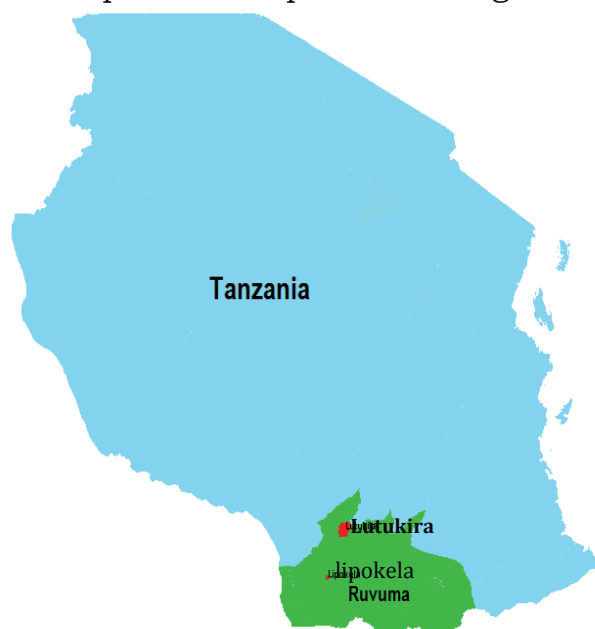
6.2 SAGCOT: Another name for land grabbing

In practice, SAGCOT is a strategy which facilitates land grabbing leading to conflicts. Everywhere with SAGCOT projects situation is not calm. Small scale farmers are in conflicts with large investors farmers because the land given to large farmers is taken away from small scale farmers claiming it to be idle land. This is a misleading statement. Very little land is truly idle in Tanzania, given the reality that investors go to where millions of Tanzanians used to farm for the purpose of getting cheap labours and other infrastructures.

7.0 Cases from the Ground (Ruvuma region)

Why Ruvuma?

Two cases from Lutukira and Lipokela villages from Ruvuma village will be used to explain the impacts of land grabbing on the livelihood of the people.



Montara Company Limited at Lutukira village formed a joint venture with Lutukira Mixed Farm Limited, thereby establishing the Tanzania-based Montara Land Company Limited. Furthermore, Montara Continental Limited operates as a subsidiary of Obtala Resources. Large-scale agricultural plantation slated to grow ground nuts and sunflower for biofuels production, however there has been limited crop production. Montara Company Limited

occupies 50,000 acres of arable land. The land was acquired against prior and informed consent of the Lutukira residents.

Olam Aviv Company is another case based Lipokela village . In Lipokela village 5,000 acres of land, previously used by people within the village for cultivation, were transferred to the control of a Singaporean coffee investor, Olam-Aviv company which is a SAGCOT partner since May 2014, villagers unanimously agreed that it was without their consent.

8.0 Land acquisition Mechanism

8.1 Land acquisition through people's ignorance

Although land is considered to be the most valuable asset in life, the findings of this study report other way round. Small scale farmers offer land to investors cheaply. Merely plate of rice with beans small scale farmers surrendered 50,000 acres of land to the investor. as the following information were captured

As a village, we were hesitating on that first day. We were a bit confused since we were many. He promised us food at the very moment. Truly we ate the food. That was like a motivation which stimulated us much to decide giving him that land (area) for most of us were hungry when we arrived there. So we couldn't see the reason of not giving him big land. So we gave him.

The investor knew well the ways in Africa that without 'kitu kidogo' (the little things) you cannot receive. Laconically *Kitu kidogo (the little things)* stands for bribery or any incentive a person offers before service. If such culture isn't fought to an end the coming of SAGCOT will leave small scale farmers in endless inferno. Big investors will use *economy of affection* to robe all the land.

The investor promised 0.9 US Dollar so that villagers could attend the meeting. One villager explained,

"..the first day the investor arrived here, he deceived us with 0.9 US Dolla each to attend the public meeting. He actually gave us the money. He then announced to the public that we have sold our land to him for 0.9 Dollar. After that meeting, I heard the government officials saying that we have sold all our land for 0.9 Dollar

8.2 Land acquisition through force

Some of investors misuse public human resources (the police) to make his ends meet. This happened in Lipokela village when small farmers were forced to quit their land with unfair compensations. Peasants were given two options; to either accept small amount of money or miss both the money and land. All the citizens couldn't opt for the latter. A woman during in dept interview said:

"I had more than two acres growing only beans. Later the investor came. We were told that we would be compensated. When the payment day approached we were asked to enter the room one by one and forced to sign on an empty paper without being informed of the amount to be given. I asked, "Why hasn't it been written anything?" They said, "Sign it first by putting your thumb; then pass through this table." I passed there and I got sixty eight thousand shillings. I told them, "The amount is not satisfactory." I was answered, "If you do not like leave it." I took the

little amount left the room. When I came out, I told my fellow villagers who were on the queue, "My fellow villagers; should not agree to receive the money for they do not tell us prior the amount we would get." My fellow villagers responded, "Aah! We are afraid of the policeman for he is here, he will shoot us. We are going to receive it as it is for it is better to receive missing."

Therefore, chasing peasants away from their land isn't solution to food crisis. the system in which peasants operate that has made them less productive.

8.3 Unfair compensation

Villagers were forced to quit their land without fair compensations. They were given two options; to either accept small or leave it out. One woman explained,

They told us to sign on a paper which had not been written on anything. I asked, "Why hasn't it been written?" They said, "Sign it first, put your thumb; then go to that table." I I got sixty eight thousand shillings. I told them, "The amount is not enough." I was answered, "If you do not like you level it. (Find payment list).

9.0The impact of land grabbing on livelihood of small scale farmers

9.1 Land rights

In many parts of Tanzania particularly in Ruvuma 85% of local people depend on the land for their livelihood , Often small scale farmers do not have any legally recognized right to that land , It is also unusual for collective use of land to be recognized in law or understood in policy making ,yet land is quite often managed collectively, sometime according to well defined rules and traditional customers of the villagers.²⁰ The impact is that the villagers have no more land to grow food. They have to travel a significant distance to look for another land. Many cannot produce for surplus. They have no more income to supplement their food. One villager explains,

²⁰ Fact Sheet: G-8 Action on Food Security and Nutrition. White House Press Release 18 May 2012.
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/05/18/fact-sheet-g-8-action-food-security-and-nutrition>

The good land which has remained is that which is used by the investor which a peasant with low income could utilize. The remaining land needs a peasant to walk for three to four days to reach the farm.

The arrival of Olam Aviv on the land that was cultivated by residents of the village until 2001 has placed more pressure upon the village's land access.

Worse the land was taken without basing on free, prior and informed consent of original users of the land: Villagers were not involved in the evaluation process of their land. Meetings were organized in the presence of armed forces: Remigius Njovu explains:

Their meeting ordered us to move out of our land even by force and we moved. We were shocked to hear the government that we were expecting to help use force. We were really shocked. When we arrived at the village office, were told, "We called you here collect some incentives, removing here without any incentive is not fair, It is better we give you some little money and go to find some plots in other places, the current land that you are occupying you invaded the investor 's land. Whether you like or not you will have to move! Many people wept. We reluctantly received the money. Nobody was satisfied with the payments. For example, I owned 14 acres of and received 180 US Dollars. This has psychologically affected me because I sued the land to raise my children well , educate and sustain life , I have economically shaken, I do not know what to do .

Remigius Edward Njovu from Lipokela village in the Ruvuma region now works as a laborer after losing his farm. The situation has since made him unable to cater for his family.

One of Olam Officials during informal conversations said that they are obliged to invest nearby the people to capture cheap labour. Investors have taken all the land to such an extent that small scale famers are facing difficulties in accessing social services. Another respondent from one lipokela said:

Lack of land has caused scarcity of food in our village. We are obliged to walk to nearby villages to rent the land for growing crops. However, they are sometimes so reluctant to offer their land to us. Worse, the investor in our village produces maize for chicken not for human being consumption.

9.2 Human rights violations

The recent increase in investment in agriculture specifically in Ruvuma region and Southern Highlands of Tanzania in general doesn't respect human rights. Long working hours without break is one of the serious human right violations. Worse, the findings show that health insurance to labors in nonexistent. When you get injured is the end of the story. You have to rot on your own. The tale about this little lady is very appalling:

There is one lady whom the company has made her poor to her death. It is like that, she was knocked by the car on the road when she was going back home from the work. She had stayed at hospital for almost two months. When she got recovery, she went back to the work, and after three days, she was fired. Formerly, she was mentally fit; she had worked and helped the company to get millions of money. But when she got an accident, she was not assisted/supported by the company with anything, today she has been fired and being called rubbish.

9.3 Lack of participation

Participatory communication is defined as a dynamic, interactional, and transformative process of dialogue between people, groups and institutions that enable people both individually and collectively, to realize their full potential and be engaged in their own welfare. Village leader make decisions out of the village consent.

"The decisions which village-leaders have made are quite contrary to the decisions of all villagers. The issue we are complaining all the days in public village conferences and big conflicts is that they have not done to us what is just. When national leaders come to our village, we are not given chances to talk with them so as to express our views and grievances".....Lipokela

9.4 Sowing the seed of Conflict

In one way or other heavier investments in Agriculture fuel conflicts in particular areas. Our findings show that villagers in Lipokela fall under conflict with their village authority which it comes on the issue of participating in village development activities. Villagers don't see any reasons to participate in social development instead revenues from investors should do that.

"The big portion of land is owned by the investor and still a normal citizen is told to work in constructive works of our Nation with no payment. Where does the revenue paid by the investor go? We once tried to make follow-up but we were not given proper answers. Lastly, we formed a committee to go to see the District Commission for discussion. We went there to talk with him and he promised us that he would make a follow-up. It was last year. But he did not do so. We tried our level best to make follow-up but we have come to realize that, this project has been brought here neither for the benefits of the citizens of Lipokela nor for the benefits of Lipokela village but for the benefits of higher (government) leaders."

9.5 Defective contract

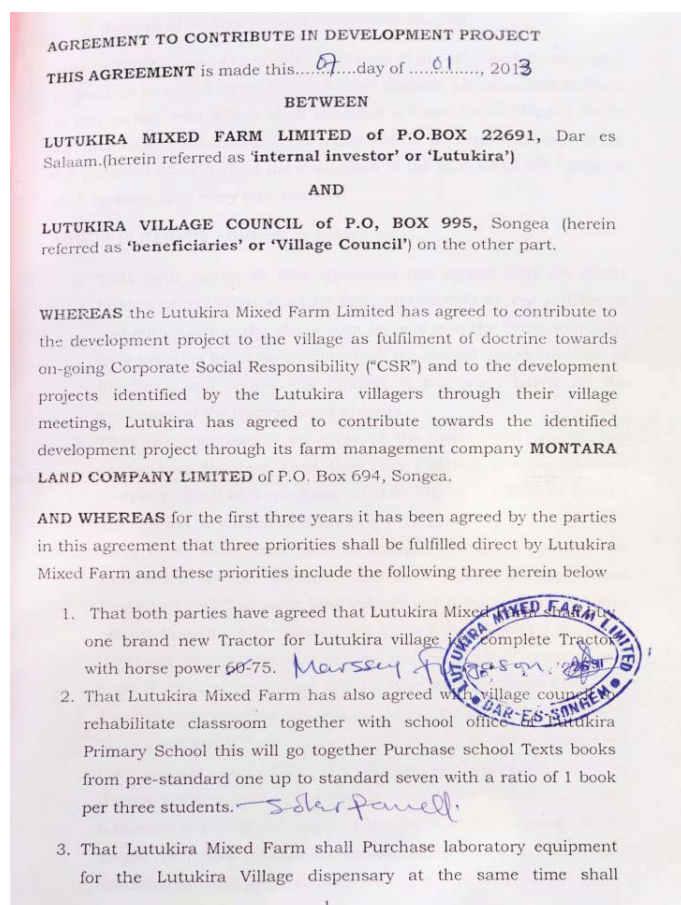
The contract being signed without clear safe guards of communities, Lack of bargaining power, unclear provisions, force and empty promise promises from investors cause the village to offer the whole land believing to get schools and their school fees for their children paid. However, not even a single promise was delivered leaving the village landless. This During Focus Group Discussion the following information was captured:

"Currently we have no more land for social services like schools, hospital, and market and village offices. Even the land to build the current offices that we are using were asked from the investor

. The population is growing; our children have no playing grounds. We therefore ask the investor to at least give us some portion for social services. They need to learn from

Mungai who has offered us a portion to build the market and village office".

What we can learn here is the extension of Africa leaders' mentality of treating public as empty headed human beings who cannot realize their sins. But in reality public culture of questioning is growing.



10.0 Resilience of the situation

Villagers blame that their leaders defend the interests of investors while leaders blame villagers to carelessly sell their land. During in-depth interview one of the District Commissioners said:

"I see dizziness. Why do I see it? Our people provide lands in very simple ways. And then they later themselves complain".

Another leader in one of the village blames his people to be ignorant of land laws. During in-depth interview he said:

"The understanding of land laws to villagers is completely absent. When we take it in percentage of those who have knowledge of it, even 30 are not reached".

On the other hand, villagers believe their leaders to be involved in corruption. Probably statements from leaders raise the probability of corruption. During in-depth interview with village chairman the following information was captured. Let us accept the results. If we say that we should continue demanding for it, the investor has got legal document supporting his ownership. He has been given everything. He owns it for 99 years. He has got all the legal documents.

11. The government of Tanzania solutions to land conflicts

The government of Tanzania is in the process of reviewing the land laws in Tanzania in order to settle the situation of land conflict which is rampant. The Land Management Bill (2013)²¹ is already in place. However, the reason put forward by the government regarding the bill is not on conflict issues rather creating rooms for taking away people's land for foreign investors is proposed by Pillar **No 5 of Kilimo Kwanza**. In short, the Bill proposed to survey all lands in Tanzania and put them in four categories as Section 13 (3) reads, **"The land will be categorized into four: Highly suitable agricultural land, moderately suitable agricultural Land, marginally suitable agricultural land and non- suitable agricultural land"**. The idea itself is very good because currently the status of our land is not known. For example, according to the World Bank Group's 2006 report, Tanzania enjoys 88 million hectares of arable land of which only 5.5 percent is utilized while SAGCOT informs that Tanzania enjoys 44 million hectares of arable of which only 10.1 million is currently cultivated. So the coming land law will clear the confusion.²²

²¹ Ministry consults MVIWATA on new Agricultural Land Bill; <http://www.mviwata.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/MVIWATA-BULLETIN-Issued-Number-34-Sept2013.pdf>

²² World bank Annual report 2016;
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTANNREP2K6/Resources/2838485-1158333614345/AR06_final_LO_RES.pdf

But the problem remains with some conditions which come up with the Bill. It is a new mechanism of grabbing people's land legally as Section 26 (4) reads where agricultural land has not been cropped or managed in accordance with this Act for three consecutive years or more it shall be declared an idle agricultural land.

Registration of agricultural land is another issue that poses threats to our land. As Section 24 (5) reads, "*Any person may, in accordance with the regulations, make application to register agricultural land owned by him*". Any person whether a Tanzanian or not can own land in Tanzania. This is a justification that our government elites collaborate with the G8 to confiscate our land for their interests. So the proposed law is a beautiful and smooth mechanism for the government to take away 350,000 hectare of land from villagers for interest of SAGCOT partners. As , the government promised to give out 350,000 hectares of land for the News Alliance. Taking people's land means taking their life.

12.0 Interpretation of the SAGCOT Programme!

1. SAGCOT promotes large scale investments in which small scale food producers are intended to produce for big investors through the out growing model and working as laborers in their plantations. They are poorly paid. They are not involved in the wage decisions. Small farmers benefit the foreign investors and domestic elites.
2. SAGCOT strategy aggravates hunger and malnutrition. Small farmers produce what they don't consume and consume what they don't produce.
3. Small farmers are blindly investing without assurance of how much they will earn. They are subject to any risk would occur and are not guaranteed markets on their products.
4. Multinational companies like Yara, Syngeta and Mosanto do business with the poor farmers where the poor farmers are not protected. SAGCOT implementation strategy pushes people off their land, puts farmers into debt and harms the environment.
5. More than any other time in history outside forces is deciding the future of our farming systems. Small farmers are not involved in deciding on issues which touch their lives. The small scale farmers are completely underrepresented in the partnership. Neither governments nor SAGCOT bother to consult with those who have the biggest stake in rebuilding agriculture in Tanzania.
6. SAGCOT answers questions the poor Tanzanians have not asked. They are offering a shrinking solution to a growing problem.

13.0 Conclusion

The ongoing SAGCOT investment are likely to facilitate land grabbing and the displacement of small scale farmers , while imposing high input , industrial agricultural using Hybrid and GMO seed, the way we see the vision of SAGCOT is to replace local small scale agriculture producing for domestic market and using local seeds resources with export led focus, this focus is likely to put small scale farmers land, water and seeds under control of international traders and investors like Mosanto, Yara , Syngenta and Uniliver.

They promises to lift millions from poverty and provide opportunities for smallholders , however the impact are more likely to grab the Tanzanian land and destroying the local seeds so as to generate profit for foreign investment as well as opening new markets for agribusiness corporations,. In order to run their businesses smoothly they promise local indigenous to be a part of their development but they leave them with empty promises, the land rights and seed of local community are ignored , undermined and taken over in these plans to exploit Tanzanian,

According to Tanzania Interim report reveals that many local people foresee quite clearly what is likely to happen to them is to feel powerless to prevent it local fears of land security tenure, lack of power to negotiate, lack of concrete information will still create conflict over the land due to ongoing SAGCOT investment.²³

14.0 Recommendations

Agricultural investment through land grabbing is one way or so which violates human right on right to food. In order to resolve the problem the need for advocacy and lobbying comes for awareness rising to community in the process of allocating land acquiring land.

The capacity building should be extended to village government leaders on negotiation and consultation skills to promote accountability when making decision regarding land issues.

Central government and local government should ensure that information of land (land policy, land act No.5 of 1999) is known to community.

Ensure the free, prior and informed consent of all communities affected by land transfers, including the fair and equitable participation of all groups within

²³ SAGCOT Strategic Regional Environmental and Social Assessment (SRESA) Interim Report. (Interim_ReportSAGCOT_SRESA_Final_12_02.pdf). PDF from: <http://www.sagcot.com/resources/downloads-resources/>

local communities, especially excluded and marginalized groups, such as women, children, minorities, the elderly and disabled people.

Review public policies and projects that incentivize land grabbing, and instead support policies that prioritize the needs of small-scale food producers – particularly women – and sustainable land use.

The SAGCOT strategy should be well articulated for community members understanding. We are therefore suggesting for facilitations to ascertain understanding.

Agro-extractivism inside and outside BRICS: agrarian change and development trajectories

The 4th International Conference of BICAS
November 28-30, 2016
China Agricultural University, Beijing, China

About the Author(s)

Frank Ademba is affiliated with MVIWATA Kilimanjaro (Via Campesina Tanzania - see <http://www.mviwata.org>) as a Program Officer. He has extensive experience in community development work in Tanzania, particularly in agricultural practice and providing support to small-scale farmers. In his most recent research, Frank Ademba is trying to investigate the impact of large-scale government agricultural investments, specifically Southern Highlands of Tanzania, on small scale farmers and the rush for agricultural lands which is ultimately destroying peasant livelihoods, and resulting in deeper poverty. Frank has been, presenting papers in different universities in Tanzania, Kenya, Italy, Czech Republic, German, Spain and Netherland. Email: ademba.frank@gmail.com

Denis Mpagaze is Head of Department, Journalism and Mass Communication at Archbishop James University College helps to coordinate the department of communication of MVIWATA - a National Network of Small - Scale Farmer Groups in Ruvuma Tanzania. He is a columnist for KiongoziNewspaper and producer of several video documentaries on land issues in Tanzania and presented some of the documentaries in national and international conferences in Dodoma Tanzania, Humburg, Berline, and Frankfurt Germany and aired through local televisions in the country. His last video documentary on land rights can be accessible through <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/o/#search/ademba.frank%40gmail.com/157b3d23f9feoffd> . Denis is a PhD Candidate at Univeristy of Dodoma, with a specialization participaroty development.