



World Bank Land and Poverty Conference 2017 Masterclass

Achieving responsible large-scale land based investments: why aren't best practices a done deal?

Masterclass: Panel discussion with experts from private sector, civil society, and development agencies discussing some of the toughest aspects to implementing best practices in responsible investments in land.

Audience: Government officials, land rights activists, policymakers, NGOs, private sector actors, donors, and journalists

Organizer: Landesa - Lukasz Czerwinski, Senior Land Tenure Specialist

Abstract: Landesa has organized 90-minute masterclass that will focus on some of the toughest aspects to implementing best practices in responsible investments in land. Over the last 10 years, a clear consensus has emerged: investments in land should be done responsibly. There remains, however, less consensus about how to ensure that this happens. Well-known instruments, such as the "African Union Guideline Principles on Large Scale Land Based Investments in Africa" (AU Guiding Principles) and the "Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests" (VGGT), have been developed to provide guidance to states and investors on the land investment process. Many have recognized that these standards comprise of higher-level principles and lack practical detail for those seeking to implement and abide by them. Appropriately, some more detailed and very useful guides have emerged that attempt to provide the next level of granularity. But a number of critical issues have emerged. Join experts from private sector, civil society, and development agencies to discuss and debate Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC), Grievance Mechanisms and Gender Issues. Participants will emerge from the discussion with a clearer understanding of specific challenges related to each theme and potential ways to address these challenges.

The moderate will be Lukasz Czerwinski. He is a Senior Land Tenure Specialist with Landesa and oversees the Responsible Investment and Property Rights (RIPL) Project that is developing step-by-step Guidebooks to help investment stakeholders (government, communities and investors) achieve



responsible investments in land. Efforts under RIPL aim to take best practices a step closer to the ground by partnering with Governments of Ghana and Tanzania to develop country specific guidebooks, based on local context and investment climate, for each country. Because achieving responsible land based investments requires significant engagement and collaboration with communities, CSOs, governments, investors, and experts in the field, the project has included a broad range of stakeholders. Extensive consultations are being held with policymakers and input has been regularly collected from an advisory group comprised of government, civil society and the private sector. Since each group has different needs, roles and responsibilities, the project is developing three guidebooks – one for each respective investment stakeholder group. But similar to experiences of other practitioners that are contextualizing and applying international standards and best practices in specific countries and on specific investments, a number of challenges have emerged. For example, to what extent should consent be obtained from communities before implementing an investment? How can a company establish an effective grievance mechanism? How can gender issues be consider and addressed in an equitable manner?

After a five minute introduction by the moderate, the discussion will be broken up into three parts with 20-25 minutes being devoted to each theme - FPIC, Grievance Mechanisms and Gender Issues. There will be no power points or notes. At the beginning of each theme, panelist will spend a few minutes briefly discussing their experiences. The majority of the time will be spent on Q&A. The focus will be on responding and debating to tough questions from the audience.

Keywords: VGGTs; Investment in land; Agricultural Investments; Women’s Land Rights; International Standards; Free Prior Informed Consent, Grievance Mechanisms