Agricultural Investors as Development Actors?

– a collaborative research programme

AIDA is a research programme that examines what happens once a foreign agricultural investment is established in a rural locality in sub-Saharan Africa. Beyond promises of providing attractive business opportunities, hopes are that foreign agricultural investments will generate employment, boost food security and catalyse sustainable development. But what actually happens when a foreign agricultural investment is established in a rural locality in sub-Saharan Africa? Does it lead to more employment and new economic opportunities? How does it affect land tenure and water security? To whom and under which circumstances? AIDA aims to provide answers to these questions.

We invite you to read more and to follow our updates at www.diis.dk/aida

Time frame 2016 – 2021

Funding Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark through the Consultative Research Committee for Development Research

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Research theme

Investors from all corners of the world are being encouraged to invest in African agriculture. Expectations are that foreign agricultural investments will contribute to boost employment, food security and economic opportunities. Yet, this new wave of farm-land investments also raises concerns that it could undermine the livelihoods and resource tenure security of small-scale African farmers.

Research focus

AIDA is a 5-year research programme that examines the development outcomes of foreign agricultural investments at sub-national level for people living in and using land around such investments. We do so through theoretically informed empirical research in 6 locations in Tanzania and Uganda, which have received different types of foreign agricultural investments. In particular, we

- explore the expectations that motivate foreign agricultural investment decisions in sub-Saharan Africa;
- examine the development outcomes of foreign agricultural investments with respect to employment and wider dynamic effects as well as land tenure and water security; in order to
- identify the factors which enhance positive and safeguard against negative development outcomes, and assess the role of emerging rights-based investment governance instruments.

Sharing results

We communicate the results of AIDA research through academic publications such as journal articles and audio-visuals; through blogs, newspapers and other mass media, as well as through policy briefs and oral presentations targeting academic and non-academic stakeholders.

Stakeholder engagement

We work with stakeholders in Denmark, Tanzania and Uganda, including:

- agricultural investors with particular focus on Danish agricultural investors and their interest organisations and partners;
- communities that are likely to be influenced by selected foreign agricultural investments; and
- institutions that are directly or indirectly involved with the facilitation and regulation of foreign agricultural investments.

Research partners

AIDA is coordinated by Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), Denmark, and conducted in collaboration with

- Department of Agribusiness & Natural Resource Economics, Makerere University, Uganda;
- School of Agricultural Economics & Business Studies, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania; and
- Department of Geosciences & Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
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