

Principles on Responsible Agricultural Investment - will they make a difference to people on the ground?



Open LARRI seminar with the NAI researchers Kjell Havnevik and Kassa T. Alemu

When: Wednesday 2 April, 13.15-15.00

Where: Vasagatan 1 in Gothenburg at School of Business, Economics and Law, room B-21

This open seminar will facilitate an open discussion on the feasibility of the international Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments (RAI) based on case study research on land investments in Ethiopia, conducted by **Kassa T. Alemu** and the recently launched Swedish FAO Committee discussion paper *“Responsible agricultural investment – how to make principles and guidelines effective”*, authored by **Kjell Havnevik**. The topic is highly relevant as the final negotiations of the RAI principles takes place in the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in May. Two presentations will be held prior to an open discussion moderated by **Maria Ölund**, Project Coordinator of LARRI.

“Hurting or Helping?” – Findings from case studies on agricultural investments in Ethiopia

Kassa T. Alemu is a PhD Candidate in Development Studies at UNISA/University of South Africa and a Lecturer in Development Management at the Ethiopian Civil Service University. He is currently a guest researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) in Sweden and is completing his PhD work *“Hurting or Helping? International Land Deals and Agricultural Investment in Ethiopia.”*

In his presentation Alemu will provide an update on large-scale agricultural investment in Ethiopia. He will present findings from his research based on four cases of foreign investors and discuss how responsible these investments really are, how land deals are negotiated and implemented locally, and what type of impacts these investments have for local livelihoods and the environment.

“Effective RAI principles?” – Authors reflections on Swedish FAO Committee discussion paper

Kjell Havnevik is a senior researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute. He has a long experience from research, education, studies and evaluations related to aid, rural development and natural resource management. Havnevik is the author of the Swedish FAO Committee discussion paper *“Responsible agricultural investment – how to make principles and guidelines effective”*, launched on the 25th of March.

In the report three cases of large scale land investments, where investors or the co-investor are of Swedish origin are highlighted. (Addax Bioenergy biofuel investment in Sierra Leone, the Second Swedish National Pension Fund's (AP2) investments in large-scale Brazilian land/agriculture and the diocese of Västerås involvement in forest plantations in Niassa in Mozambique.) Based on the conclusions in the report Havnevik suggest more concrete guidelines on how to implement the RAI principles - for them to make a real difference to people on the ground.

The Land Rights Research Initiative is a platform for discussion and collaboration among researchers, students and others interested in land rights issues in the context of global change. LARRI is hosted by GCGD - the Gothenburg Centre of Globalization and Development at University of Gothenburg.



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