Role of IFC in agricultural investment
and large-scale land acquisition

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What is IFC?

- International Finance Corporation
- Private sector branch of World Bank Group
- Mission:
  
  “IFC's mission is to promote sustainable private sector investment in developing countries, helping to reduce poverty and improve people's lives.”

- Work: - Investment Services (IS)
  - Technical Assistance and Advisory Services (TAAS)
What is FIAS?

- Foreign Investment Advisory Service
- a Joint Service of the IFC
- Work:
  - FIAS assists governments of developing countries and transition economies
  - emphasis on regulatory simplification
  - investment generation
IFC role in ‘global land grab’?

- Promotion of FDI for development
- Barriers to land acquisition for foreign investors –
  - Lack of information
  - Administrative Barriers
  - Weak legal frameworks

- IFC/FIAS → Technical Assistance/Advisory Services (TAAS)
→ facilitates land investment
How does IFC facilitate access to land markets?

1. PROVIDES INFORMATION:
   - *Doing Business* and other rankings
   - Promotion/creation of IPAs (“one stop shops”)
   - Toolkits for client governments
How does IFC facilitate access to land markets?

2. REMOVES ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS:
   - Streamlines procedures
   - Land-related “products”
How does IFC facilitate access to land markets?

3. STRENGTHENS LEGAL FRAMEWORKS:
   • Drafts/reviews/revises legislation

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4. PROMOTES INVESTOR INCENTIVES:
   - Tax and duty benefits
Outcomes

- Facilitation of land investment
- Winners vs. Losers
- Case studies
Concerns

- **IFC/FIAS absent from debate**
- How does IFC measure success?
- Weak Sustainability Policy and Performance Standards (PS)
- No application of PS to TAAS or Financial Intermediaries (FIs)
Recommendations

- Revision and Improvement of PS
- Accountability for TAAS, not just investment services (IS)
- Accountability for FIs, not just IFC

- *Increased recognition and systematic analysis of IFC role within ‘land grab’ discourse*
Thank you

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