

# LARGE SCALE LAND TRANSACTION GOVERNANCE IN MOZAMBIQUE

Institute of Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies/Rosa Luxemburg  
Foundation/Future Agricultures Consortium

31<sup>st</sup> of July 2013

Workshop Report



**PLAAS**

Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies



PLAAS, in conjunction with Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and the Future Agricultures Consortium, held a Stakeholder Engagement Workshop in Maputo, Mozambique on 31 July 2013. The workshop focused on Governance of large Scale land Transactions in Mozambique.

Web page with details, presentations and more:

<http://www.future-agricultures.org/research/land/7863-workshop-on-land-deals-in-mozambique-july-2013>

PLAAS, Future Agricultures and Rosa Luxemburg engaged a variety of stakeholders in Mozambique. Participants shared preliminary research findings of the PLAAS/FAC/Rosa Luxemburg work in Manhica and Massingir and provided a platform for policy dialogue between the stakeholders. Participants were drawn from the community, policy makers, civil society, academics and investors in Mozambique. Unfortunately, community members and policy makers from Manhica could not attend the meeting owing to the passing away of a local leader.

### Workshop Programme

Large Scale Land Transaction Governance in Mozambique  
Rosa Luxemburg Foundation / Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies /  
Future Agricultures Consortium

Facilitator: Sergio Baleira

0830	Welcome Remarks	Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
0845	Opening	Mayor of Manhica
0900	Director of Agriculture	Manhica
0915	Research findings	- PLAAS
1000	MORNING TEA	
1030	FAO Voluntary Guidelines	- PLAAS
1045	The Land Platform Initiative	
1100	Propacerias Initiative	
1115	Paralegals Work	
1130	South African Sugar Cane Growers Association	
1200	iTC	
LUNCH		
1400	Working groups	
1530	Afternoon tea	
1600	Discussion	
1700	Vote of thanks	Rosa Luxemburg Foundation

## Impacts of large scale land transactions

**Dr. Gaynor Paradza**, Future Agricultures Consortium/Institute of Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape gave the presentation *Bittersweet Sugar Cane. Impacts of Large Scale Land Investments in Manhica District, Maputo Province* on the impact of Large Scale Land Transactions in Mozambique.

The study illustrated how although Mozambique has one of the best laws to secure customary land rights, the right holders remained vulnerable to large scale land investments. In this case, the sugar producer Illovo and outgrowers secured land to grow sugarcane through a state lease, negotiations with peasants, through peasant associations, middlemen, labour contracts, local leaders and encroachment on community land.

### Timeline

Illovo has a DUAT (land lease) for 6,500 hectares  
1996 Illovo, A South African company, rehabilitated Maragra Sugar estate  
2006 Associated British Food acquired a 51% shareholding in Illovo  
2000 Company produced 6,000 tons of sugar  
2006 Company produced 67,000 tons of sugar  
2009 Company produced 75,000 tons of sugar  
2010/2011 Illovo doubled milling capacity to 150,000 tons

The presentation illustrated that the outcome had positive and negative implications for communities' livelihoods. The introduction of Sugar cane increased the community's disposable income; employment opportunities; cash crop production; piped water, social infrastructure and accelerated economic growth. The construction of a large Shoprite Checkers supermarket in the town, which arguably might reduce food prices and provide employment opportunities, displaced a large informal market that had provided a livelihood source for inhabitants.



Shoprite construction site, Maputo

Picture: PLAAS

The sugar crop also undermined food security through increasing competition for land; inducing land use change; loss of grazing and commons; drew labour away from food production; increased demand for residential land; and increased the cost of securing subsistence food.

Women experienced an increased domestic burden on the one hand, but increased access to piped water, schools and health facilities reduced their domestic burden. Women were also empowered through increased opportunities to secure disposable income. The latter was through employment in the plantation, sale of subsistence food and the increased opportunities for informal employment in the growing settlement. While in some households, men responded to low wages in the sugar cane plantations by migrating out of the settlement, others returned from South Africa and Maputo to work on the sugar cane estate. Women remained marginalized because of their relatively low education and participation in Associational activities.



Children collecting piped water. Picture: PLAAS

The introduction of Sugarcane has introduced conflict between the investor and the community. The conflict is over land, water, labour, terms of the contract and community-investor relations; investor-sugar cane growers; investor-nonsugar cane growers; sugar cane growing and non-sugar cane growing; and among the sugar cane growing members of the community. Tensions resulted in confrontation, violence and court action.

**Sources of tension between the investor and sugar cane growers**

- Terms of the contract
- Pricing of the sugar and products
- Support to outgrowers
- Transport of produce
- Dialogue

The local government office and Civil Society organizations have mediated between the community and investors. This was through mediation, paralegals, research, advocacy, and lobbying, defending, securing and raising awareness about land rights. These mediation efforts have been undermined by funding constraints, questions about the legitimacy of CSO participation, and urban bias. Dr Paradza recommended the equitable distribution of costs and benefits; clarification of the role of the government of Mozambique; the setting of clear terms for investor land access; food security; water governance and the enforcement and monitoring of the existing land laws to improve the governance of large scale land transactions in Mozambique.

### FAO Voluntary Guidelines

Mr **Emanuelle Sulle of Institute for Poverty Land and Agrarian Studies & Future Agricultures Consortium** made a presentation on the Food and Agriculture Organization's Voluntary Frameworks and Guidelines which establish internationally accepted principles and standards for responsible governance of land, forest and fisheries.

### Community land rights: iTC

The **iniciative para Terras Comunitarias** Mozambique Community Land Initiative (iTC) is a partnership programme developed by donors with government, civil society and private sector in Mozambique to assist rural communities to secure community land rights in the context of implementation of Mozambique's 1997 Land Law. iTC operates as a project, planning, finance, supervision and monitoring agency which manages and delivers funding to community based projects for land tenure security linked to programmers and projects for local economic and land use development.

iTC is an innovative programme to secure rural communities' land rights and facilitates inclusive economic development and improved sustainable land use. Mozambique's 1997 Land Law enables community tenure security through a simple land delimitation process, and private leasehold titling for investors large and small. iTC has achieved significant results in assisting communities to secure land rights and establish sustainable land and natural resource based businesses, overcoming misunderstandings amongst state and market actors and resolving conflicts.

### Community-investor partnerships

The **Projecto de Parcerias Entre Comunidades Laocais e investidores** is piloting community-investor partnerships in large-scale land investments in Mozambique. So far there are five partnerships between investors and communities. The initiative has created models to assist with contracts, identification of investors and implementing, coordinating investors, produce

guidelines and laws that govern resources and also collaborate with other organizations. The initiative also monitors and evaluates the pilot projects.

### A forum for land governance

The **Forum de Consulta sobre terras** is an interministerial agency that involves all stakeholders working on Land Governance in Mozambique. Participants are drawn from ministerial, provincial, organizational and private sector forums, civil society organizations, agricultural and academic institutions. The Forum meets regularly to conduct dialogue on land governance and policy formulation.

### Paralegal training

The **A Formação de Paralegais** initiative works to build the communities' capacities in and knowledge of their land rights and natural resources. They do this through training paralegals through a basic course in Land governance. The focus is on the stakeholders in the community and government through a paralegal training.

In 2013 the initiative had trained 38 Paralegals. The initiative has also trained the district and police officials to work with and mediate in community land disputes. The training concentrated on land laws, forestry and farmers' concerns.

### Cane Growers: working to secure mediation and finance

Mr Sibiya of the **South African Cane Growers Association** ([www.sacanegrowers.co.za](http://www.sacanegrowers.co.za)) shared the experience of how their organisation mediates between cane growers and millers in South Africa. The presentation highlighted the ways in which the sugar cane farmers organized themselves and worked together to secure mediation and finance through an intermediary institution without relying on donor support.

### Contact

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## Appendix: List of Participants

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More information:

<http://www.future-agricultures.org/research/land/7863-workshop-on-land-deals-in-mozambique-july-2013>