



Large-scale land based investments, profound agrarian
change and development trajectories

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Profound transformation of agrarian societies

- LSLA = Top of the iceberg
- Profound transformation of
 - Agricultural value-chains
 - Agrarian societies
 - Property right systems (land, NR use, ...)
 - ...
- Discussing agriculture and LR, in context of broad agrarian transformations

New interest into agriculture/NR

- 2 trends/dynamics
 - Integrating land into (agribusiness) structures
 - LSLA phenomenon
 - “land grab”
 - Integrating finance/non-agribusiness into agricultural value-chain
 - Non-land based investments (financial tools)
 - Companies acquiring shares into the value-chains
 - Taking over debt – in return of control of production
 - Equity
 - No control over land perse, but over the value-chain
 - “production grab”
- Initially parallel trends, now tend to intermix

1) Financialization/corporization of agriculture

- New types of actors (Macro-actors - engineering, financial, industrial sectors)
 - New development models
- Non-agricultural paradigms
 - Generation of new productive agricultural models & redefinition of orthodox frontiers of the agricultural sector (IRR – 20-25%)
 - Agriculture equivalent to any other sector

2) Parallel and closed value chains, private (sectoral and territorial) norms

- Parallel value-chains, global but closed
 - Economic agents' direct involvement and control over agricultural regulation mechanisms
 - Private sectoral norms
- Territorial controls and private territorial norms
- External (financial!) and foreign powers control an increasing part of the production/territory

3) Concentration and dualisation of the sector

- Concentration within the agricultural sector
 - Not many, not broad based transformation
 - But few controlling entire sections/value-chains
 - The potato king, the onion king
- Dualisation of the sector
 - Beyond tradition cleavages
 - What place for productive family farming?

4) Socio-professional implications

- The end of the farmer?
 - Marginalization in the decision making process for the independent family (small scale and large scale) farmer and communities
 - Farmer = Probably more a service provider/rent seeker
- Is this model viable under present social/ environmental stress?
 - Labour creation on a continent that has not yet achieved its demographic transition, nor its industrial revolution?

How did we get there? Where to?

4 facilitators ...

Failure of secure
land rights

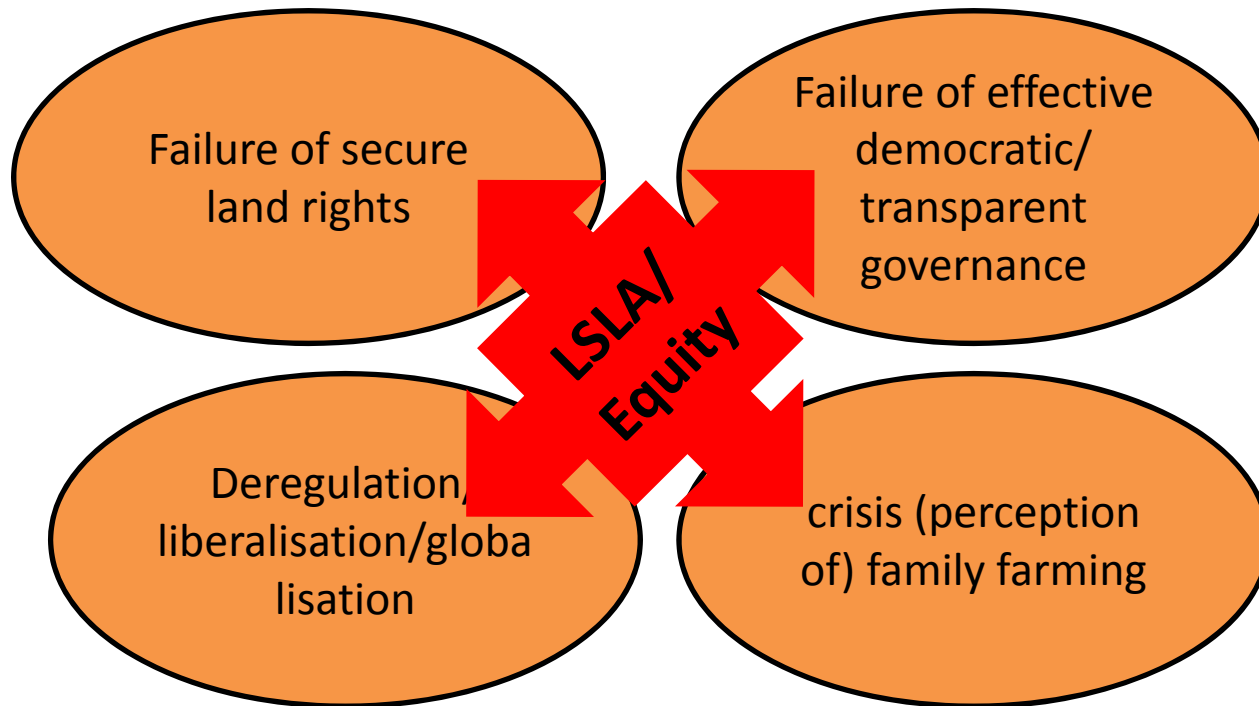
Failure of effective
democratic
governance

Deregulation/liberalisation/globalisation

crisis (perception
of) family farming

How did we get there? Where to?

4 facilitators ...



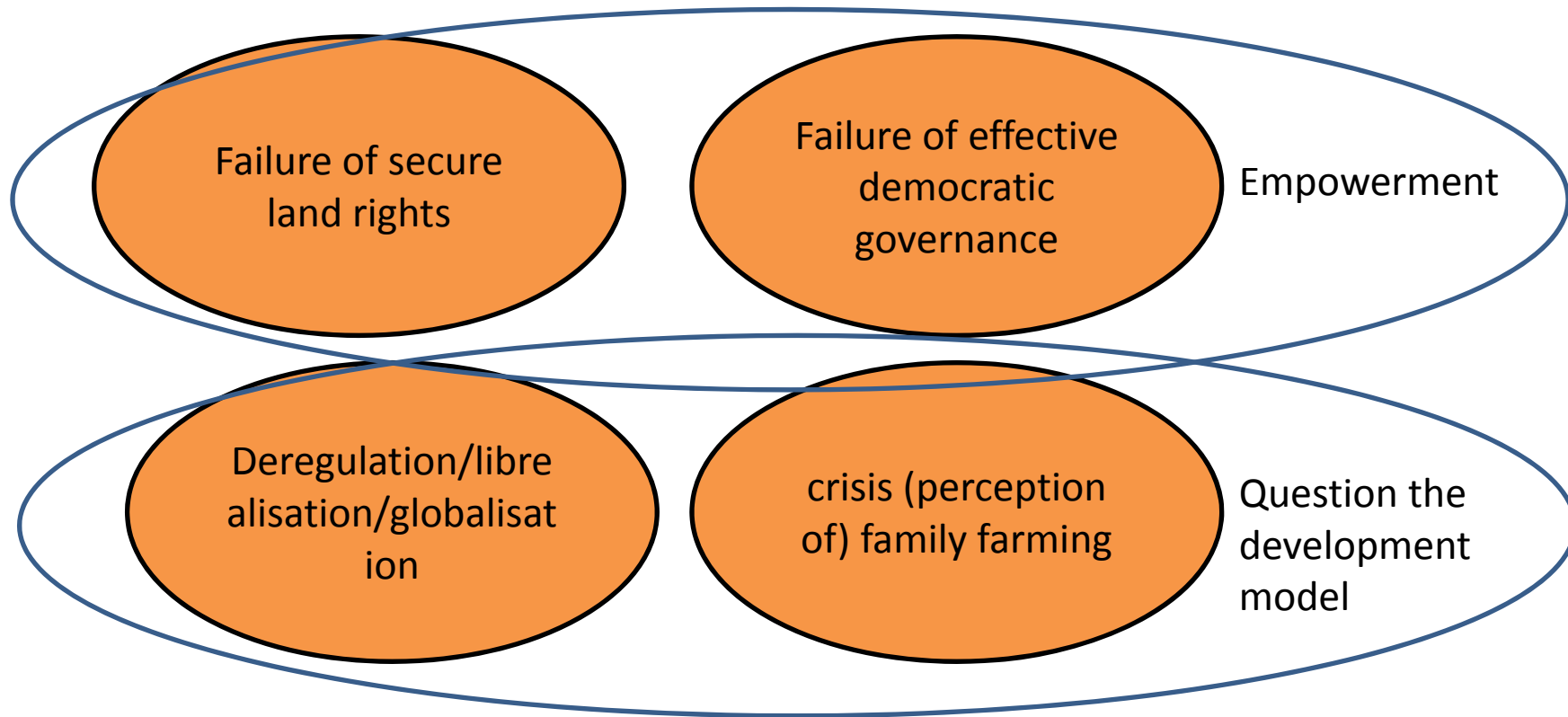
...Renewed trends as aggravator

How did we get there? Where to?

- Renewed initiatives
 - Renewed bilateral trade agreements
 - Inclusive business models/programmes
 - Transparency initiatives
- Path dependency
 - Continuation of previous policies (lack of family farming focus)
 - Very little questioning re agrarian reform/agricultural policies/labour
 - Acceptance of the LSLBI model – what about a more organic agricultural growth trajectory model?
 - System is closed
 - Oligopolistic structure
 - External to agriculture

How did we get there? Where to?

Effective empowerment of family farmer and rural societies



Thank you

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