Responsible practices: implementation challenges for agri-business companies in Central Africa

Feintrenie L, Pledran O, Djouma S, Nkongho R, Ndjogui E, Levang P
On the menu

- Agri-business companies
- Responsible Practices
- Challenges
- Way forward
Agri-business plantations in Central Africa
Farming categories

- **Family farming**
  - 0.5 ha < 5 ha < 10 ha
  - Permanent labour = family
  - Food crops +/- cash crops

- **Small and medium business farming**
  - 10 ha < 100 ha < 600 ha
  - Permanent employees
  - Local value chain

- **Agri-business, industrial farming**
  - 1 000 ha < 300 000 ha
  - Domestic or foreign enterprises, multinationals
  - National market and export
Industrial plantations

1,7 Mha in large agriculture land leases
Responsible Practices
International standards and initiatives

- 1976: OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
  - Corporate Social Responsibility principles

- 1997: Global reporting initiative
  - Sustainability and transparency

- 2000: Global compact
  - Human rights, corruption, environment

- 2003: Equator principles
  - Environment, Social and Governance criteria in finance

- 2010: ISO 26000
  - Corporate Social Responsibility

- 2012: Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests
  - Land tenure security
Responsible practices

- Objectives:
  - limit financial and reputational risks,
  - ensure sustainability (long term profit)

- ESG commitments, CSR policies

- Certifications
  - Protected Designation of Origin
  - Sustainable farming, Organic farming
  - Rainforest alliance

- Sector specific:
  - FSC, PEFC
  - RSPO, RSB
  - Buyer specific: Starbuck
Challenges
Challenges

- Legal framework: unclear, unprotective, incomplete,
- Lack of enforcement,
- Secrecy, bad habit,
- Historical burden,
- Mistrust
Way forward
Way forward

- Protect from abusive investments and speculation on land:
  - Contract
  - business plan, operational plan,
  - CSR policy
- Adaptation of the legal framework and regulations
  - Secure access to land, enforce laws,
  - Guarantee the expression or refusal of FPIC
  - Enforce ESIA and impact management controls
- Organization of farmers, of value-chains
Way forward

- Common understanding of difficulties and opportunities
- Partnership contract
- Organized communication:
  - Representatives,
  - Meetings,
  - Reporting, publications, medias…
- Transparency, Trust
Caillons nous tout le monde va s’exprimer ou va trouver une solution ensemble.

Plan de travail.

Et en cas de vulnérabilité?

Et le transport?

Et l’engagement?

On peut nous aider à intégrer la productivité et la sécurité.

Partenariat “Gagnant Gagnant”

Termes du contrat.

Au final, on peut tous gagner si on travail ensemble.
SPOP research project is funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR). It is coordinated by CIRAD, and conducted in partnership with INRA, CIFOR and IRD.

The project ‘Emerging countries in transition to a green economy: Will it make a difference for forests and people?’ is funded by the Challenge Research Programme Forests Trees and Agroforestry (CRP-FTA), a CGIAR program led by CIFOR.

CoForTips is funded by the ERA-Net BiodivERsA, with the national funders ANR, BELSPO and FWF, part of the 2012 BiodivERsA call for research proposals.