IDEOLOGIES, DEVELOPMENT MODELS, AND IRRIGATED LAND TENURE:
THE BAGRÉ IRRIGATION PROJECT IN BURKINA FASO

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2017 WORLD BANK CONFERENCE ON LAND AND POVERTY”
Contents

• A few words on the *Growth Pole Project* Approach
• History of Irrigation Development in Bagré
• The Bagré Growth Pole Project
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  ✓ Agro-entrepreneurs Projects
• Main Messages
Growth Pole Projects:
The Private Sector as the Engine of Growth

• ‘Spatial Solution to Growth’

• Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice

• Concentrate investments in an area/sector to
  ✓ Make it attractive to private investors,
  ✓ Trigger a spill over effect

• Infrastructure projects with associated investments and capacity building efforts directed at the private sector

Large and complex projects
Growth Pole Projects in Irrigation: Implications & Underpinnings

• Large scale public irrigation systems under scrutiny

• A private agency to oversee project implementation and irrigation development and management would offer:
  ➔ Better prospects for O&M recovery

• Key role for agro-entrepreneurs who would:
  ➔ Contribute to the cost of infrastructure development
  ➔ Be more efficient, productive and profitable
  ➔ More willing/able to pay for O&M
Irrigation development in Bagré: A brief history

1970s-1980s: Eradication of river blindness and pilot irrigation project (Small Bagré; 80 ha)

1989-1993: Dam construction

1995-2010: Irrigation development overseen by public agency (~ 3,400 ha in 2010)

2011: Launch of the Bagré Growth Pole Project
The World Bank Bagré Growth Pole Project: Ambitious objectives

- High profile (both within the WB and in Burkina Faso)
- US$52 million for irrigation infrastructure

Design, construction and equipment of irrigation canals for the irrigation of up to 15,000 ha

Among which 6,000 hectares for smallholders: gravity scheme (3000 ha) and valley bottoms (3,000 ha)

Agro-entrepreneurs based irrigation development
The World Bank Bagré Growth Pole Project: Safeguard policies: Compensation and resettlement

- Sensitivity of large scale land development (‘land grab’)
- History of local land conflicts
- Specific policy framework for population resettlement
- World Bank OP 4.12 on « Involuntary resettlement »

- Identification & mapping of affected people
- Recognize diversity of access/use of land
- Compensation for assets lost (house, wells, trees, manure pits, etc.) at full replacement cost
- Priority land allocation to displaced population
- Granting of “land titles”
Project Implementation Status

- Delays in the construction of irrigation infrastructure (2580 ha built by the end of 2017)
- No new irrigation yet
- Resettlement Action Plans devised and validated
- On-going implementation of compensation scheme
- Extension geared at large agro-entrepreneurs put on hold
## Project Implementation Status: Extent of resettlement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Phase</th>
<th>Individuals impacted by land loss in the future irrigated area</th>
<th>Impacted land area</th>
<th>Total area to needed for compensation (ha; Ratio 1:4)</th>
<th>Total area available for smallholder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-going construction</td>
<td>~ 950</td>
<td>3400</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>1150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction launched</td>
<td>~ 1300</td>
<td>2575</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern extension</td>
<td>~1200</td>
<td>2860</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3450</strong></td>
<td><strong>8838</strong></td>
<td><strong>2210</strong></td>
<td><strong>2710</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Compensation and Resettlement:
Some unanswered questions

- Land allocation ratio (1:4) based on optimistic scenarios regarding farm productivity/profitability
- Households are above poverty line if they have more than 1 ha of irrigated land (importance to keep rainfed land)
- Smallholders who will receive land titles on less than 1 ha will get extra land with lease agreement
- Land title/lease agreement can be revoked if the contract with Bagrepole (cahier des charges) is not respected
Promotion of Agro-entrepreneurship: Small land rush instead of large projects

• Before 2010, limited agro-entrepreneurship development

• > 700 expression of interests received; available land area impeded selection of the larger scale projects

• 108 projects selected (only 5 foreign) ; ~ 11,290 ha

• Small-scale largely opportunistic “land rush”
  • Few large-scale (>500 ha) ‘anchor investors’ (7)
  • Majority of small and medium agro-entrepreneurs
  • Focus on food crops (rice/maize > 5,000 ha)

• Lack of preparedness and financial capacity
Main messages:

When ideologies face field realities

- Private sector deemed to play a pivotal role
- Significant institutional innovation regarding compensation and resettlement mechanisms
- Significant (but usual) delays in project implementation
- Reserving land for entrepreneurs increases land pressure
- Sustainability of agro-entrepreneurs projects in question
- Risk of increased vulnerability for smallholders
- Need for support on and off farm measures for both smallholders and small/medium agro-entrepreneurs