



RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Water, Land and  
Ecosystems



# 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”

The World Bank - Washington DC, March 20-24, 2017



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- 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

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- ‘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

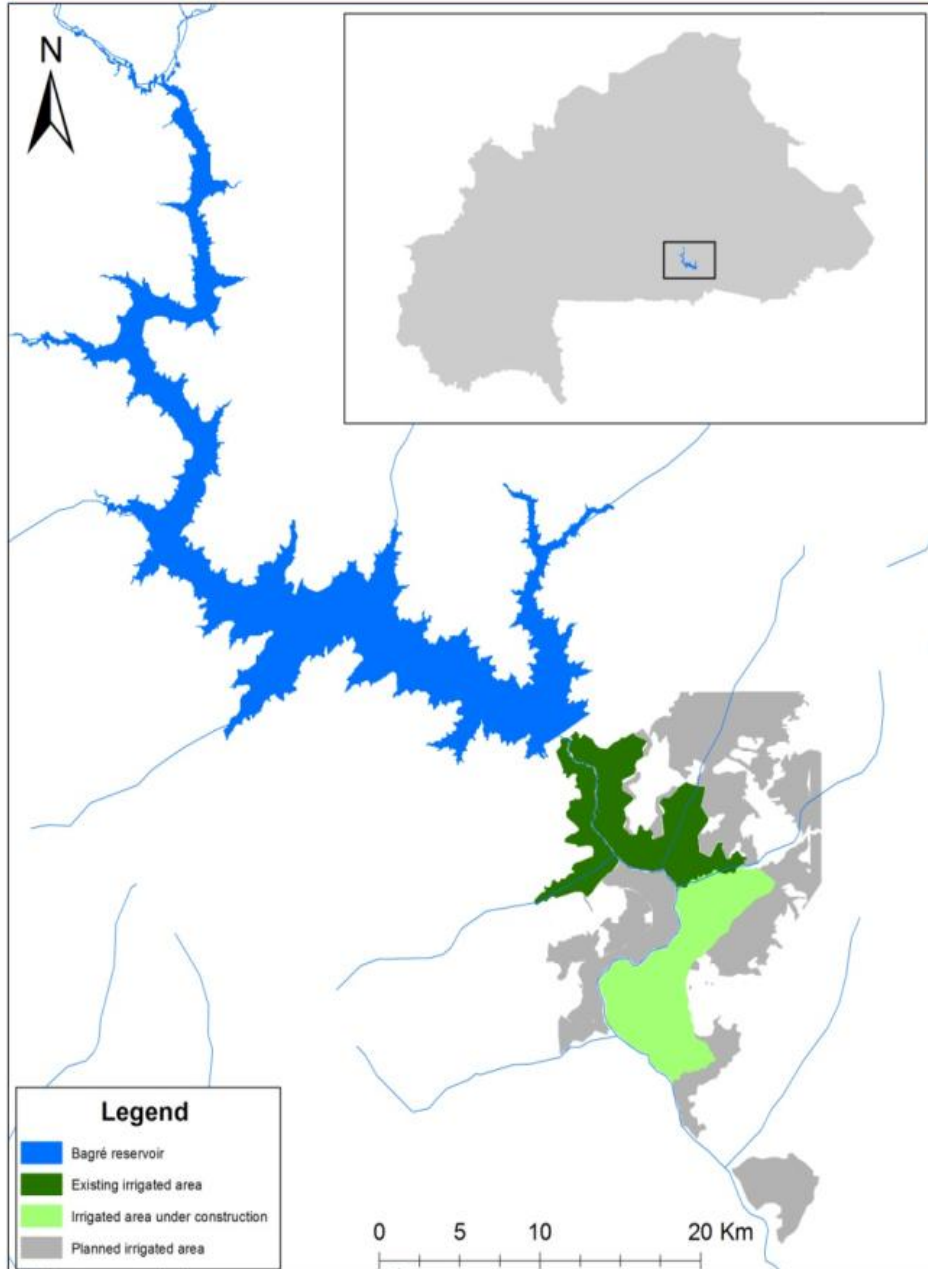
# *Growth Pole Projects in Irrigation:* Implications & Underpinnings

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- 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



## The Bagré dam and downstream irrigated area in Burkina Faso



# 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

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- High profile (both within the WB and in Burkina Faso)
- US\$ 135 million (2011-2018)
- 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

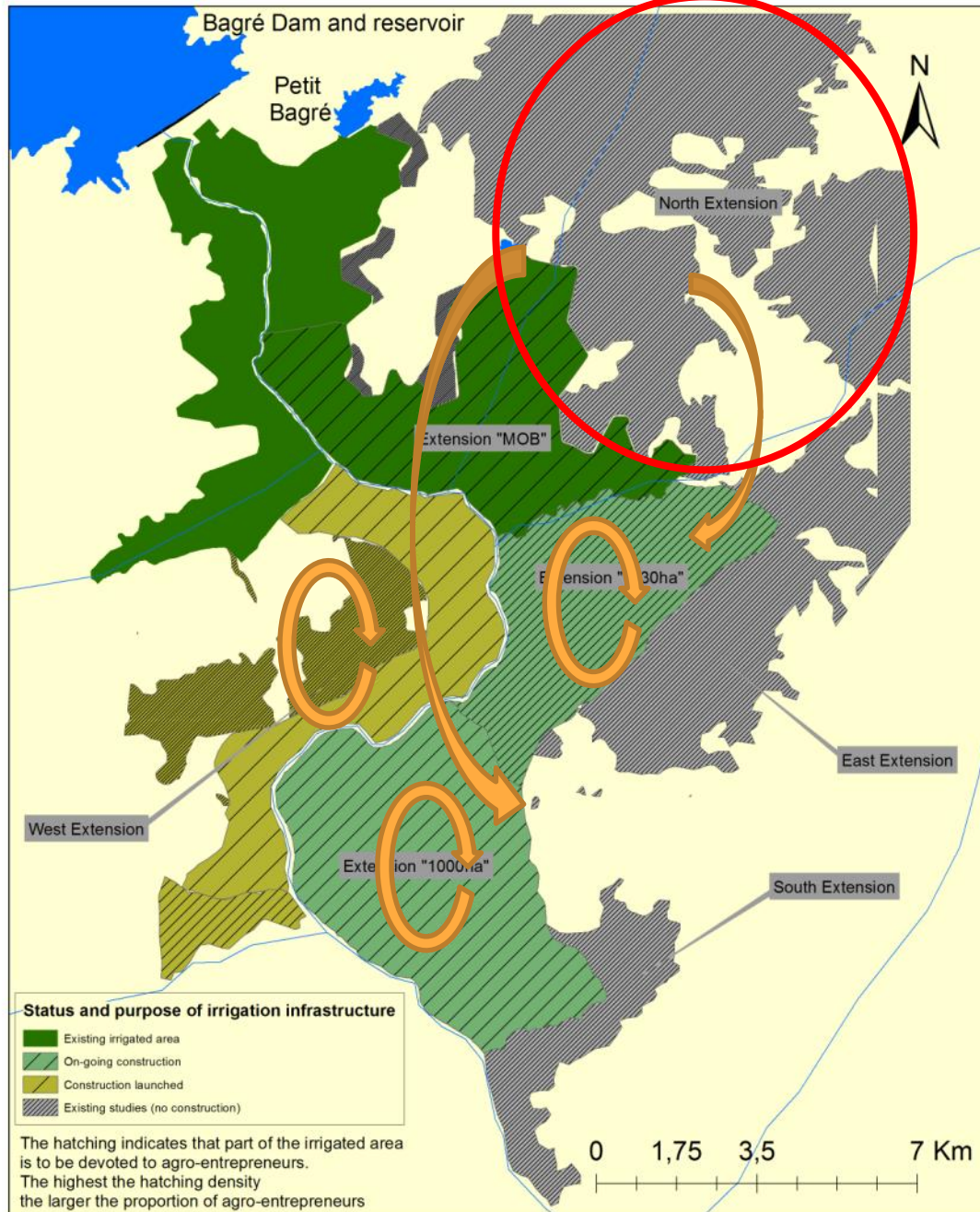
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- Sensitivity of large scale land development ('land grab')
- History of local land conflicts
- Specific policy framework for population resettlement
- World Bank OP 4.12 on « Involuntary resettlement »



- ✓ 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"

## Status of irrigation development downstream of the Bagré dam



## 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

	Individuals impacted by land loss in the future irrigated area	Impacted land area	Total area to needed for compensation (ha; Ratio 1:4)	Total area available for smallholder
On-going construction	~ 950	3400	850	1150
Construction launched	~ 1300	2575	645	945
Northern extension	~1200	2860	715	615
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3450</b>	<b>8838</b>	<b>2210</b>	<b>2710</b>

# Compensation and Resettlement:

## Some unanswered questions

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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





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# THANK YOU

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