

A large-scale construction site under a cloudy sky. In the background, several orange dump trucks and a yellow excavator are parked on a dirt road. The foreground is a vast, dark brown, uneven terrain, likely a cleared area for agricultural or industrial development.

Open seminar:

Large-Scale Land Investments: Curse or Development Opportunity?

When: 13th of March 2013, 13.15 – 15.00

Where: School of Business, Economics and Law, Vasagatan 1, Room D31
(Handelshögskolan i Göteborg)

The rapidly increasing interest for commercial investments in land for large-scale agricultural production of biofuels, food, feed etc., particularly noticeable in Africa and other developing regions, is by many seen as a “curse” because it risk to deprive local people of their access to land and other natural resources needed for their livelihood. Others argue that these investments are required to improve infrastructure, create employment and to foster economic dynamism in rural areas which is needed to combat poverty.

The purpose of this seminar is to explore these different positions and discuss whether the increased interest for large-scale agricultural investments also could be a development opportunity for local populations.

Program:

13.15-13.45: Kenneth Hermele, School of Global Studies - GU, will make an introductory presentation. He has rich experience in development economics and recently defended his Ph.D thesis: “*Land Matters. Agrofuels, Unequal Exchange and Appropriation of Ecological Space*” in Human Ecology at Lund University.

13.45-15.00: The discussion will start with comments by the two discussants: **Matthew Fielding**, Project Manager at SIANI and SEI and **Jesper Karlsson**, who works with research on international agricultural investment and principles for responsible agricultural investment at the Trade and Markets Division of FAO.

About LARRI:

LARRI (Land Rights Research Initiative) is a platform for discussion, exchange of ideas and information as well as for promoting collaboration among researchers and students and others interested in land rights issues from a poverty and development perspective. The LARRI initiative is hosted by GCGD - Gothenburg Centre of Globalization and Development at Gothenburg University. For more information about LARRI or this/future events please contact Maria Ölund, project coordinator of LARRI: maria.olund@gu.se



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The seminar is organized by:
LARRI - Land Rights Research Initiative

A group of people, including children and adults, are walking along a dirt path through a lush green field. Some are carrying items on their heads or backs. The background shows more greenery and a few trees under a bright sky.

Photos: Jesper Karlsson