



Co-funded by the European Union



Promoting Responsible Governance of Investments in Land (RGIL)

Context

A large share of the world's rural population depends on using land to feed themselves. Commercial agriculture and forestry investments are placing growing pressure on land as a resource. Especially when state capacities to steer and monitor land-based investments are low, this can lead to increasing pressure on natural resources, land-use conflicts and in the worst cases to forced expropriation and displacement. These factors can have a negative impact on livelihood and food security in rural areas, particularly when land rights are insecure.

Notwithstanding, investments can boost food security and livelihoods if social, environmental and economic sustainability are taken into consideration. Many countries have committed themselves to good land governance: for example, they endorsed the FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and aim to follow the CFS' Principles on Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI).



Project name	Promoting Responsible Governance of Investments in Land (RGIL)
Commissioned by	European Union (EU) and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Partner Countries	Ethiopia, Laos, Uganda
Volume	12,400,000 EUR (EU: 9,000,000 EUR; BMZ: 3,400,000 EUR)
Duration	November 2019 to July 2023
Implementing Partners	Ethiopia: Ministry of Agriculture Laos: Ministry of Planning and Investment Uganda: Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development

Implemented by



Objective

The RGIL project is part of the “Global Programme Responsible Land Policy” (GPRLP) and is implemented in Ethiopia, Laos and Uganda. RGIL aims to ensure that investments in land are productive, contribute to sustainable land management and respect the rights and needs of local populations, in particular vulnerable groups and women.

Benefits

Private sector **investors** and the **government** benefit from capacity development measures as the implementation of responsible practices is a means to increase revenue and expand inclusive and lasting business models in the long-term.

The main beneficiaries are rural smallholder **farmers**. A specific focus is set on women's land-rights as they play a key role in assuring food security at household level but are often disadvantaged in their access to land.

Goals



370 private investments comply with contractually agreed land use.



More than 200 investors have used advisory services to comply with principles of national and international guidelines.



Approximately 250 investors have participated in multi-stakeholder dialogues on the state of implementation of guidelines for agricultural investments.



More than 1100 local land users in project areas rate their knowledge on their right to access and to use land as generally adequate.

Approach and Activities

Besides working with our political partners, investors and target communities, we work in partnership with other development projects, international and national CSOs, research institutions and academia as well as investor associations.

What we do specifically

Support on a policy level through analysis and improvement of national regulatory frameworks for land investments and mandatory socio-ecological standards.

Implementation of trainings to improve compliance in responsible investments in land at national and local level.

Sensitize investors to socio-ecological and contractual responsibilities and promote their alignment to national laws and international guidelines (e. g. VGGTs).

Promote participation of civil society organizations in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of responsible land policies and support establishment of grievance mechanisms for the rural population.

Conduct multi-stakeholder dialogues to connect all relevant stakeholders in the area of responsible investments in land and to develop common ground for understanding and action.

Organize multi-stakeholder dialogues to discuss specific investment projects, promote the exchange on lessons learned and develop appropriate capacity development measures.

Improve investment monitoring and management through digital methods of collecting data and verification of compliance with international guidelines and contractual obligations.

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