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Freie Universität Berlin

Fair Fuels?
Zwischen Sackgasse und Energiewende: Eine sozial-ökologische Mehrebenenanalyse transnationaler Biokraftstoffpolitik.

The ongoing rush for land in Sub-Saharan Africa, biofuels and the importance of developing country partners in PCD.

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Prepared for the Meeting of the National Focal Points for PCD, 9 February, 2012, OECD, Paris.

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Biofuels: an open Pandora's Box for PCD?

An evolution of emerging policy issues facing biofuels

early 2000s	①	Auto industry concerns
Mid 2000s	②	Environmental criticism (GHGs)
	③	Trade
Late 2000s	④	Food vs. Fuel
	⑤	Socio-ecological concerns (iLUC)
Early 2010s	⑥	Land acquisitions (land grabbing?)
Beyond	⑦	2 nd Generation?

Meaningfully governing biofuels today means addressing a complex and interlinked set of political economic and socio-ecological challenges.

In Context: EU & Policy Coherence for Biofuels

- 2004
-2008
- **Planning** for Biofuels integration into the EU's Renewable Energy Directive (RED) recognized risks:
 - greenhouse gas balances
 - competition over land, labor & capital domestically & overseas
 - the food vs. fuel debate (EC 2006)
- 2009
- **Passed into law** after food vs. fuel debate, lacking social provisions in its mandatory sustainability criteria, citing WTO compatibility.
- Dec.
2010
- **Entry into force** on eve of famine on Horn of Africa, and as land acquisitions for biofuels production, gain increasing global attention.

EU planning was multisectoral & recognized potential issues, but was restricted by WTO rulings and industry pressure.

A PCD problem? Land acquisitions (“grabbing?”) in Sub-Saharan Africa

Jump from 4 mil. to 60+ mil. hectares globally changing hands per annum in 2008-10 (Deininger et al. 2011)

- ✓ Equates to 5-10% arable land in SSA countries (Friis/Reenberg 2010)
- ✓ Contracts often (Cotula 2011) :
 - ✓ are intransparent, concluded without public consultation
 - ✓ are unusually long, up to 100 years
 - ✓ underprice use of both land and water
 - ✓ contain little or no information on lessee responsibility
- ✓ The majority, some estimating up to 75%, of acquisitions have been for biofuels (Friis/Reenberg 2010; International Land Coalition 2012)

Evidence beginning to emerge that demand created by EU RED is partially driving acquisitions associated with serious human rights questions related to treatment of vulnerable & marginalized groups.

Conclusions & Questions

- EU opened door for, and legitimized, a global biofuels boom. If EU biofuels policy is recognized as detrimental:
 - does the PCD “do no harm” or “do good” mandate also mandate redrawing or eliminating policies that do not meet these aspirations?
 - if yes, does the EU have a (moral) obligation to encourage countries following the EU’s previous biofuels example to alter policies as well?
 - Does “contingency planning” for similar situations (beyond mandated reviews) need to be incorporated into future policies?
- There is a clear need for social criteria for policies directly impacting sensitive sectors in developing countries.
 - How to improve compatibility between PCD goals and WTO law?
- If PCD efforts are to be taken seriously, development “partners” must be meaningfully brought in.

Literature

This presentation is based on the working paper:

Leopold, Aaron; Dietz, Kristina (2012): Transnational contradictions and effects of Europe’s bioenergy policy: evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa. *Fair Fuels? Working Paper 4*. Berlin. Available at: <http://www.fair-fuels.de/en/publications.html>

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Many thanks - Questions?

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