

Large-Scale Land Acquisitions (LSLAs) Part 1 – Handout

Focal Countries' Axillary Data							
Country	Income ¹				Size ² Area (km ²)	Climate Climate*	Rainfall Avg. rain (")
	2005	2010	2015	2020			
Argentina	5158	10429	14971	8476	2.74M	tropical savannah	30
Sudan		1585	2158	1415	2.38M	tropical/subtropical desert	6.2
Zambia	703	1489	1314	985	741 km ²	humid/subtropical	35
Chile	7599	12808	13574	13232	748 km ²	dry summer/subtropical	13
Lao PDR	512	1170	2135	2623	231 km ²	tropical savannah	26
Uruguay	5227	11992	16729	15438	174 km ²	humid/subtropical	37
Mozambique	417	472	590	449	785 km ²	tropical savannah	58
Egypt	1251	2593	3437	3609	995 km ²	trop/subtropical desert	1

¹ Adjusted net income per capita in current (2021) US\$ from the World Bank

<http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?q=GdP&d=SNAAMA&f=grID%3A101%3BcurrID%3AUDS%3BpcFlag%3A1>

² Size from Nation Master <https://www.nationmaster.com/country-info/stats/Geography/Area/Land>

³ Koppen climates & rainfall from www.weatherbase.com

Land Matrix Settings

Choose these filters from the dropdown menus each time you use the database:

1. **Land Matrix Region** – Select **Global**.
2. **Country** – Select one of your two assigned countries
3. **Deal Size** – Leave blank so that all are shown.
4. **Negotiation Status** – Select **Concluded** and **Contract Signed**.
5. **Nature of the Deal** – Select **Outright Purchase** and **Lease**.
6. **Investor** – Leave blank for now (can change later as desired).
7. **Year of Initiation** – Leave blank to include all.
8. **Implementation Status** – Select **In Operation**.
9. **Intention of Investment** – Select all categories of **agriculture** (biofuel, food crops, fodder, livestock, non-food agriculture commodities; agriculture unspecified). Uncheck everything else.
10. **Produce** – Leave blank.
11. **Scope** – Select **Transnational**.
12. **Forest Concession** – Select **Excluded**.

Data to Extract from the Land Matrix Database

After you have selected the proper filters described by the instructor and entered a country's name, start collecting data. For each country studied, first note the total number of deals made and the size range of the deals. Second, collect data on the following bulleted items for at least 5 deals within the country. The amount of information available varies greatly between deals, so quickly check out 10–15 deals to ensure that they have information in all of the **bolded** categories below. If they do not include information in one of the bolded categories, please select a new deal. Non-bolded categories represent areas of information that are not uniformly found amongst deals, but are still incredibly useful for forming a well-informed opinion article. Note the research questions in the next section before beginning your data collection, as they may help guide your inquiry. Use Google Translate as needed.

For each deal, write down:

1. **General > Size of the Deal, Nature of the Deal** (purchased or leased), **Intention of Investment** (biofuel, food crops, fodder, livestock, non-food agriculture commodities or agriculture unspecified), Purchase or Lease Price (collect any information available, e.g., who received the money, duration of lease)
2. Employment (collect any information available, e.g., planned jobs but not created?)
3. **Investors** (name and country of origin of parent companies, operating companies, and investors)
4. Data Sources (Note if this section includes a publication or report)
5. Local Communities/Indigenous Peoples (collect any information available)
6. Former Land Use
7. **Produce** (Type of crops & collect if available: use in country and/or export and percentage)
8. Water (collect any information available)
9. Gender (collect any information available)

Research Questions

The questions below may guide your research efforts by helping you compare LSLA characteristics, potential benefits, or impacts between countries. However, they are not exhaustive—what questions come into your mind while you are researching? Let your curiosity guide your inquiry.

1. Do you see any patterns between the number or size of land deals and the average income in the countries?

2. How do crop types, climate, and rainfall interact to contribute to desirability of land for acquisition?
3. Where are the investors from (both the parent company and the investors/lenders)? What is their net worth (if you can find that information online)?
4. Did most of the LSLAs involve outright purchases of the land or leasing and why might this be important to local people in the countries?
5. What was the most common intention on the part of the investor (i.e., type of agricultural commodity)? How much of this is in use domestically vs. exported?
6. How often is irrigation involved on the land acquired and what can be said about it? (I.e., was it from groundwater or surface water sources?) Are there any suggestions of over extraction or an increase in water use compared to prior to the purchase?
7. Were jobs created for local people? Do they work for the company?
8. Is there evidence of conflict or impacts on the local people?