



International Institute for
Sustainable Development

A photograph of two Black women standing side-by-side and smiling. The woman on the left is wearing a colorful, patterned dress and a red beaded necklace. She is holding a blue folder and a smartphone. The woman on the right is wearing a light purple cardigan over a white blouse and dark trousers. She is holding a small object in her hands. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**IISD's
Advisory and Capacity
Development Services**
for **Responsible
Agricultural
Investment**

Building Robust Legal and Policy Frameworks

Achieving food security and nutrition through responsible private sector investment in agriculture is a challenge that many low- and middle-income governments face. Foreign investment can provide much-needed capital, jobs, market linkages, know-how, and technology to develop the agricultural sector and improve its contribution to development. However, if done badly, investment can undermine local food security, violate land tenure rights, worsen conditions for marginalized groups, and deplete and degrade natural resources.

For private sector investment to work, particularly foreign investment, governments need a robust legal framework compatible with national priorities and local needs that is informed by good international practices and high-quality evidence.



About IISD's Advisory and Capacity Development Services

Who We Are

Building on more than a decade of experience in this area, IISD's team of legal and policy experts provide high-quality advice and capacity development to governments and regional bodies on laws, policies, and contracts to promote responsible investment in agriculture and food systems.

Our Focus

We advise and support governments and regional bodies on topics including:

- Model contracts and leases for large-scale farmland investments
- Regional guidelines for responsible investment in agriculture
- Contract farming templates agreements, laws, and codes of conduct
- Legal and policy frameworks for agricultural growth poles and zones
- Policies and strategies for attracting foreign direct investment in agriculture
- Market opportunities for voluntary sustainability standards

Our Past Work

We have worked with Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, and Vietnam, among other countries. We also work with regional bodies such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC).

What We Offer

IISD's team is available on request to provide advisory services, free of charge, to low-income governments and regional bodies. IISD also offers capacity development services on the above topics, such as tailored training workshops, cross-sector policy dialogues, and peer-to-peer learning events.

Engage Us

If you are interested in discussing how IISD can support your government or regional body in achieving food security through legal and policy frameworks for responsible investment in agriculture, please email nyaguthii.maina@iisd.net and swolfrey@iisd.org and we will arrange a call to discuss your needs.

Please note, IISD is not able to act for governments in disputes or support live contract negotiations.



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