



*Creating a Knowledge Platform
and Toolkit for Addressing Questions on
Investment in Agriculture:*

*The Opportunity, Challenge
and Way Forward*



PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE

THE GENERAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Catalyze and support the emergence of a new community of practice centered on land-extensive agroenterprise
- Improve the transparency, quality, currency of information on all relevant topics
- Disseminate decision-support tools widely
- Contribute to a global consensus on the way forward and best practices

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

☞ Improve...

the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of...

agroenterprise projects involving acquisition of significant rights to land, water or other natural resources...

in developing and emerging countries...

..in order to achieve the best possible development outcomes...

for all participating and affected entities or stakeholder groups

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THE SPECIFIC NEEDS

- A **joint repository** for research, analytical work, principles, guidance, etc
- A **one-stop shop** for information and tools
- A **virtual meeting place** for practitioners
- A **forum** for exchanging views on hot topics, lessons learned, and best practices
- A **conduit** for e-learning
- A **gateway** to other on-line resources

TARGET AUDIENCES/Users

- **Public Sector**

 - Officials in relevant ministries and agencies in host country

 - Officials in relevant ministries and agencies in source country

 - Officials in multilateral and bilateral donor agencies

- **Private Sector**

 - Executives, managers, analysts in investing companies

 - Staff of contractors

- **Civil Society**

 - Executives, program managers, analysts in NGOs

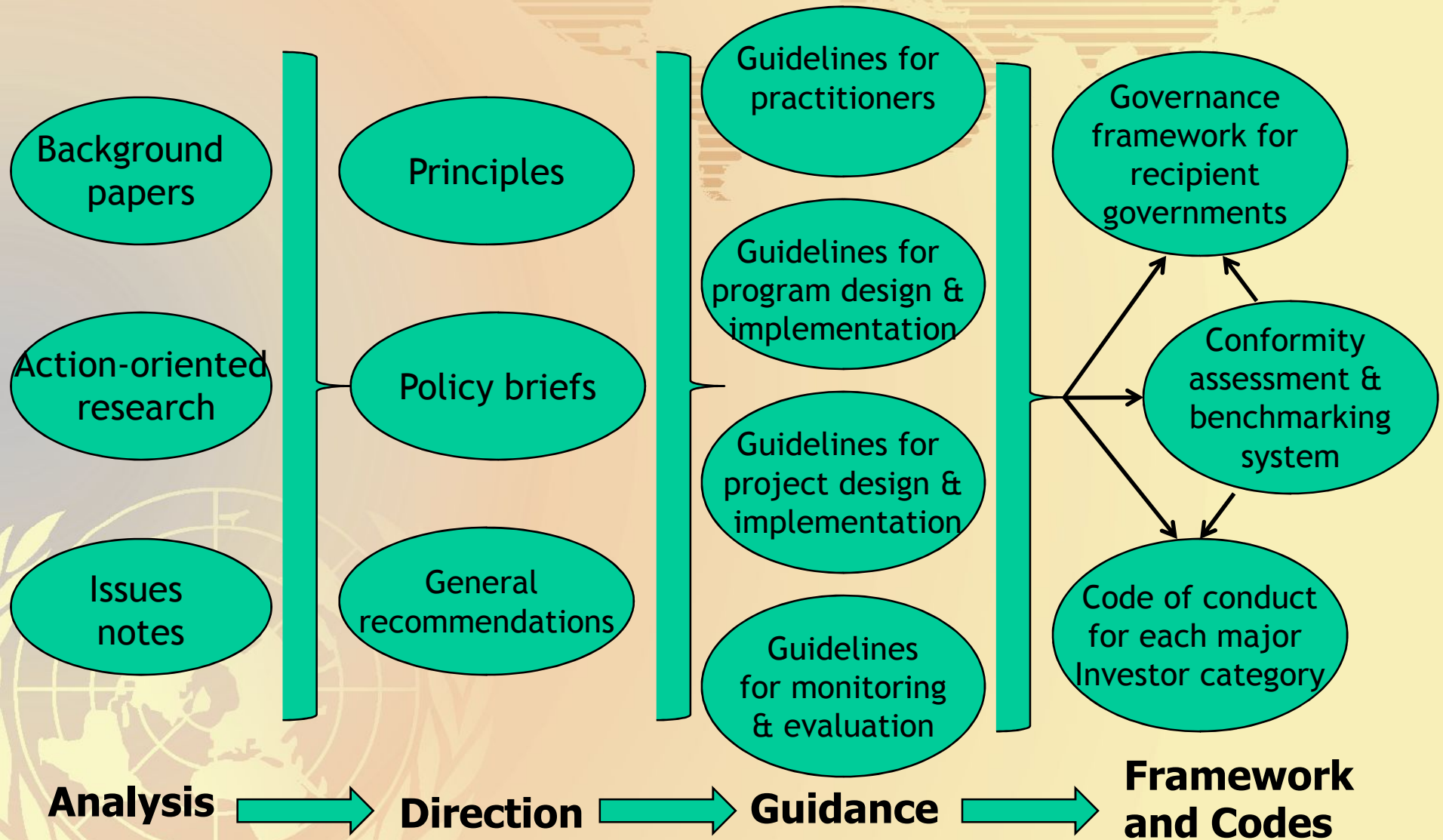
 - Leaders of affected communities

- **Academia**

 - Researchers and teachers interested in the topic

- **The Press**

Notional Structure of Global Toolkit



FULL LIST OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- **Products**

Thought pieces (notes, occasional papers, etc)

Research results (surveys, case studies, best practices, lessons learned, etc)

Statements of principles (core, operating)

General recommendations

Guidelines for action

Governance framework

Codes of practice or conduct

Performance standards

Safeguards

- **Services**

Peer advice

Review of potential publications

EXAMPLES OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Land grab or development opportunity?

Agricultural investment and international land deals in Africa



Lorenzo Cotula, Sonja Vermeulen, Rebeca Leonard and James Keeley



Foreign Investment in Agricultural Production: Opportunities and Challenges

BY VERA SONGWE AND KLAUS DEININGER

The recent surge in food and fuel prices has prompted countries with high dependence on food imports to try and lock in future food supplies through direct investment in agricultural production in other countries. The price surges also led to a wave of proposals to invest in biofuels investments in agricultural land. While such investment can provide large benefits, it also carries considerable risks both to investors and citizens in the locality of the investment. To ensure that investments provide broad benefits and effectively contribute to larger development outcomes, enforceable property rights and contractual agreements in many developing countries need to be strengthened. This Note considers how development partners can help countries create the pre-conditions for investment and proposes a governance framework to establish minimum standards for it.

over \$1,037. Between January and March, wheat export prices increased from \$196 to \$440 per ton.¹ Countries' attempts to isolate themselves from these trends through measures such as export restrictions only worsened volatility. The price increases threatened food security and welfare among the poorest, particularly in countries that depend on food imports. In countries where the poor could no longer afford food, and where state budgets could not absorb the costs of increased subsidies, price increases raised the specter of social unrest. Food importers were compelled to explore alternative means of securing adequate food supplies, such as acquiring land or investing in agriculture in countries with abundant agricultural land. Food prices however were not the only force at play in increasing the demand for land. High fuel prices were simultaneously leading to greater demand for plantations on which to grow biofuel crops such as oil palm.



"Land Grabbing" by Foreign Investors in Developing Countries: Risks and Opportunities

Joachim von Braun and Ruth Meinzen-Dick

IFPRI Policy Brief 13 • April 2009

One of the lingering effects of the food price crisis of 2007–08 on the world food system is the proliferating acquisition of farmland in developing countries by other countries seeking to ensure their food supplies. Increased pressures on natural resources, water scarcity, export restrictions imposed by major producers when food prices were high, and growing distrust in the functioning of regional and global markets have pushed countries short in land and water to find alternative means of producing food.

in developed countries and has often focused on perennial tropical cash crops rather than basic staples. China started leasing land for food production in Cuba and Mexico 10 years ago and continues to search for new opportunities to feed its large population.

More recent transnational land deals are partly an effect of the larger changing economic valuation of land and water. Higher agricultural prices generally result in higher land prices, because the expected returns to land increase when

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DETAILED DESIGN QUESTIONS

- **Hosting?** To be discussed
- **Open to all or by registration only?** Hybrid
- **Peer review required for core documents?** Yes, 3
- **Moderated posting?** Yes, to ensure quality and because of inherent sensitivity
- **Include blog?** No, because of reputational risks
- **Links to all relevant sites?** No, selected links only
- **Financing source?** Donor contributions
- **Time-frame for initial launch?** March, 2010
- **Expected duration?** Unlimited

INITIAL COOPERATORS

- Global Donor Platform Rural Development
- UNCTAD
- IFAD
- FAO
- World Bank (ARD, Land Group, WBI)
- Interested governments, NGOs, private firms (tbd)

NEXT STEPS

- Form steering committee (September 2009)
- Hold scoping and planning meeting
(by 15 October 2009)
- Resolve main design issues
(by 15 November 2009)
- Obtain initial funding (by 15 December 2009)
- Design and test portal (by 15 February 2010)
- Initially populate portal (by 15 March 2010)
- Launch portal (by 15 April 2010)