



THE WORLD BANK

## Annual Bank Conference on Land Policy and Administration

### ACQ8: Standards and Contracts: Can They Ensure RAI Contributes to Food Security and Sustainability

Tuesday, April 27, 2010 | 3:30-5:00PM | Preston Auditorium

Session notes by Julie Cannon

Anwar Ravat:

- EITI disclosure by govt and comp revenues and payments
- done in a collaborative process
- disclosure and participation
- global standard applied locally
- most important part of EITI - country says it is adhering, statements are validated
- major meeting took place 5/6 days ago
- decision made on who is allowed in as a compliant country and who still has to work
- not a un convention
- not a purely voluntary
- EITI by design is a focused process
- doesn't try to solve all ills and problems
- addresses how to build dialogue and consensus among stakeholders at a community then globally
- unless a country chooses to do so the global EITI standard doesn't answer questions that may be important
- is a large-scale acq deal fair
- how are agricultural land investments allocated
- EITI as a global standard doesn't answer - countries can expand to answer
- what is the global governance structure and how does it apply to a situation relative to large-scale ag investments?
- decision is a political decision - world bank kept in a role that is objective and cannot eject a country from EITI
- EITI beginning to show results
- longer term outcomes are a work in progress
- cannot say that a domestic performance is improved because it is still a journey even though some building blocks have been accomplished.
- over time has gotten support at g8 g20 etc
- in individual countries the EITI has worked because each party has benefitted from EITI.
- path to greater accountability and steps toward reform and governance
- although it is a narrow focus it works

Renier de Man

- land is a hot issue
- so many voluntary standards on commodities
- palm oil issue in 2002-2003

- mega rice projects now followed by other mega projects
- history repeating itself
- mistakes going to be made
- irreplaceable biodiversity
- reading from slides
- simple to write down, difficult to implement
- need to incorporate land governance

Andrea Ries:

- there is weakness in agroindustry standards in the absence of the government
- when it comes to land governments have to be there
- EITI may be the way to go forward
- voluntary guidelines on good governance of land
- important to link government compliance with international standards coming from this process which is to link to land on an international level
- civil society plays a crucial and important role
- the principles we have in front of us are altered from the international institutions
- the role of institutions is similar to that of EITI - not part of govt structure which can provide tech support to implementation
- three-track approach - there is a need for consultation b/c principles are only valuable if they are embraced by major stakeholders - start implementation in parallel
- things are moving quickly - no possibility of a 1-2 year eval
- doesn't think there will be an agreement everyone will embrace
- find leaders who will share experience
- need to support govt very quickly and take their experience in implementation
- 3 things have to go forward

John Lamb: description describes exactly where we are; dialogue with climate sector started 12 mo ago; is it coming together and building on the basis of principles to develop them into a set of principles

Mike Taylor: how are we responding? nobody is saying the issue is going away or isn't important; might not be a coordinated response; things that are principles that shouldn't be principles; head toward some set of norms that could be referenced in response; where do you set the bar? high or low? hasn't heard any basis that people are saying large-scale land acq are a good model for investment; best forms of investment do not involve land transactions but involve working with people who live and work on the land; observation - would one of the benchmarks be acquiring land from the people not the state

Derek Byerlee: how are smallholders producing the commodities participating in the roundtables? (Reinier de Man) how do you implement these types of principles at the smallholder level

Ravat - in those countries Chinese holdings take part in the EITI (Nigeria, Kazakhstan) - countries that have weak governance - why work on EITI when they have more pressing

problems? most keen to aspire and reach a global standard (Kyrgyz republic Equitorial guinea) - world bank has played crucial role in being convening power that gets all of this together

de Man - 5 years is extremely fast but intellectually could've done in a weekend - something that would never have been accomp if there were 20 governments at the table - don't look for cumbersome negotiation process - doesn't have a clear picture of what's happening in roundtables - smallholder interests are being taken very seriously -

Kiene - controversy - too complex/complicated - ways to rethink some but not standards per se - 500 hectares of land being changed in use and ownership v. difficult can only say that we have to start operationalizing standards - glad john pointed out that chart showed progression of principles to safeguards - need to be seen as a package - can't wait to deal with safeguards until everything else is in place

Ravat - the world has to be seen as it is as opposed to what we would like it to be.

de Man - mistake to fight over formulation of criteria too much

Kiene - need to rethink and reinvent recourse mechanisms that are not yet applied or available to many people

Ries - word of caution - principles are voluntary have big potential of bringing things together and improving the average operation but not the right thing to prevent the bad cases of large-scale investment - voluntary schemes are just not met - keep in mind that there is a need for other instruments as well

cousin - concept of principles - overarching theme - we have had forty years of experience in different industries and different venues - not just the principles but the implementation of the principles - the monitoring and recourse that is available to those who are impacted at the country or user level for any particular deal - work is just beginning - conversation will continue to go on - challenge is that deals are happening on the ground - responsibility of participating in the conversation but simultaneously working on the implementation.