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Land Grab: Red Claw of Neo-Imperialism in South Asia

Stop Land Grabbing Now !



Countries	Major Causes of Land Grabbing
Afghanistan	Militarization, Conflict & Multi-National Corporations
Bangladesh	Farm Land Conversion, Land Plotting, Climate change & Multi-National Corporations
Bhutan	Militarization, Ethnic Conflict, Dams Construction, Land Plotting
India	Special Economic Zone, Multi-National Corporations, Land Pooling & Plotting
Maldives	Militarization, Special Economic Zone, Tourism & Urbanization
Nepal	Special Economic Zone, Land Pooling & Plotting
Pakistan	Conflict, Militarization, Special Economic Zone, Multi-National Corporations, Land Pooling
Sri-Lanka	Tourism, Conflict, Militarization, Special Economic Zone, Multi-National Corporations



Acknowledgement

Land is the principal economic resource not only for the farmers but for many people in the world. In the case of South Asia, where almost 60 per cent of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihood, it is not only a simple source of food and shelter but also a matter of identity in the social and political power sharing pattern. Land has been, therefore, the major property asset to grab and accumulate, which compels small peasants to become more and more vulnerable and landless. At present, besides political elites and the land owning classes, private sectors, military and mainly, Multinational Corporations are controlling fertile land, thus displacing the settlement and capturing the source of livelihood of peasants. There is an increasing trend of land grabbing in South Asia in various forms, the major actors being Multinational Corporations.

This paper on land grabbing in South Asia presents glimpses of the reality of farm land encroachment and land grabbing in South Asia illustrated by some case studies.

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Campaign Against Land Grabbing

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Land Grabbing in South Asia: Status and Threats

Land grab stunting South Asia

The livelihood of people all across South Asia depends on small farm land and land resources. It is the home of small and marginal peasants, yet the largest pool of family farmers producing their food requirements within the small patches of land and other related resources they own. It is a self sustaining traditional livelihood system in an introvert socio-natural living pattern which ensures land ownership a matter of social identity rather than mere food supply. In such a socio-economic South Asian milieu, the outbreak of land grabbing in parallel with international trend has not only posed a problem disposing people at millions but also caused dislocations and disruptions of peasants' age old family farm system. This is nothing but neo-liberal backlog and evil impact of corporate globalization which undermines peoples' livelihood to ever widening profit monger of large capital investors. Foreign acquisition of land by multinational corporations (MNCs) is rampant in this part, too, as around the world coercively grabbing the farmers' fertile land especially small holders in such a manner which has threatened the food sovereignty and livelihood of millions of common peasants. Some experts now refer to this process as a new form of colonialism and imperialism while others see it as the process of neo-liberal led developmentalism that commoditises everything on the planet – land, water, forest, seeds and breeds, microbes, and continues to grab the productive resources and national assets in other countries. Following this trend, national capitalists and investors, state and corporations in collusion with vested interest group propagate various activities of urbanization and industrialization have escalated grabbed land in considerable magnitude. Further,

land pooling and plotting has displaced many farmers from their daily food producing farms, and in a number of cases forcing them uprooted completely pushing them to bewilderment of migrant labourer and squatter dweller. Sea grabbing and water grabbing, patenting of seeds and breeds and introduction of REDD and REDD+ are also other forms of resource grabbing in South Asia that has become common phenomena these days. The combined impacts of all these sudden but well orchestrated attacks on peoples' livelihood and its ultimate source land have created an alarming situation inviting peoples' struggle for justice and existence.

Land grabbing is nothing more than a process with a vicious aim of controlling the world's most precious food producing resources by local, national and transnational elites, investors and governments. The global financial, food and climate crises have triggered a rush among investors and powerful governments to acquire and capture land and natural resources, since these are the only “safe havens” left that guarantee secure financial returns. Provident funds and other financial giants have become powerful actors in land-grabbing, while wars continue to seize and control over natural assets. The World Bank and regional development banks are facilitating land and water grabs by promoting corporate-friendly policies and regulations, facilitating capital flow for corporate investor. The World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) have proposed such principles that legitimise farmland grabbing by corporate and state investors, viz., . Thus, they assume the role of foster-father for an extractive and destructive economic development model.

Red claw of land grab

The food crisis at the small hours of 21st century forced capitalist vultures to make reconnaissance flights for new carcass paying high profits and readymade forte was land flats for flattening fortunes, safe and secure. Immediately, occupying large land-plots on wishful ground of 'food security' surged forward as current fashion. Within less than half a dozen years, the corporatised land occupation swelled so fast that it emerged as a promising profit monster termed as Land-Grab.

"Land grab is a process of forcefully evicting people out of their own lands for the benefit of foreign multinationals and other corporate organizations including feudal land lords, private investors, state authorities and elite groups. It is the catchy phrase for the outburst of transnational land transactions for commercial speculation revolving around the production and export of GM food and bio-fuels and high rise price pulling of property in various quarters of world". While the problem is more serious in Africa and Asia, even the land masses Europe and America are not out of its deadly clutches. And South Asia no longer remained immune to this rapidly expanding new pandemic. It manifests in the acquisition of land on a large scale either by buying, leasing or any other coercive means by domestic and transnational companies, governments, and individuals tantamount to more than 10,000 ha and for the long-term basis of more than 30 years (30-99 years), especially for the purpose of production for export. It is the large-scale extraction of land, water and other closely linked natural resources through the production of food and non-food goods; and involving either the capture of or shift in control over the meaning, use and purpose of the land, water and other closely linked natural resources. This

is not to say that land grabbing in smaller quantities and for a short period of time is not a matter of grave concern. Even the process of taking small pieces of land from farmers for commercial purposes is considered land grabbing as snatches away her/his livelihood.

...And the alarms!

Land is life, dependable source of daily food, a belonging rather than mere economic good. In south Asia, local people are called *bhoomi putras*, the sons of the soil. This motherly warmth is so emphatically translated into most important productive resource essential for the existence of human and other life on earth. It is the principal economic resource for all class of people as well as a source of power, prestige and property in many quarters across the globe. Land, for most people in South Asia and her agrarian societies, is tied not only with economy but also their identity and culture, intimate bond with nature and budding civilizations itself. Thus, the deprivation of land mean not only deprivation from source of livelihood, habitat and economy but also identity, culture, citizenship, political power and what not. Along with the adverse effects of land grabbing such as migration, displacement, food insecurity and hunger, this also explains the negative psychological crashes. The phenomenon has so devastating impacts on farmers that explain the increasing number evacuation of innumerable villages, social violence and eventually peasants' suicide!

South Asian peasants have suffered a long history of feudal coercion, unequal distribution of land and its poor governance. has been hard hit by land grabbing. Increasing risks in land and agriculture is one of the reasons why farming is no longer the occupational choice for many people, especially younger farmers. Loss of fertile land, lack

of sustainability and resulting unprotectedness are what menaces of land grabbing and mono-cropping. The military control of most fertile farm lands, natural resources and forest lands and land pooling by real estate businesses has displaced small and marginal farmers and women pushing them further deep down into the vicious cycle of poverty. Marginalized sections of communities are most hard-hit by poverty and socio-political deprivations leading to vulnerability and food insecurity due to loss of access to and control over land and territory.

Camouflaged Motives

Access and control over land resources is directly linked to power. This explains the increasing demand of land in spite of its extremely limited supply. Thus, there is a constant struggle to accumulate more and more land in all societies whether feudal or capitalist, subsistence or commercial. It is all the more true in case of South Asia where almost everything, social status to economic wellbeing, revolves around land. Land amassing not simply adds a better source of food and shelter but also becomes a matter of enhanced identity in social, economic and political power sharing pattern. Land has been, therefore, the major property asset to grab and accumulate which opens unknown vistas of novel opportunities only the future can define. No wonder the good earth becomes BT orchids, hotel villages, casinos, or green golf courses or lands of big games. No wonder how many small peasants and their toiling families have been compelled to be uprooted behind these grandeurs solely meant for widening profit margins at bank accounts in distant metropolis.

Now these issues are no more camouflaged; the naked play of

money making by vested groups and their ill-motives are open and above board. The past decade witnessed an enormous rush in the wild race of land acquisition, a phenomenon that some have dubbed as “global land arrangement to meet the rising toll of hunger and starvation.” These acquisitions are motivated by profit harvesting in the designed waves of rising food and fuel prices, manipulated commodity and resource scarcities, created incentives for financial speculations, etc. It knows nothing about the concerns over dwindling spaces for “nature,” global warming and climate change and ecological devastations. The “global food crisis,” peak oil prices would only multiply the hunt for more land and corporatized liberalization licensing augmented encroachment in agriculture, privatization of natural assets like soil, water, forest and left out Common Resource Properties for sere game of profit accumulation. The promising achievements in science and technology and the innovative knowledge thereof like Gene technology facilitating New Green Revolution (GM crops) has so cunningly been misused for land grabbing. The corporatization and commercialization of farming, the sanguine leg of WTO intervention in agriculture, served much to produce agro-fuel out of large scale mono cropping supported by GM seeds. The motive was to turn green revolutions as the tools of new capitalism, making agriculture the secure source of large profits. Therefore, the pious rush by “food-insecure” nations to grab land for secure food supply, at no time, turned to be guided by the rising demand for agro-fuels on the one hand and on the other by increasing opportunities for private investments in land and soft commodities

The capitalist ploy to seize and make use of hitherto unexploited productive resources in developing countries to feed its profit

machines forms the main motive behind massive land grabbing. Besides, private sectors, the state, military, armed groups and similar figures used coercive and unjust methods to rub land away from farmers mercilessly. The neo-liberal development paradigm has so skilfully created the terror of land grabbing that it could hide the heinous crime of climate crisis as vast estate property is created at the cost of livelihood of poor peasants and farmers at millions.

The shameless actors

Unfortunately, the phenomenon of land grabbing got fanfare a large acquisition of farm lands, either on lease or by purchase, was initiated by states like Saudi Arabia, China, South Korea, Japan, former Libyan regime, Singapore, India, Malaysia, Mauritius, South Africa etc. Latter, MNCs emerged as major actors involved in farmland grabbing due to its lucrative business prospects. In addition, national companies, elite groups, landlords and other also followed the suite aggravating the situation bad to worse. Moreover, the Gulf States, are now leasing and buying a large amount of land in other countries. National and international Companies such as agribusiness firms, industrial groups largely from US-EU are leasing a huge amount of land for agro-fuel production, mono cropping and other industrial purposes. Other actors of land grabbing are multilateral agencies such as development banks, bilateral co-operations and international institutions that promote such land deals.

Chosen hinterlands

Land grabbing in massive proportions is happening all over the world, threatening the survival of small farmers. This phenomenon is concentrated in the global South with the highest proportion

in Africa and Asia. Land grabbing has become one of the most devastating problems of the present world, but impacts are severe in rural corners of developing countries, converting farm land to non- agrarian land and displacing peasants and farmers in the process. According to the World Bank report released on September 7, 2010, there have been a total of 46.6 million hectares of land acquired between October 2008 and August 2009, almost double the size of the UK and a 10-fold increase in a decade. Meanwhile, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) estimates that 15 to 20 million hectares, or around 20 per cent of the total farmland of the EU, have been negotiated or secured between 2006 and 2009. At least 180 land deals have been reported since mid-2008, according to Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN). Of the 464 projects covering 46.6 million hectares and targeting 81 countries as compiled from GRAIN, the World Bank estimates that almost half of the projects covering 69 per cent of total land area (32 million hectares) are in Sub-Saharan Africa. There are 8 million hectares in East and South Asia, 4.3 million hectares in Europe and Central Asia, and 3.2 million hectares in Latin America. In total, 37 per cent of the projects focus on food crops, 21 per cent on industrial and cash crops, 21 per cent on bio-fuels, and the rest on conservation and game reserves, livestock, and plantation forestry. But it's a global phenomenon, as a recent report of La Via Campesina Europe has reported that Land grabbing has also proliferated in Europe.

Country specific data on the phenomenon reveals a vastly detrimental situation and one that is only speeding downhill. For instance, 3 million hectares have been captured by Chinese and South African companies in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Ethiopia, 3 million hectares has been allotted to foreign investors

and 10,000 hectares in Kenya to Canadian company Bedford Fuels and 28,000 hectares to G4 Industries Ltd. from the UK. Libya acquired more than 100,000 hectares of land in Mali. The leading target countries, based on the scope of cases monitored by GRAIN in 2008, are Sudan, Pakistan, Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Burma, Laos, and Uganda. Australia is also the target of more than one negotiation. Other countries include Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia, plus other countries in Africa, South America, Central Asia, and West Asia or the Middle East. Even India and China are target countries. China, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain, the Gulf countries, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE), India, Malaysia, Japan and South Korea have already been on the road to Africa, South and Southeast Asia, South America, and Russia and Central Asia since March 2008.

South Asian Tragedy

The increasing interest of MNCs in South Asia is obvious as they evict forcefully thousands of peasants' grabbing million hectares of farm land in India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Pakistan made roughly 404,700 ha to foreign investor. In India, a large portion of land has been separated for SEZs and many MNCs have already made their entry. Land grabbing by TATA in Singur and SALIM in Nandigram are popular instances. Military land grabbing is rampant in Pakistan and Afghanistan as well as in Sri Lanka. In Nepal, when land acquisition takes place it is converted into conservation areas for plants and animals or otherwise used for mining, SEZ and industrial development. A lot of land grabbing in Sri Lanka is done for the sake of tourism development which causes inconveniences to the livelihood of farmers and fisher folk. This conflict has already

displaced millions of peasants in most of South Asian Countries. Dams and border encroachment have also been a major problem in many South Asian countries such as Bhutan and Nepal.

South Asia is home to around 1.5 billion people where more than 60 per cent depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Three of every four poor people in these countries live in rural areas and almost 40 per cent of the total population is poor. Agriculture continues to be a fundamental instrument for sustainable development and poverty reduction in these countries. Sixty per cent of the labour force is engaged in agriculture and the sector accounts for about 23 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the region dominated by smallholder farmers. The poverty in the region is characterized by unequal distribution of productive resources, especially land. Along with climate change and impacts of the market, land grabbing has had catastrophic effects on the livelihood of small farmers and peasants all across South Asia, only perpetuating the poverty in this region.

Because land is a form of private property neo-liberal policies and the increasing pressure of urbanization and industrialization has led to an active land-sale market in both rural and urban areas with the bulk of sales transactions occurring in urban land. Land values have steadily been rising. Land pooling and land plotting is a new economic and social phenomenon and a type of business in urban areas. Over the last five decades, fertile agriculture land has been rapidly converted to non-agricultural land used for industrial purposes and the development of towns. At present, the commercialization of land and increasing interest shown by the private sector, government and MNCs/TNCs has led to land grabbing Real Estates (domestic) both in the form of registered company and non-registered entity (individual and family organized in informal

ways) have been involved in land grabbing, considering land as a business entity ready to grab the speculative benefit. A number of groups including the cadres of political parties have been found to be engaged in land businesses. The state and MNCs have been the prime causes of land grabbing. Similarly, migration of youth is also common in all countries resulting in absentee ownership, barren land and feminization of agriculture, leaving a lot of land readily available for acquisition. The different forms of land grabbing that exists in South Asia are given below,

- i. Land grabbing from MNCs and TNCs especially in the case of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- ii. Land grabbing in the name of conflict, both from rebels and the state (Conflict areas eg. Afghanistan, Kashmir)
- iii. Land grabbing for military purpose (Pakistan, Sri Lanka)
- iv. Land grabbing is rampant in the border areas especially between Nepal and Southern Neighbouring country where encroached the land of other country has been issues both at local and national level.
- v. Urbanization and commercial pressure on land leading to land pooling, plotting and business)
- vi. The state encroaching land in the name of mining, conservation areas (Buffer people) and very recently in the name of SEZ.
- vii. A large amount of farm land has been encroached and taken away for the purpose of building universities, industries, hospitals and sports centres.
- viii. Land grabbing is also common in the name of tourism. Thousands of fisher folks from coastal areas of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives are severely impacted due to sea and land grabbing.

Country Specific Cases

A. land grabbing in Bangladesh:

Due to commercialization, Bangladesh has been losing 595.87 bighas (197 acres) of cultivable land in each year. From 1972 to 2009 total 2667000 acres of cultivable land have become uncultivable. As a result, every year 44 thousand framers have been forced to migrate to other profession, during the last two decades 155000 fishers have been migrated to other profession in every year. If the grabbing or encroachment is going on in such a way, report says that, within 2025, 50% of the total land of Bangladesh will be gone under human habitation.

The influential are grabbing land using various unscrupulous ways. Making false documents, influencing the authorities and the courts are the key strategies of grabbing lands. In February 2011 the Minister for Land informed the parliament that, 1.3 million acres of public land was being grabbed by influential. These grabbed lands are hardly use for the agriculture; rather these are being used for mainly industries or real estate business. Some government offices and officials are also found involved in land grabbing. Building offices, quarters for the officials and lending hands to the land grabbers are the key types of their involvement. Class analysis of the land grabbers in Bangladesh identifies that, rich businessmen, political leaders, civil and military bureaucrats are the avant-garde in the land grabbing. In the decade of 80, at the beginning of the Neo-liberal economy in Bangladesh, especially the 1982 industrial policy created some opportunity for some quarters. They had come pretty close to the power. Using that power they began to grab lands in various excuses. On the other hand, privatization and diminishing subsidy in agriculture made it hard for the poor to survive and to

get lands.

It is already mentioned that, land grabbing is decreasing the cultivable land in 1% in each year. Besides the cultivable lands the fishing bodies are also being grabbed by the rich. The open water bodies, the fishing places are being leased to the rich, which is why the fishers are being deprived of fishing. In each year a good number of fishers are being forced to migrate to other professions. In the southern part of the country the shrimp hatcheries are grabbing cultivable lands.

Climate change will also have an impact on the agriculture. Bangladesh's food security situation is also vulnerable due to the impact of the climate change. Scientists predict that, the agricultural products of Bangladesh will be drastically hampered due to the impact of climate change. Production of rice and wheat will be decreased; salinity intrusion will also decrease cultivable lands, the irregular or erratic rainfall will decrease rice production in the northern part of the country.

B. SEZ in India, main culprit of Land grabbing

Besides other form of land grabbing, legal grabbing from state has also been common in Nepal. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) can be compared to their predecessors, Free Trade Zones and Export Processing Zones, in that they are aimed at stimulating foreign direct investment (FDI) and rapid, export-led, industrial growth in India. A brainchild of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), the SEZ Act that was passed in 2005 goes much further than previous policies as it seeks to establish a large number of private industrial townships, each covering hundreds or thousands of hectares of land. According to the MOCI, as of February 2010,

formal approval has been accorded by states to 571 proposals out of which 348 SEZs have been notified. A total of 105 SEZs are already exporting. The 571 approved proposals are for SEZs sponsored by State governments and are in addition to seven Central Government SEZs and 12 State/private sector SEZs that were set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005. These 571 approved SEZs represent a total of 67680 hectares.

Estimates show that close to 114,000 farming households, and an additional 82,000 farm worker families dependent upon these farms for their livelihoods, will be displaced for SEZ developments. Experts calculate that the total loss of income to the farming and the farm worker families is at least IRs. 212 crores a year. This does not include other income lost due to the destruction of local rural economies. Apart from development projects and SEZs, conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural use is fuelled by factors like decreasing incentives from agriculture (around 40 per cent of peasants quit agriculture), have intensified so called legal and illegal land grabbing, resulting in extreme misery and uprooting of poor peasants and the livelihood.

C. Land use conversion and commercial pressure on farm land: A case of Nepal

Due to neo-liberal policy and increasing pressure of urbanization and industrialization, Nepal's land-sell market is active in both rural and urban areas, and bulk of sales transactions are in urban land completely destroying the fertile land and displacing small farmers. Land values have been rising, particularly since the end of the conflict and the effect of membership of WTO triggering land pooling and land plotting as a new economic as well as

social phenomenon and a new business. Over the last five years, prices of land in many town and cities has been increasing rapidly converting productive land as a commodity of transaction. With urbanization and massive internal migration in to Kathmandu valley (39.65 percent of Kathmandu population are migrants, 2010) real estate business in Kathmandu and many other cities has witnessed an uptrend in the last decade resulting the land price increase by more than 300%. A poorly functioning land market has leaded to several ills including, land speculation, creation of slums and squatter settlements, environmental deterioration, and an inefficient sub-urban development pattern which is increasing the cost of doing business in the city and adversely affecting the urban economy. Governments have been unable to improve the efficiency of land registration systems because of institutional, technical and economical constraints and a lack of political will.

In case of urban area which has most fertile land suitable for farming, rapid urbanization due to migration has put serious pressure on farming communities. As the size and quality of farm land are determinants of poverty in the rural areas and landlessness and very small land holding are already big challenges of Nepal, the present trend of land use has aggravated the problem. The fertile land is being used for urbanization and industrialization and rural land has gone barren due to rapid migration. Increasing pressure in land has raised the price of land denying the local communities from their resources and leading conflicts over natural resources. The competition of the investors with the local communities especially the farmers for whom such resources are critical source of livelihood has posed threat to land rights, food security and environment. There is a high investment in the housing sector of Nepal but this

has been rampant for the last few years. Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) has already imposed a cap on the exposure of banks and financial institutions to housing and real estate loans, asking them to limit such exposure to 25 percent of their total investment portfolio by the end of fiscal year 2012/13. The total investment of the commercial and development banks alone would go beyond Rs. 200 billion. Similarly, the investment of cooperatives sector is speculated there. Thus, Real Estates (domestic) both in the form of registered company or non-registered entity (individual and family organized in informal ways) have been engaged in land grabbing considering the land as the business entity to grab the speculative benefit. A number of groups including the cadres of political parties found to be engaged in land business (Bista, 2010).

D. Land grabbing in Pakistan

Land grabbing in Pakistan started with Saudi request for 202,400 ha of farmland. Pakistan hoisted green signal by running official process identifying lands in four provinces to allocate to the Saudi project. China Green Agriculture, initiated a contract with Pakistan in November 2011 for an initial 4,000 ha for a project to produce fruit and vegetables which was welcomed by Government.

In another instant, Abu Dhabi's Al Dahra Agricultural Company, one of the main suppliers of animal feed to the UAE, has 4,050 ha for rice production in Pakistan and intends to bring that to 10,100 ha before 2013. Still another, Emirates Investment Group (EIG) is reported to be involved in two large farm projects in Pakistan, including one that would cover 35,000 ha. It is pursuing its dairy projects in Pakistan through a 50-50 joint venture with the New Zealand Company Dairy SolutionNZ to develop large scale farms in the Middle East and Pakistan. All of these moves find welcome steps in Pakistan in the name of increasing FDI.

E. Land Grabbing Information of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has been the target of investment of many multinational corporations and even developed countries as Sri Lankan government aim to make the country tourist hub of Asia. They are either buying or leasing a large amount of land especially in the coastal areas and islands displacing thousands of fisher folks and local people. Data shows thousands of acres of land has been already taken away by dozens of companies.

S. No.	Project	Implementation by	Project Title	District	Captured land(in acres)
01	H V Farm grow	H Vic, Company	Agriculture	Puttlam	136
02	Hotel project	Laflesher Com	Tourist	Puttlam	02
03	Moradavillu forest area	Puttlam District Secretary	Agricultural	Puttlam	100
04	Tourism in Kalpitiya	Tourist development authority	Tourism	Puttlam	4,200
05	Puttlam lagoon	None information	Salt production	Puttlam	101
06	Wanathavillu Wilpatthu area	No information	To politicians	Puttlam	400
07	Kalpitiya cultural Zone	Tourist Development Authority	Tourism	Puttlam	1,645
08	Cashew, Sugar cane, Pineapple	Multi-National Companies	Agriculture (Ethanol)	Badulla	65,000
09	Sugarcane	Boukar Sugar Company	Agricultural	Monaragala	-

10	Buttala forest area	Many persons	Agricultural	Monaragala	8,094
11	Banana	Doll Lanka co:(American)	Agricultural	Monaragala	405
12	Gulf ground, and a hotel	Alpha & Omega developers PVT company	Tourism	Badulla-Soragune	250
13	Multi-development			Badulla- Uma Oya	10,000
14	Tourist hotel	Tourist development Authority	Tourism	Tricomalee Pulmude, Nilavelly	500
15	Salt production	Raigam Eastern Salt Co:	Industrial	Tricomalee, Sa-pearu	750 1,000
16	Coal power plant, sampur	Navy	Industry and Electricity	Tricomalee	5,000
17	Banana	Amy and let's go co:	Agriculture	Polonnaruwa	6,110
18	Hotels & metal Cory	Farm Garden Hotel Company	Industrial	Anuradhapur Andarawewa	19
19	Large maize cultivation	IFAD program	Agriculture	Monaragala (Siyambalanduwa)	50,000

20	Cultivation	Doll company	Agriculture Gam industry	Polon- naruwa	16,600
21	Large Cashew cultivation	Civil defense army	Agriculture	Mannar (Silava- thura)	2,428
22	Ellmaniete project	E.T.A. Lanka natural Re- source PVT company	Lagoon sand excavate	Hamban- thota	400
23	Hotel project	Tourist devel- opment Authority	Tourism	Batticoala (Paasi- kuda)	121
24	Cutting down a huge forest	UNO, INGO & SL army	Resettle- ment Project	Mullati- vuvu Koom- bavill)	240
25	Prawn cultivation	National water resource sea life develop- ment author- ity	Industrial	Batticoala (Vaaka- rey)	48

Conclusion and Recommendations

The right to land and livelihood resources are universal Human Rights deeply concerned with human right to food. It is evident that land grabbing has been a common phenomenon around the world especially in the South. The steady pace at alarming speed, displacing and dislocating communities, destroying local economies and the social-cultural fabric, jeopardizing the identities of communities, be they farmers, pastoralists, fisher folk, workers, Dalits or indigenous peoples, has been the unwanted results. Though the actors of land grabbing change with time and place, the fight against land-grabbing is always a fight against capitalism and neo-liberalist speculative investment motives.

The fight is also for family farming and ensuring livelihood, food sovereignty and right to environmental and socio-economic justice. Therefore we urge the need to organise rural and urban communities against land-grabbing in every form, strengthen the capacities of our communities and movements to reclaim and defend our rights, lands and resources by creating public awareness, building alliances across different sectors, constituencies, regions, and mobilise synergy together to stop land-grabbing. It is encouraging to find that farmers and peasants around the world continue their struggle against this with the firm aim to ensure food sovereignty and indigenous peoples' rights.

Our victory is unavoidable if all the affected parties stand against the ugly process of land grabbing. The Singur and Nandigram movement in west Bengal are most lively examples where united strength of people could successfully prevail over the predator. The

organisation, mobilisation and cohesiveness of communities are key factors in this resistance movement. Let us create national forums in every affected countries and move together in all countries with similar programs, if possible at the same time which will create a havoc in regional level as an answer to the greed for land. Or the other way round, we can continue the fight in a specific country on a specific event with the large participation at regional level. The prime objective is to resist and reject the whole process of land grabbing. For this purpose following tips are recommended

- Oppose state policies and programs favouring land grabbing right from the beginning that is lobbying, advocacy and campaigns parliamentarians, policy makers and bureaucrats etc
- Organize civil society and farmers organizations both within the country and outside with a broader networks
- Drive campaigns among the most sensitive areas and make people aware of the impending dangers, get them organized in effective resistance movements.
- Support local peoples' struggles against MNCs forceful occupations with the help of national agents
- Nationalize such issues and if need be, put international CSOs pressure till the evil actions of land occupations shrinks back and leaves the land.

=====ENDS=====

It is the summary report and no references are provided which is included in the detail report