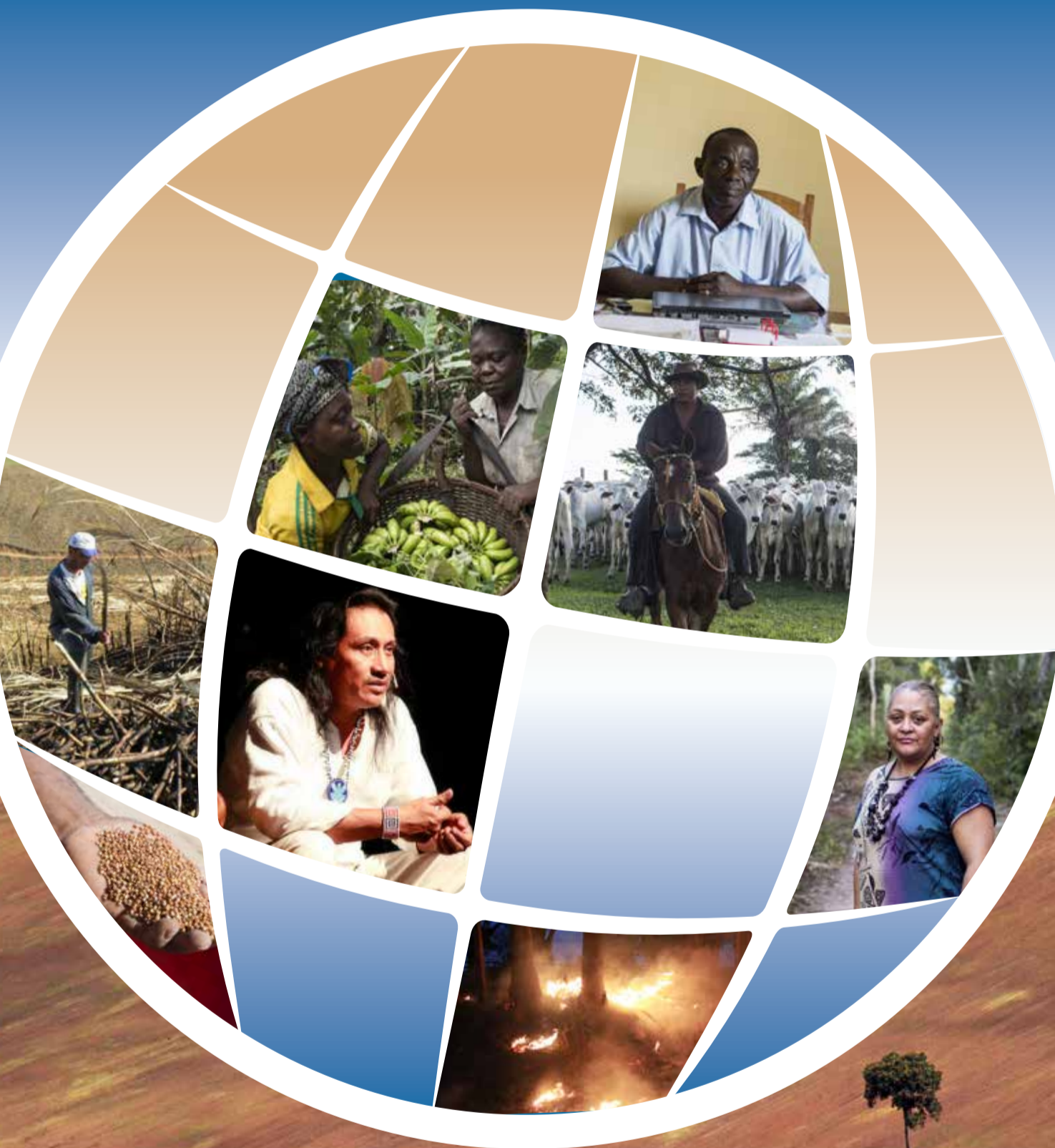


THE LAND WE GRAB

SEIZING TROPICAL RAINFOREST AND SOIL

Eyewitnesses from the Amazon and Africa
... And how Europe is involved



An exhibition by the Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples, Climate Alliance Austria, GRAIN (Spain) and CEDIB (Bolivia), coordinated by ASTM/Climate Alliance Luxembourg as part of the joint project "From Overconsumption to Solidarity", www.overconsumption.eu



This project is funded
by the European Union.

DEAR EXHIBITION VISITORS

We Europeans use much more land for our consumption of food and raw materials than we have available in Europe itself.

In the following panels, we show examples from the Amazon and Africa of what the consequences are for the people there, and shed light on various aspects of the global dimension to our consumption.

We pay special attention to land grabbing - the recent aggressive form of seizing land - without forgetting, however, that we ourselves, with our European way of life propel this scramble for land ... and that we can also slow it down again.

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knife and fork and gas pedal

In Austria, in 2012, 0.4 million tons of biodiesel was mixed into petroleum fuels without special labelling.



THE CASE AGAINST MEAT

Burgers and steaks, sausages and ham - our consumption of meat leads to the destruction of rainforests. Why is this?

Our consumption of meat has quadrupled in the last 150 years to 91 kg per year on average, in Europe, and meat production has become a global industry - with global consequences.

The biomass of the global livestock population now exceeds that of all other land vertebrates by a factor of 20. The increase in breeding of and feed required for livestock is the main factor driving worldwide deforestation. Just one example: Where 40 years ago there was rainforest, now 73 million head of cattle graze in the Brazilian Amazon alone. With the cattle, pig and chicken meat we eat in Europe, which is fed soya from Brazil, and the roughly 58,000 tonnes of beef we import every year, also, from Brazil, we create the incentives to continue to clear rainforest for animals to feed.

THE CASE AGAINST BIOFUELS

When we fill up our tanks with biofuels, with the good intention of protecting the climate, we increase demand for arable land for those biofuels; land that was used for food, instead produces fuels, and the rainforest is pushed further back. More than three-quarters of biofuel in Europe is biodiesel from rapeseed, soya bean and oil palm. Even the vegetable oil used in processed food in Europe has largely been replaced by palm oil from cleared land in developing countries, such as Indonesia. This country has become one of the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases, through cutting down its rainforests and converting its peat lands for oil palm plantations.

Currently, across the globe, fuel crops cover an area of more or less 37 million hectares, which is larger than the size of Germany, and is one of the strongest contributors to the demand for ever more land.

From rural self-sufficiency to industrial monoculture



THE STARTING POINT: FAMILY FARMING AND BIODIVERSITY

Historically, farmers planted crops to feed their families and to sell their harvest at local markets. They owned cattle for meat, milk and as draft animals. They managed nearby forests for firewood, building materials, medicinal plants and hunting. An integrated use of land where everything fits together and nothing is lost. Around the world many thousands of varieties of plant and animal species were maintained.

This way of life, living off the land that you tended, came under increasing pressure over the course of the last century from the mechanisation and specialisation of industrial farming. Globalisation of the economy over more recent decades has reinforced the trend. Today, family farmers retain the use of only about 20%-30% of global agricultural land, while still producing 60%-70% of locally consumed food.

The plantation culture in the tropics has its roots in the days when European colonizers produced coffee, tea, rubber, spices, and so on for consumption in Europe. This use of land for monocultures has expanded in an extreme manner in recent decades - at the expense of biodiversity:

Today, more than half of Argentina's arable land is planted with soya beans to produce animal feed and biofuels for Europe, in particular. Likewise, rural Malaysia is dominated by oil palm cultivation for export.

A new wave of Land grabbing

In the wake of the 2007 financial crisis that brought down banks and collapsed the finance sector, investors and speculators started looking for safe havens for their money. They realised farmland could be turned into a commodity worth putting money into.

Since then they have bought or leased somewhere in the vicinity of 60 to 100 million hectares of farmland, mostly in Africa. Be it by Sheiks from Saudi Arabia, agribusiness from India, or investors from London or New York, a new race has begun to control farmland to produce plantation commodities for the global market.



◀ Levelling for an oil palm plantation in Cameroon

WHAT IS LAND GRABBING?

Land grabbing describes the stranglehold big land owners exercise over smallholder farmer land. In general, it refers to the purchase, lease or acquisition of farmland by a local or foreign, public or private investor, linked to the dispossession and expulsion of small farmers and indigenous communities that previously used the land. Here, their traditional usage rights are ignored because they have no legal title to the land that they have cultivated for generations. Usually they are not informed of events in advance by their governments. That which is a formal and legal acquisition of land to the winner, is in fact land robbery to the loser, against which they cannot defend themselves. In losing their land they lose their livelihoods and often their way of life. And, also the urban poor are hit by the rising prices of an ever scarcer supply of food to local markets.

In general, large areas covering thousands of acres are given over to the principles of industrial monoculture - often using genetically modified plants, high

mechanisation and use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The harvest is wholly or partly exported to world markets. In the process natural habitats are destroyed, the water supply overexploited and the environment poisoned.



◀ Sunflower monoculture in Bolivia

Brazil 1 The Amazon, an indigenous cultural Landscape

Abadio Green
of the Tule people in Colombia



Abadio Green: "We see nature as our mother, who cares for us. It is even more important than our own mother, because she will leave us at some point in our lives. But Mother Earth will always be there and even takes us into herself after our death. Everything we own and consume in our world but also in the Western world ultimately comes from the earth."



◀ Settlement and plantations of indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation

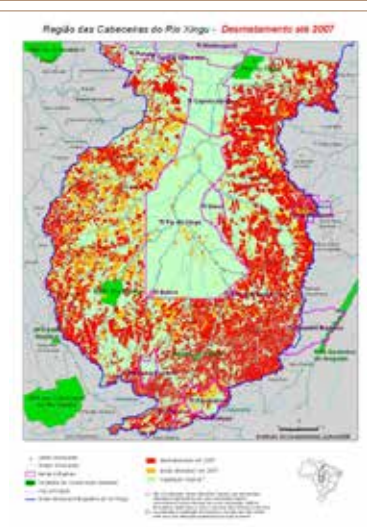
THE AMAZON IS NOT A "JUNGLE"

The idea that the Amazon rainforest is an intact ecological habitat, because it was largely spared from people, is increasingly called into question by recent findings:

- Archaeological evidence showing that the Amazon has been inhabited for over 10,000 years.
- Investigations of fertile soil that shouldn't occur naturally and that were demonstrably created by man, the Terra Preta, or black earth - a mixture of organic residues and charcoal that binds the scarce nutrients in the soil for long periods of time.
- Anthropological insights about today's peoples - the Kayapo, for example, have designed their environment, according to their needs, in their little gardens they grow foods such as cassava and maize for daily consumption, and on paths between the villages other food and medicinal plants are cultivated. Similarly, the Baniwa in Rio Negro, beside 53 km of trails between 7 villages, 325 gardens exist with food and medicinal plants.

More and more facts indicate that large parts of the Amazon should be regarded as an "indigenous cultural landscape" that was fashioned out of a natural ecosystem, through deliberate human intervention, over many millennia. This way of life is closely connected with the cosmic vision of indigenous peoples, in which animals, plants and humans are equal and animated, and allows for the sustainable use of the ecosystem without destroying it.

Deforestation up to 2007 (red and yellow dots): Where the indigenous have land rights, as for example in the Upper Xingu, the rainforest has been preserved.



Brazil 2 on the front- line of rainforest destruction: Livestock and soya

◀ Soya plantation in Barreiras



Extensive cattle farming currently accounts for approximately 80% of the deforestation of the Amazon. This process not only releases 0.3 billion tonnes of carbon annually, but also increases the risk of bush and forest fires. Often, the pastures then are bought up by big soya landowners, so that cattle and soya combined are the main drivers of deforestation.



THE SOYA BOOM

It is the growing demand for soya in Europe and Asia that is behind the dramatic increase in soya bean cultivation in the Amazon region. 80% of Europe's soya bean imports come from South America, mainly from Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay.

Brazil was the second largest producer and exporter of soya products (after the US). 60% is used domestically (mostly as animal feed), while 11.2 million tons of soya beans were exported in 2012, bringing in US\$5.5 billion in revenue.

The area under cultivation increased between 1999 and 2009 by 7.7 million hectares, to 21.8 million hectares. This average annual increase of 869,880 hectares was at a much faster rate than in the 1990s. It is concentrated on an arc around the southern and south-eastern edge of the Amazon basin from Mato Grosso to the Atlantic, and expands by clearing the savannahs of the Cerrado or by converting pasture land.

The majority of soya bean production (about 80%) is produced with genetically modified seeds.

Brazil 3 sugarcane: The driving force

About half the country's sugarcane production yields sugar, the other half yields ethanol. The 2013/14 harvest is estimated at 653 million tonnes, making Brazil the largest sugar and second largest ethanol producer in the world. Ethanol is widely used as a biofuel in Brazil itself, in the 2010/11 harvest season 22.9 billion litres were produced, while in the 2013/14 season that figure had risen to 25.8 billion litres. Sugarcane workers are generally exposed to pesticides without protection, are at high risk of injury and work in inhumane conditions.



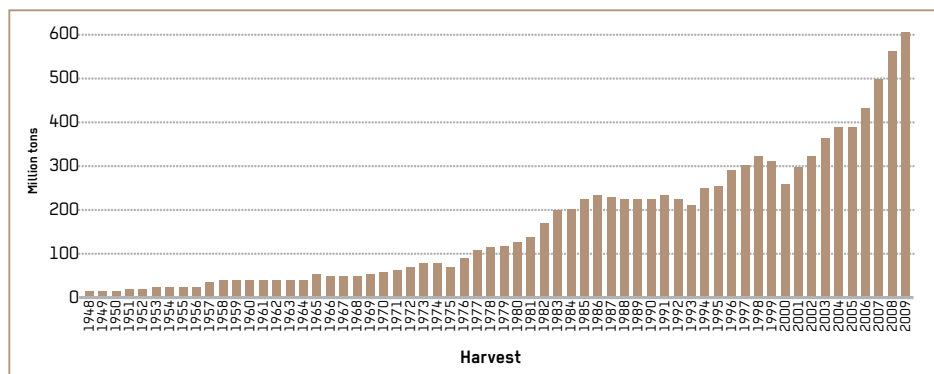
◀ Sugarcane labourers in Pernambuco

The main growing area for sugarcane is located in the state of Sao Paulo. In 2011/12, crop acreage was 8.4 million hectares and in 2013/14 it was 8.9 million hectares. It has been growing consistently in the order of half a million hectares per year. However, this is not a direct blow to the rainforest, but other uses are displaced (the technical term is indirect land-use change or ILUC), usually in the direction of the rainforest.

This is especially true for small farms; in Brazil, and many other countries, small farmers cultivate traditional fields for their own needs, without having registered land titles to prove that they are the landowners. Hundreds of thousands are driven from their plots - violently - for example, by security companies and hired *pistoleros*. They become landless, and move on, whether as settlers in the rainforest, as day labourers to landowners or as labourers in the slums of the nearest city...

... or they join together with other landless people to occupy unused fields and to manage again. MST (Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra), the movement of landless workers, has about 1.5 million members and is committed to fundamental agrarian reform in Brazil. The photo shows a so-called "*Campamento*", occupied spaces with residential houses, in the state of Pernambuco in the poor Northeast.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN BRAZIL OVER THE YEARS



Source: Statistical Yearbook of Agroenergy 2010, Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture



◀ MST Campamento

brazil 4 deforestation in the Amazon

From 2000 to 2010, the area covered by rainforest in the Amazon dropped by a total of 240,000 km², which is 4.5%. In Brazil alone, from 1990 to 2010 the forest retreated by 0.55 million km² and, by 2008, the savannah of the Cerrado areas on the southern and south-eastern edge of the Amazon basin by almost 1 million km².



The deforestation map shows in green the still vast expanse of the Amazon rainforest extending nearly 5.4 million km² (white = clouds) and black represents the areas that were not forested in 2000, whether as a result of deforestation or because there is savannah there. It shows how the clearing front progresses, especially the "arc of deforestation", the soya and pasture belt on the south-eastern edge, here the 2000-2005 deforested areas are in red, the 2005 to 2010 areas are marked orange. Clearly visible are the small deforested strips in the rainforest along the major roads, which are the areas where most settlers build.

The comparative look at the "fire map" shows that exactly the same regions that were losing or had lost forest and savannah, are also where, between 2000 to 2010, most forest and bush fires (red dots) were seen - deforestation and fires are mutually reinforcing.



Country	Forest area 2000 in km ²	Deforestation 2000-2010 in km ²	Rate of deforestation 2000-2010	Share of the Amazon
Brazil	3,110,668	192,985	6.2 %	80.4 %
Peru	700,738	14,974	2.1 %	6.2 %
Columbia	428,498	11,986	2.8 %	5.0 %
Venezuela	370,567	5,195	1.4 %	2.2 %
Bolivia	307,123	7,682	2.5 %	3.2 %
Amazon	5,357,001	239,942	4.5 %	100.0 %

Source: www.raisg.socioambiental.org (Red Amazonica de Informacion Socioambiental Georreferenciada)

Bolivia 1 The jungle is "reclaimed"

stages of deforestation

In the Amazon lowlands of Bolivia, as in other parts of the Amazon, a steady process of deforestation is taking place. The indigenous population, for whom the rainforest is vital to their existence, traditionally preserves and protects the forest through their extensive land-use systems. However, advocates of "progress" consider this backward; for them the jungle needs to be made productive, in other words opened up to the market. The following are typical stages:



1. By extracting tropical timber and mining of raw materials such as gold or oil parts of the closed forest cover are cleared or thinned. Transport routes open up the rainforest for more users.

2. Settlers follow who further clear the forest and use it for pasture.



3. Mennonites, evangelical traditionalists, clearing the forest completely in the Santa Cruz region, to grow sunflowers, soya beans and more.

4. Eventually, they sell the land to large landowners, to create the huge monocultures for export products such as soya or beef.



Thus in the span of a single generation much of the former rainforest area north of Santa Cruz, in the lowlands of Bolivia, has been converted for agricultural monocultures for export.

BOLIVIA 2

Losing out to “progress”

Osbin Macua
of the Guarayo people



“My name is Osbin Macua, I am Guarayo and live in San Pablo, a community of about 12,600 residents in the department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. And I am the mayor. As a child I had to work as a bonded labourer on the farm of a large rancher, because we had no land. After many years of struggle, we achieved recognition of our traditional land rights.

But since the 1990s, more and more forests have been cut down illegally. The Mennonites and large landowners in Santa Cruz constantly expand their plantations with genetically modified soya beans.

I do not want my children to get into debt bondage again. Therefore, I am determined that we shall keep our land.”*



◀ Washing clothes in San Pablo

WATER SHORTAGE AND FOREST FIRES

Indigenous people call water the “Blood of the Earth”. Agribusinesses take water from rivers and lakes to irrigate their fields, they also dry out the land through deforestation. Their chemical fertilizers and pesticides end up in the rivers and poison the fish.

Agribusinesses and Mennonite settlers increase the risk of forest fires, because they deforest large areas to grow genetically modified soya beans. This dries the ground and turns it to scrub land, and in the dry winter months, uncontrolled bush fires can occur. Strong winds that are no longer slowed by tall trees acting as a windbreak drive the fires on for hundreds of kilometres. In 2013, by mid-year, 33,000 hectares of forest had fallen in the Bolivian Amazon, victim to wildfires.

* Debt bondage (*peonaje*) is unpaid forced labour that is enforced to pay a debt. The members of an indebted family are not paid for their labour in cash but rather in kind, for example in the form of “clothing lent to them” or food. This exploitative system in which they never receive adequate remuneration means that the victims can never pay off their “debts”.



BOLIVIA 3

massive changes in living conditions



Alicia Tejada

came to the Guarayos territory
20 years ago as an employee of the
Food and Agriculture Organization



◀ A Guarayo family in
San Pablo

The Guarayos have had their lives turned upside down through their loss of land and changes to their environment over the last decade. At the time the state started gradually conferring land rights on them, though without guarantees, business relationships already existed between some Guarayos and the Santa Cruz elite.

These land rights also included the right to resell already transferred land to third parties. Some of the indigenous leaders sold land belonging to their communities to the large landowners in Santa Cruz after having been bullied and intimidated by them.

Thus, the Guarayos lost two million hectares of land within a decade.

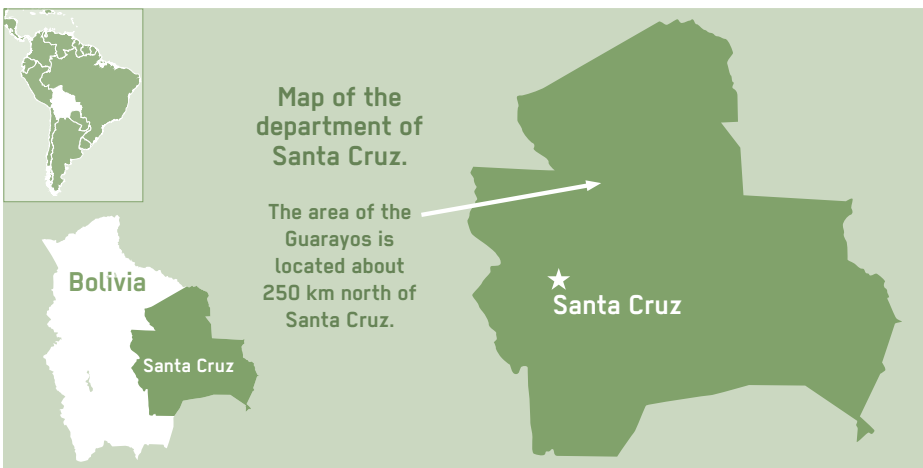
Critical voices here are immediately subjected to massive pressure. In addition, the media here is controlled by the agricultural and mining industries, who shower the population 24 hours a day with information on the benefits of soya and raw material exports.”

POVERTY THROUGH LOSS OF LAND

The Guarayos have lived in Bolivia for half a millennium, but in the 1990s, their lives changed radically. While the state gradually transferred land rights to them, the value of their land was increasing as a result of demand for land for cash crops such as soya.

In the process, the Guarayos lost three quarters of their country and have been largely assimilated into Western culture. They live in part off the income from the remaining forests, mostly from small-scale agriculture and handicrafts. In San Pablo 90% of people live below the poverty line.

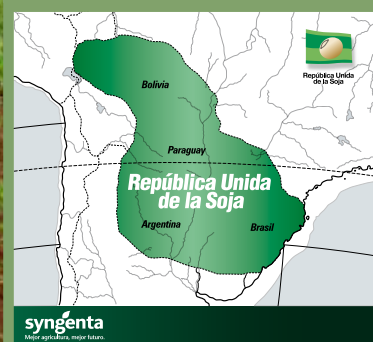
In total, every year approximately 300,000 hectares of forest are cut down in the Bolivian Amazon.



Bolivia 4 The “soya Republic”

◀ Soya plantation in Mato Grosso

“The United Republic of Soya” is the patronizing nickname the regional branch of Syngenta coined in advertisements it placed in Argentine newspapers in 2003. This region has the world’s largest concentration of genetically-modified crops and the highest per capita levels of agricultural toxins.



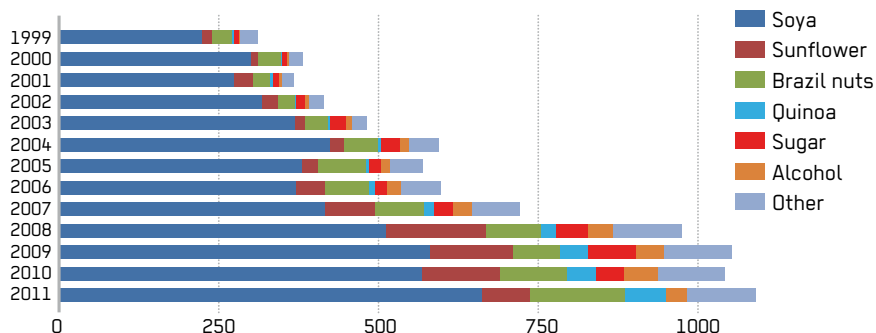
THE AGRO-INDUSTRY IN SANTA CRUZ

Since the 1990s, the World Bank has forced Bolivia to make “structural adjustments”, i.e. reduce public deficits through spending cuts and increasing revenue from exports.

Revenues from the export of Bolivian soya, mainly to North America and Europe, increased between 2001 and 2011 from US\$275 million to US\$660 million. The Santa Cruz region is today dominated by the agricultural industry.

When growing genetically modified seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides are massively used, supplied by large corporations like Monsanto, Syngenta and Bayer. The agricultural industry is controlled by a handful of families, who have close business relationships with these groups and financial companies. The latest twist is Brazilian and Argentinian agribusinesses buying land in Bolivia.

The main export products of Bolivia’s agro-industry (in US\$ million)



THE REPUBLIC OF SOYA - THE SOUTH OF THE AMAZON BASIN

With the growth in global demand for animal feed and agrofuels, the power of the Latin America alliance between large landowners, international chemical and agricultural machinery companies and financial institutions has also grown. It accounts for the region not just being termed a “Republic” as the Syngenta map suggests, but a territory which is ruled by an alliance of the regional oligarchy and international capital. This alliance is so strong that the agricultural elite of the lowlands of Santa Cruz were able, for example, to openly threaten the newly elected Bolivian President, Evo Morales, with secession. In Paraguay, the alliance supported the coup against legitimately elected Bishop Lugo and, in Brazil, have prevented agrarian reform to date.



Cameroon 1 in the rain- forest of central Africa

Cameroon is located in Central Africa; much of the south of the country is still covered by tropical rainforest. As in the Amazon, to its inhabitants the forest has an existential meaning.



THE FOREST AS A MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME

In addition to gardens and farmland where corn, cassava and other vegetables are grown, each village has its own woodland. Here the men grow "cash crops" to sell (such as cocoa), and the women a variety of vegetables; women also gather bananas, mangoes and wild fruits, and handle the food and prepare it. Inhabitants also feed on hunted and domestic animals such as chickens, pigs and goats. For village residents their forest is the main source of food and income, and therefore they manage it sustainably.

Many families own a few oil palms to meet their own needs for cooking oil. The crop yield is traditionally processed in artisanal palm oil refineries.

LAND RIGHTS

In traditional law, there is no private ownership of land, only usage rights. The village leaders still decide to this day, especially in rural areas, on the division of land which then passes from father to son.

However, following changes to national land tenure rights, as of 1974 a registered land title becomes the only valid means of determining land

ownership. Ownership of any land, for which title has not been registered, reverts automatically to the State. Communities can have their land tenure recognised in order to acquire a land title, however, this is a protracted and expensive procedure in practice; moreover, there is no national land register. Therefore, hardly any of the rural population nor city dwellers have land titles.



Cameroon 2 The case of Herakles Farms

A village chief from the area of Manyemen on the edge of a Herakles concession.



There are 20 villages inside the Herakles concession zone and another 31 villages within a radius of less than 3 km; 25,000 people are directly affected by the concession. Most communities do not have title deeds for the land they have owned for generations; they are at risk of eviction without compensation and of losing their access to the forest.

We harvest vegetables, medicinal plants and lots of other crops in the forest for our own consumption and to sell.

A few village elders have attempted to reach agreement with the company and have accepted payments, but their villages have been left impoverished. Handing our land over to a corporation will create a host of problems for us. Our children will have no future.



◀ Oil palm seedlings in deforested land

INVESTMENT PROTECTION VERSUS HUMAN RIGHTS

In September 2009, SG Sustainable Oils Cameroon (SGSOC), a subsidiary of the American agribusiness company, Herakles Farms, signed a contract with the government of Cameroon leasing 73,000 hectares in the southwest of the country on which it will develop an industrial-scale oil palm plantation and refinery. The 99 year lease is priced between US\$0.5 and US\$1 per hectare per year. SGSOC is exempt of all tax and customs duties obligations for ten years.

The company has been awarded free access to unlimited amounts of water in the leased area, as well as all its natural resources and any associated emission rights and may expand the concession at its sole discretion, for example, by buying up land from the surrounding villages.

SGSOC may determine wage and employment contracts for its plantation workers without regard to Cameroonian labour law and social provisions and is exempt from complying with any new laws the Parliament passes, for 99 years. The company may arrest and detain anyone who enters the area without authorization.

Sources: Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED), www.cedcameroun.org, www.grain.org

Cameroon 3 successful Local opposition

Dominic Ngwese,
President of the NGO Nature
Cameroon



Village communities have now realized that the project will deprive them of their livelihood and that it is ecologically disastrous.

But fighting an American company's project carries risks. Many activists have been the target of harassment, prosecutions or arrests.

The company has broken its promises time and again. Complaints have been lodged at all levels of government, but the company has allies in the government.

We have very valuable land, ecologically speaking, with many tree species worth protecting that could bring the communities and the country direct benefits. Both in terms of biodiversity as well as to the communities, such an enormous plantation makes no sense.

In order to avoid public unrest and environmental problems, it is better to abandon the project.



◀ Clearing for oil palm in the Herakles Project

HERAKLES PROJECT PRIOR TO FAILURE

More and more critics questioned the legitimacy of the project: US\$40 million was invested prior to the publication of the required presidential decree. It lacked logging permits from the Ministry of Forestry. In June 2013, two Cameroonian NGOs sued Herakles Farms in the US on charges of corruption.

Numerous internal problems came to light: The project director and other executives resigned, and there were payment issues with employees and contractors. Deforestation proceeded in an uncoordinated manner, plant saplings withered. Investor confidence in the project suffered a terrible blow from a study by the Oakland Institute and Greenpeace on legal errors and false promises made by the company.

In May 2013, the government halted work at Herakles Farms. According to senior officials they want to declare the contract void and reduce the scope of the project from 73,000 to 20,000 ha.



cameroon 4 Africa - a continent for sale



THE HERAKLES CONCESSION IS ONLY ONE OF MANY IN CAMEROON...

Biopalm Energy, Siva-Group Singapore	Oil palm	200,000 ha	South of Cameroon
Sima Darby, Malaysia	Oil palm	300,000 ha	South of Cameroon
IKO, China	Rice	US\$120 million invest.	Nanga-Eboko region
Sosucam, Cameroon / France	sugarcane	10,000 ha + 11,980 ha	Haute-Sanaga region

... AND ALL OVER AFRICA

The NGO, GRAIN, estimates that in recent years, Ethiopia has given away 10% of its arable land to foreign investors and land speculators, Congo 6%, Senegal 5%, and the list goes on. All of these countries themselves have enormous food security problems. And it is not always only a question of control over land but also over water:

MALI

The government has already given away 470,000 ha of land to companies from Libya, China, Britain, Saudi Arabia and others, almost all in the inland delta of the Niger River, Mali's main agricultural zone, which feeds millions of farmers. Water experts have sounded the alarm about the future of the wetlands, while local farmers and herders are facing the loss of their livelihoods.

MOZAMBIQUE

The president Armando Guebuza offered foreign investors 14 million hectares, an area larger than Switzerland and Austria put together, with millions of people practising shifting cultivation in it - at US\$1 per hectare per year. The so-called "ProSavanna Project" in north Mozambique is being pushed by the governments of Japan, Brazil and Mozambique.

KENYA

The government has given usage and ownership rights to thousands of hectares of land in the 130,000-hectare large Tana Delta for sugarcane plantations. According to a study more than 25,000 people in 30 villages from the Orma pastoralist and the Pokomo agriculturalist tribes are now under threat of eviction from their ancestral lands.

Source: www.grain.org

Romania: The Romanian forest under global pressure

◀ Logging in Ojdula in Covasna County, Romania

LEGAL AND ILLEGAL LOGGING

The scramble for forests and agricultural soils is occurring in the new EU Member States too; Romania is home to 65% of all virgin forests in Europe outside Russia and its most expansive contiguous forest areas. However, in recent years 2800 km² of forest area have been cut down illegally - with obvious consequences: In the Eastern Carpathians bald mountain ridges and eroded slopes dominate the Giurgiu Mountains.

The Austrian groups, Kronospan and Holzindustrie Schweighofer, are considered the main timber buyers in the Carpathian State. Schweighofer has processed 2.7 million cubic meters of wood in Romania - from virgin forests and national parks, among other sources - primarily for the Japanese and North American markets. According to the forestry department head from Targu Mures, Mr. Verliu, foreign companies create the greatest pressure: "They have a monopoly and determine prices." The employers' association, Arbor, which represents 150 small and medium-sized enterprises with 3,000 employees, fears the loss of 14,000 existing jobs in the fields of wood processing, suppliers and tourism by the opening of Schweighofer's third sawmill of in Reci.

SCRAMBLE FOR ARABLE LAND

Not only is the forest under pressure from beyond the country's borders; 6% of arable land in Romania is already in the hands of investors from countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UK and Austria. As a result land prices have multiplied over the last 10 years. Holzindustrie Schweighofer has already been growing grain on 1000 ha fields.

All of this contributes to the fact that many Romanians see no future in Romania: Three million Romanians currently work for low wages in other European countries.



◀ Holzindustrie Schweighofer began the construction of a third sawmill in Reci on 03.08.2013 without the necessary permits.

The global food system and the climate



◀ The red dots in this view from NASA's Terra satellite represent the hundreds of forest and bush fires in the lowlands of Bolivia and western Brazil, on 23 September 2003. A veil of smoke hangs over the entire region, east of the Andes mountain range.

Source: http://archive.org/details/terra_samerica_23sep03

THE EXPANSION OF THE AGRICULTURAL FRONTIER

Before the planting starts, the bulldozers do their job. Worldwide, agriculture is pushing into savannahs, wetlands and forests, and this deforestation causes 15% to 18% of global emissions - mostly from fires. Expanding industrial plantations follow with soya, sugar cane, oil palm, maize, rapeseed and more for world markets.

Agriculture generates approximately 13% of global greenhouse gases. The majority of this comes from industrial farms and their massive use of chemical fertilisers, the manure from intensive livestock keeping, and the fuel used in tractors, irrigation systems, and so on.

INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE AS GLOBAL TRAVEL AGENCY

Crops for animal feed may be grown in Argentina, processed in Rotterdam, and fed to cattle in Spain, which are then eaten in a McDonalds somewhere else in Europe. Much of our food has travelled thousands of miles before it ends up on our plate. The transportation required in this incredibly wasteful system generates 5% of global emissions.

CUSTOMER-ORIENTED PROCESSING

The production of ready meals, the addition of flavours and other substances, the pre-cooking, packaging and canning not only adds the largest profit margin, but also huge amounts of energy, estimated at over 8% of global emissions. Production is followed by the entire distribution cold chain and the energy costs of running supermarkets, accounting for roughly a further 3% of global emissions. And the resulting waste produced generates about 3% of emissions.

Add it all up, and the global food system is responsible for around half of all global emissions.

(Source: www.grain.org)



The production of hunger

◀ Polochic valley in eastern Guatemala. Between 15th and 17th March 2011, a sugarcane company called Chavil Utz'aj, using over 500 army and police men, evicted 800 families from 14 Mayan settlements, rendering them landless and homeless.



THE CONTROL LARGE LANDOWNERS HAVE OVER SMALLHOLDER LAND

About 900 million people worldwide still suffer from hunger. That is one in eight people. The causes are complex. In addition to some inefficient farming methods, climate change, the expansion of cultivated land for food exports imposed by the World Bank and higher prices for food as a result of speculation, increasingly, the control large landowners have over smallholder land also plays an important role:

There is no 'unused' land left in the Third World, because smallholder farmers and indigenous people use all the surfaces available to them, and often land is used both extensively and indirectly by nomads, collectors, forest farmers and hunters.

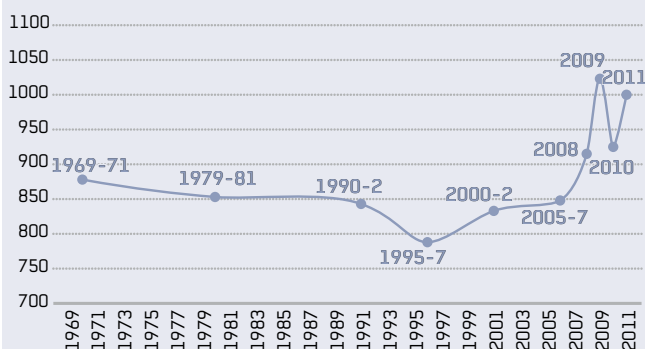
Small-scale farmers too often are woken without notice by tractors bulldozing their corn or rice fields on behalf of a landowner to prepare for planting sugarcane, for example. They must leave their huts within hours before they are demolished or set on fire.

Since they are usually not willing to give up their livelihood voluntarily violent confrontations with police, military and private thugs are the order of the day. For people who live only from what they grow, the loss of land leads directly

into extreme poverty, malnutrition and hunger.

These are farmers, who often have no other skills with which to survive, so they must look for jobs as labourers for large landowners. Most, however, move elsewhere in search of new suitable areas, which can lead to new conflicts with existing residents, or to clearing new forest areas, or else they move to the cities. The result is an impoverishment of the rural population and the expansion of big city slums.

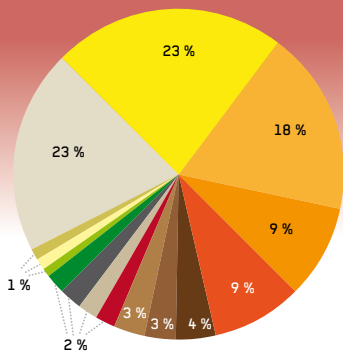
The number of hungry people worldwide (in millions)



Source: Oxfam (eds.): Growing a Better Future, 2011 www.oxfam.org/grow

EU27 1 deforestation by the european union

MOST IMPORTANT CROP COMMODITIES AND COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR DEFORESTATION EMBODIED IN CROP IMPORTS INTO THE EU27 (1990-2008)



- Brazil - Soybean cake
- Brazil - Soybeans
- Argentina - Soybean cake
- Indonesia - PalmOil
- Paraguay - Soybeans
- Ghana - CocoaBeans
- Brazil - Nuts
- Malaysia - PalmOil
- Nigeria - CocoaBeans
- Indonesia - Natural Rubber
- Argentina - Soybeans
- Indonesia - Coffee Green
- Cameroon - CocoaBeans
- Indonesia - CocoaBeans
- Other

Almost half of the deforestation caused by EU27 imports was in Brazil (48%), a further 9% in Indonesia and 5% each in Cameroon and Argentina.

Source: The impact of EU consumption on deforestation: Comprehensive analysis of the impact of EU consumption on deforestation, European Union, 2013, Page 32



◀ Soya freighter in Porto Velho harbour

One kilogramme of soya beans yields 188g of soya bean oil and 800g soya bean cake. On average about 920g of soya bean cake fed to cattle yields 1 kg of beef.

© Johann Köpfer, CA Australia

DEFORESTATION AS A RESULT OF IMPORTS

Consumption in the EU between 1990 and 2008 led to worldwide deforestation of an estimated 239 million hectares of forest, of which more than half (128 million hectares) was for planting agricultural products. The five agricultural commodities that contributed most to deforestation were: soya (19% of the 128 million ha), maize (11%), palm oil (8%), rice (6%) and sugar cane (5%). In other figures, of the 128 million hectares of forest destroyed, 49% was for cattle farming and feed production for meat products, 8% was for feed for pigs and poultry production, and the remaining 43% was for fuel and other outputs.

Conclusion: The consumption of meat from cattle raised on pasture, is the most important global cause of forest destruction.

LAND DEMAND IN SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES:

In 2007, 44% of the food consumed in the EU was produced outside its borders. Amount of land individual EU countries require abroad:

Country	Additional land required	Required m ² / head
Germany	66 %	5,200
Austria	48 %	5,100
Luxembourg*	76 %	10,000
Denmark	52 %	7,200
Hungary	19 %	3,500

* Figures for Luxembourg from 2005
Source: www.reduse.org

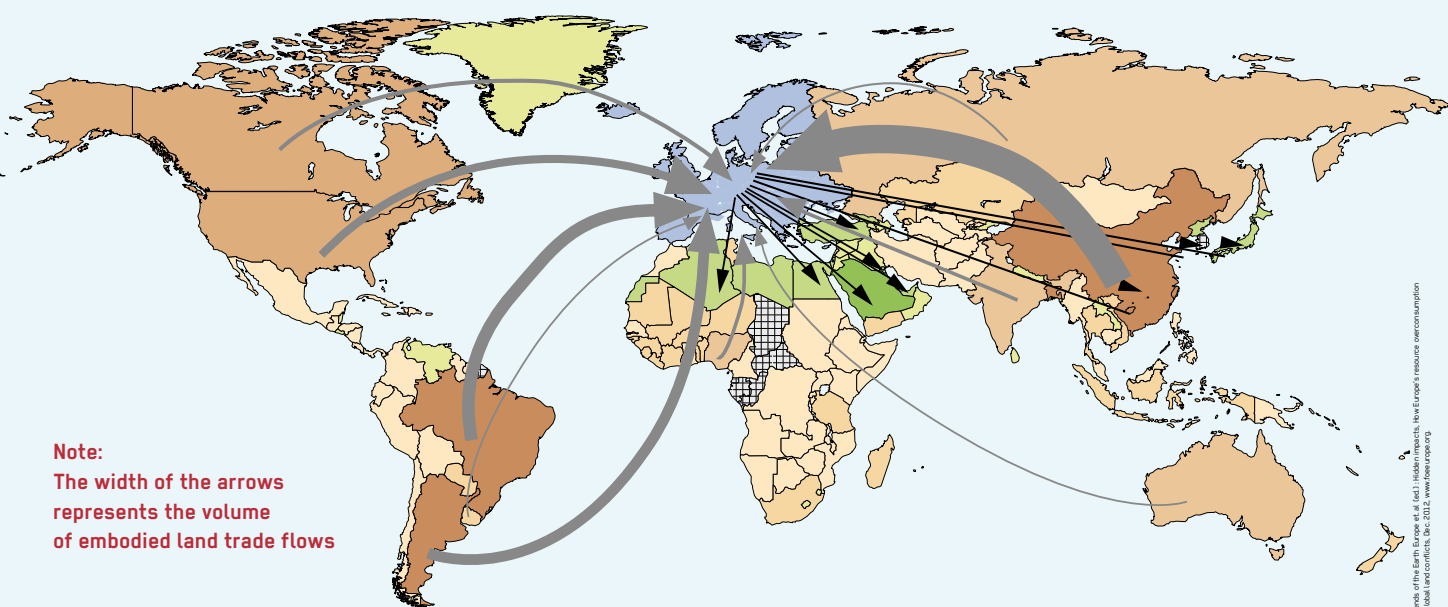
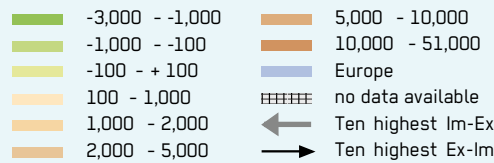
Note: On an interactive graphic at www.reduse.org you can see how much space individual EU countries need abroad to meet their internal demand in absolute terms and per capita and each member state's three major supplying countries.

EU27 2

The EU as a political actor

Net importers and exporters of agricultural land around the globe and from and to Europe in 2007

Net-trade with Europe (Im-Ex) in thousand hectares



Note:
The width of the arrows represents the volume of embodied land trade flows

Source: Birdlife, EEB and T & E (ed.): Uneven returns, April 2013, addendum Aug. 2013
promotes global land conflicts. Dec. 2012. www.Overconsumption.eu

THE EUROPEAN UNION AS A DESIGNER...

Europe is the world's largest importer of food, about 40% of the surface area that is needed to meet its demand lies outside its borders. European states and the European Union impose certain conditions on this trade:

- The recent reform of EU agricultural policy in October 2011 was designed to strengthen the international competitiveness of its agricultural economy. Having access to cheap raw materials is therefore important - especially to the European livestock industry, which imports three-quarters of its raw material for animal feed.
- Several bilateral agreements to guarantee company investments are protected and ensure stability of conditions for the duration of projects, even if policies should change in the host country (such as in an agrarian reform), ensuring investors also have the right to appeal to international arbitration to fend off new regulations if these are unfavourable to them.

... AND DRIVING FORCE, FOR INSTANCE, BEHIND BIOFUELS

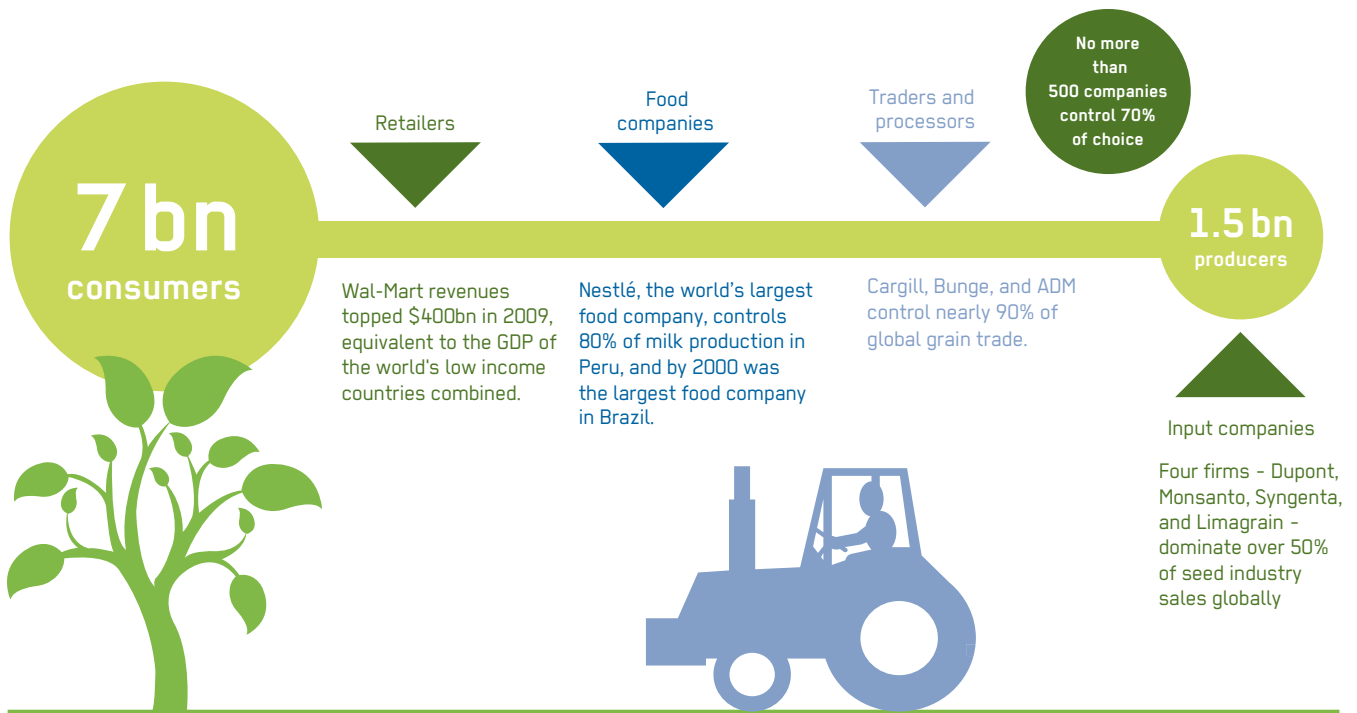
EU27 demand for biofuels harks back to the EU Renewable Energy Directive, which ruled that by 2020, 10% of the energy consumed by the transport sector in EU countries must be in the form of renewable fuels. Thereafter, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark, France, Italy and Britain all signed bilateral agreements with Brazil for the supply of biofuels.

The EU currently imports 40% of its biodiesel feedstock (costing €3-4bn per year) and 20% of its ethanol feedstock (approximately €400m). By 2011, biofuels had achieved a market share of roughly 4.5%. Even though biodiesel has been proven environmentally counter-productive, biofuels are currently subsidized to the tune of approximately €6.2bn per year, i.e. around one third of the total turnover of the biofuels market; this also creates an economically nonsensical price of more than €300 per tonne of CO₂ avoided.

Source: Birdlife, EEB and T & E (ed.): Uneven returns, April 2013, addendum Aug. 2013

conclusion 1 who are the culprits?

WHO CONTROLS THE FOOD SYSTEM?



Source: Oxfam (ed.): Growing a better future, June 2011, p. 34

EXAMPLES OF COMPANIES AND FUNDS THAT ARE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INVOLVED IN LAND GRABBING:

1 STATE AND PENSION FUNDS

Many state funds invest in farmland, for example, Sweden's AP2 (in Brazil, and other places), Holland's ABP (in Mozambique) and Denmark's PCA (in Africa and other investments via the Silverlands Fund, see below).

2 INVESTMENT AND HEDGE FUNDS

Two examples of funds that are registered in Luxembourg:

- The **Nacala Fund**: This fund is the main financing vehicle for the ProSavana project in the Nacala Corridor in northern Mozambique (see panel Cameroon 4). It is financed by two funds called "The Africa Opportunity Fund", one in Brazil and one in Japan.
- The **Silverlands Fund**: The fund is managed by the British hedge fund, SilverStreet Capital. This US\$450m fund invests capital primarily in farmland in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

3 BANKS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES

- **Deutsche Bank** funds Vietnamese firms that invest in rubber plantations on farmland in Laos and Cambodia.
- The French insurance company **AXA** has interests worldwide in companies that are involved in land grabbing in India, the Philippines and Ukraine.

4 CORPORATIONS ACROSS VARIOUS INDUSTRIES

- **Energy companies** with state shareholders: Italian ENI (30% state-owned) has invested several billion euros in the Republic of Congo on 70,000 hectares of "fallow" land to use for biofuels.
- The **Bolloré Group** is a conglomerate registered in Luxembourg with diverse activities in infrastructure, trade in goods and agriculture. Since 2011, its subsidiary **Socfin**, has acquired 12,000 ha of farmland and forest in Sierra Leone to plant oil palms.
- **Adecoagro**, one of the largest agricultural companies in Latin America, is registered in Luxembourg but based in Brazil and has operations in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. It controls around 300,000 ha of land - an area larger than Luxembourg - on which it grows rice, soya, sugar cane and more. Its largest shareholder with over 20% of the shares is Hungarian-American billionaire, George Soros.

Sources: www.farmlandgrab.org, www.grain.org

More information on:

www.solidarite.lu, www.cerealkiller.lu

conclusion 2

what can you do?

AS A CITIZEN, CUSTOMER AND CONSUMER

- You can restrict your consumption of meat and favour organic meat, which is not fed imported soya. You can generally eat more regional and seasonal organic food products.
- If there is a choice, avoid filling up your vehicle tank with biofuel. You can demand clear labelling of blends.
- You can have your pension funds, banks and other institutions in which you have invested money, confirm in writing that no land grabbing is being financed with your money.
- You can engage through non-governmental organizations, and committees in your local authority or political parties on questions of sustainable nutrition and mobility.
- You can participate in collective actions, signing political statements and supporting non-governmental organizations that campaign on sustainable development in the Third World.

The following non-governmental organizations contributed to this exhibition:



Klima-Bündnis
Lëtzebuerg

ASTM /
Climate Alliance Luxembourg
www.astm.lu /
www.klimabuendnis.lu



Climate Alliance

Climate Alliance of European Cities
with Indigenous rainforest peoples
(CAI)
www.climatealliance.org



Climate Alliance Austria
www.klimabuendnis.at



GRAIN
www.grain.org



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Further information at: www.overconsumption.eu