"PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICES FOR AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT"
Friday 20 November 2015, morning

Room MC13-121 World Bank | Washington DC

Sponsors


Speakers

Mr Alberto Mazzoni, President, UNIDROIT
Mr Henry Gabriel, Professor of Law, Elon University Law School, Greensboro, N.C., USA – Member of the UNIDROIT Governing Council, Chairman of the Unidroit Working Group on Contract Farming
Ms Margret Vidar, Legal Officer, Development Law Service, FAO
Mr Gerard Sanders, General Counsel, IFAD
Mr Jonathan Mills Lindsay, Legal Department, World Bank
Mr Justin Yap, Senior Private Sector Development Specialist, World Bank
Ms Yuliya Neyman, Land Governance and Legal Advisor, USAID
Mr Thomas M. Driscoll, US National Farmers Union, Government Relations Representative, WFO

Objectives of the Session:

Agricultural investments are crucially needed to meet global food security objectives. Focusing on two types of agricultural investments – i.e. contract farming and land investment contracts – the global session will explore how legal standards – in particular standards developed by intergovernmental agencies - can enhance good practices and make investments economically sound and sustainable for investors and beneficiaries as well as other stakeholders.

Main audience for the session are development practitioners (IFIs’ lawyers and agriculture economists, government officials (including USAID and Embassies’ Economic/Legal Attaches, private lawyers, NGOs). The participants to the session will also receive an electronic version of the Legal Guide on Contract Farming and will have the opportunity to interact with the experts from co-authoring organizations for clarifications.
1: EXPERT MEETING 1: PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICES IN CONTRACT FARMING OPERATIONS 9.00 am – 10.30 am

Moderator: Mr Alberto Mazzoni (UNIDROIT)

Presentation 1 - The importance of a secured legal environment for agricultural investments
Mr Alberto Mazzoni (UNIDROIT) will highlight the importance of a secured legal environment for agricultural investments and the contribution that private law-formulating agencies can bring in setting legal standards for good practices and fair relationships.

Presentation 2 - The UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD Legal Guide on Contract Farming: an overview
Mr Henry Gabriel (UNIDROIT) will discuss how the recently adopted Unidroit/FAO/IFAD Legal Guide on Contract Farming provides legal guidance and promotes responsible contract farming practices between agricultural producers and buyers.

Presentation 3 - Fostering contract enforcement in contract farming operations through appropriate dispute resolution procedures
Mr Justin Yap (World Bank) will discuss how appropriate dispute resolution procedures – in particular through alternative modes such as arbitration and amicable procedures - can foster better compliance and successful contract farming relationships.

Panel discussion
Mr Sanders (IFAD), Ms Vidar (FAO) and Mr Driscoll (WFO) will offer comments, in particular in light of the experiences of their organizations, focusing on how they intend to use the Legal Guide in their organizations’ practical operations.

General discussion

2: EXPERT MEETING 2: PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICES IN LAND INVESTMENT CONTRACTS 11.00 am – 12.30 am

Moderator: Mr Henry Gabriel (UNIDROIT)

Presentation 1 – Legal Considerations for Investing in Markets with Weak Land Rights
Ms Yuliya Neyman (USAID), will discuss major legal issues at stake in land investment contracts and how legal standards could be designed to increase investors and beneficiaries – including local residents’ – legal security and rights.

Presentation 2 – Investing in Markets with Weak Land Rights – A Practical View
Based on case studies and practical experience on advising project teams and borrowing countries, Mr Jonathan Mills Lindsay (World Bank) will discuss legal risks and opportunities arising in the context of commercial agricultural investment.

Presentation 3 – Operationalizing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) for investors and all parties’ benefit
Ms Margret Vidar (FAO) will present a number of Technical Guides being prepared by FAO to support the implementation of the VGGT related to investments in land.

Panel discussion
Mr Sanders (IFAD) and Mr Driscoll (WFO) will offer comments and will share the experiences of their organisations regarding problems and recommended solutions.

General discussion