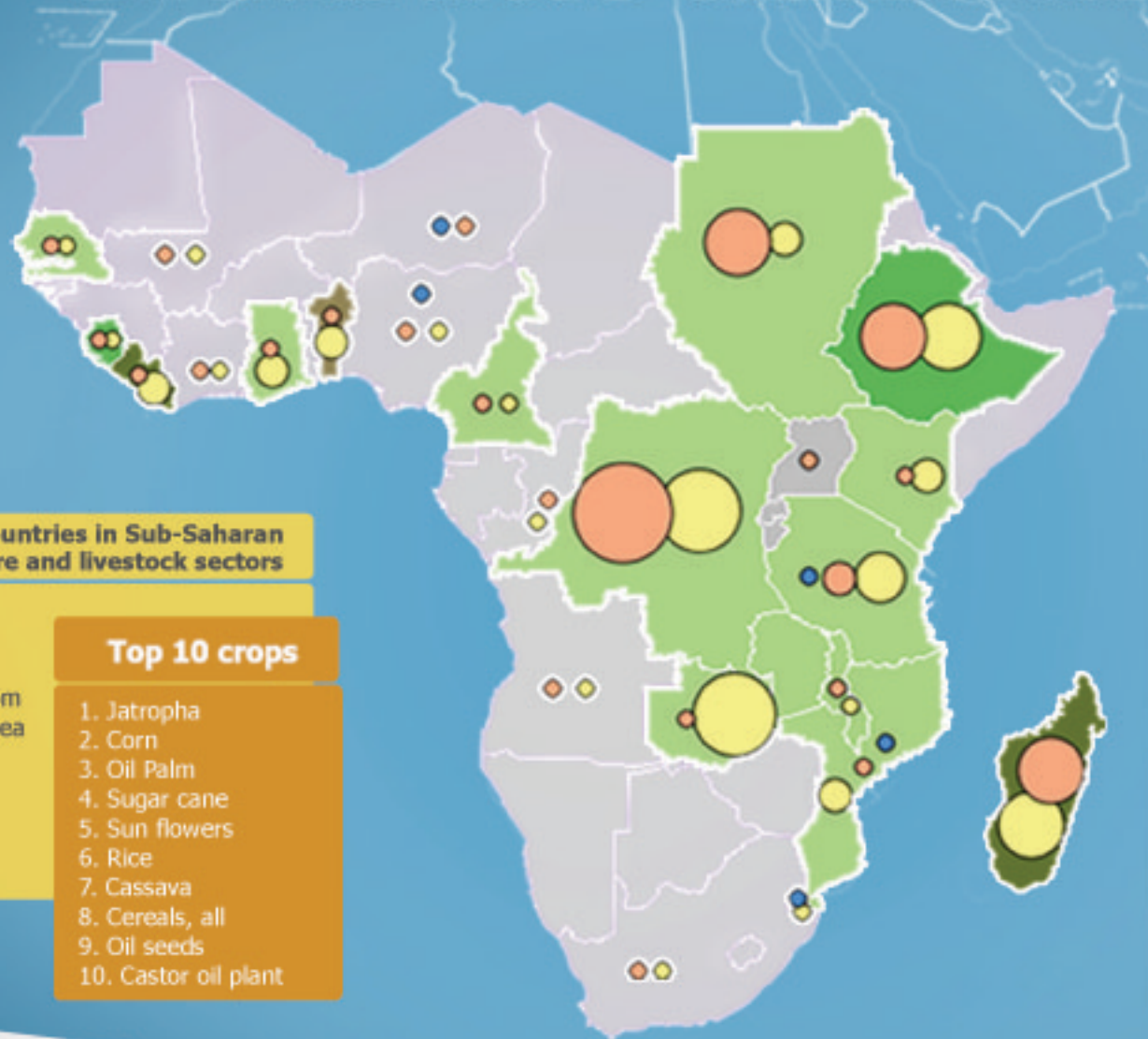
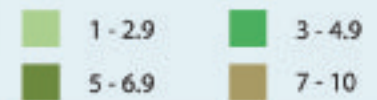


# LAND FOR SALE

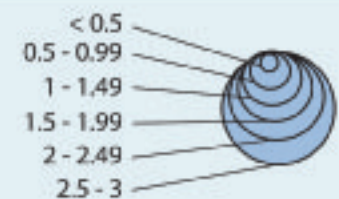
## THE NEW TREND OF COMMERCIAL PRESSURES ON LAND IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



Percentage of requested area for agricultural purposes over the total area of the country (%)



Requested area (million hectares)



Stated purpose



\* Some of the crops included as biofuels feedstock are "flex crops" such as sugarcane or soya which can be either be used for biofuels or food production.

Top 10 investor countries in Sub-Saharan Africa in agriculture and livestock sectors

1. China
2. Israel
3. USA
4. United Kingdom
5. Republic of Korea
6. India
7. Sweden
8. South Africa
9. Saudi Arabia
10. Norway

Top 10 crops

1. Jatropha
2. Corn
3. Oil Palm
4. Sugar cane
5. Sun flowers
6. Rice
7. Cassava
8. Cereals, all
9. Oil seeds
10. Castor oil plant

The climate, financial and energy crisis which are taking place during the first decades of the 21st century boosts the interest on land and resources. Those resources (oil, minerals, wood) are often found outside the national borders. Another important resource are agricultural products, such as food or biofuels.

The dimension of this trend remains unclear due to the secrecy surrounding the land concessions, but there is no doubt about the large scale of this global phenomenon. The new trend of investors seeking land in foreign countries has attracted much attention during the last 5 years. This attention is partly due to the social conflicts or environmental burdens associated to these land acquisitions, which deservedly are often referred to as land grabs.

### FOOD VERSUS FUEL DEBATE

The high pressure on land was a major cause of the food crisis in 2007/2008, when food prices peaked, decreasing the food access of millions. Biofuels played an important role in this crisis: millions of hectares were dedicated to energy crops rather than food. Consequently, the availability of food decreased and the prices soared.

Biofuels also hampers the access to food directly; with investors seeking land in the global South the evictions of locals are common. Subsistence farming is substituted by industrialized agriculture and food harvests are replaced with non edible energy crops.

According to Vandana Shiva "from the richest countries in the North to the poorest countries in the South, food security is being forgotten in order to keep the energy infrastructure well-oiled".