

Call for Papers  
to Session 218

on the XVth World Economic History Congress, Stellenbosch, 9-13 July, 2012:

**GLOBAL LAND GRABBING AND FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA: ON WHOSE TERMS?**

GLOBAL LAND GRABBING AND FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA: ON WHOSE TERMS?

There appears to be widespread concern about land acquisition and human rights in some African countries. Most lands that have been acquired are veritable sources of the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable rural groups (Cotula et al. 2008:22-23). The onslaught of land grabbing has put land in Africa under severe threat, which ultimately affected not only food production, but also the incomes from crops on such land. Threat posed by land grabbing by foreign firms has elicited concerns among the rural people on land resources.

The dramatic rise in land acquisitions across Africa originated from three main drivers, which are reflected in the term 'the triple-F crisis': food, fuel and finance. The current food crises are increasing pressures on the ownership of land and its use for agriculture. Similarly, global energy crisis and demands for alternative sources have led to land grabbing in Africa for the production of Agro-fuels as priority areas of development and investment policies. Transnational companies and other investors are therefore diverting attention to land in Africa either for commercial farming or agro-fuels production. There are, however, mounting questions as to who are the real beneficiaries of such production? The fact that much of this land is being acquired to provide for the future food and fuel needs of foreign nations has, not surprisingly, led to allegations that a neo-colonial push by more wealthy and powerful nations is underway to annex the continent's key natural resources.

The objective of this panel therefore is to examine the implications of global land grabbing on African economies, particularly on food security in the 21st century. The panel will also address the economic and social relations challenges posed by land grabbing.

We also intend to advance in the analysis of land grabbing in Africa from the following perspectives:

- a. Land Deals and Agro-investment
- b. Historical discourses around the crises of energy, climate and food, and how these have shaped land grabbing
- c. Global land grabbing and agro-fuels in africa
- d. The impacts of land deals on local and national food security
- e. The roles of foreign capital, African governments and powerful interests in global land deals

The panel invites papers that offer rigorous analysis of the identified issues from various critical perspectives including economic history and agrarian political economy. Comparative studies are also welcome.

Corresponding organiser:

Dr Noah Echa Attah, Department of History and International Studies, Osun State University, Ikire  
Campus

[attah@uniosun.edu.ng](mailto:attah@uniosun.edu.ng)