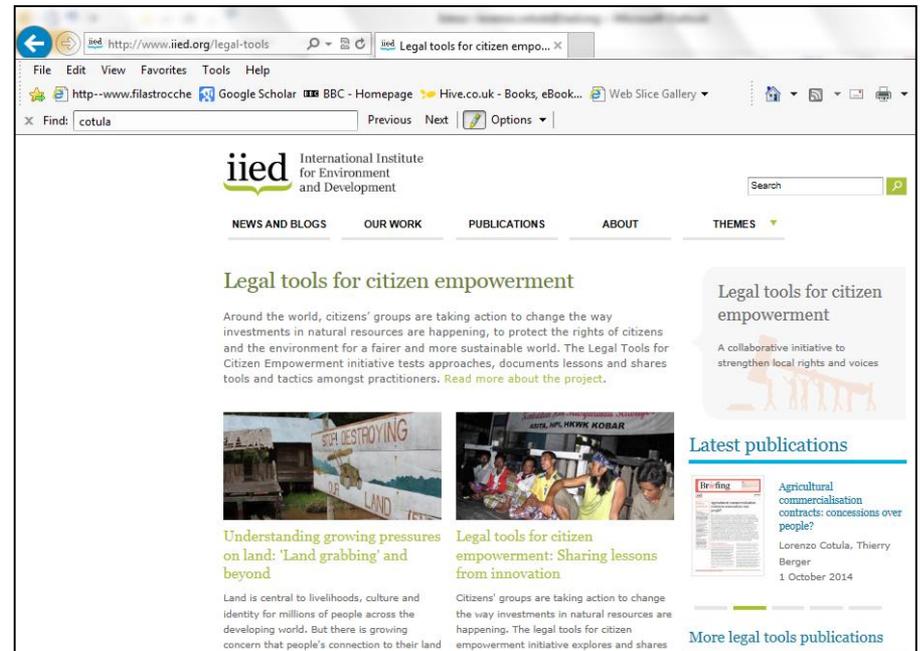


# **Panel on legal issues: How international agreements can affect land governance**

Lorenzo Cotula, PhD  
Principal Researcher & Team Leader – Legal Tools Team, Natural Resources Group  
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

IIED is a UK-based ‘think-and-do tank’ promoting sustainable development through evidence, capacity and influence, in partnership with others

The screenshot shows the IIED website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'NEWS AND BLOGS', 'OUR WORK', 'PUBLICATIONS', 'ABOUT', and 'THEMES'. The main content area features a large heading 'Legal tools for citizen empowerment' followed by a paragraph: 'Around the world, citizens' groups are taking action to change the way investments in natural resources are happening, to protect the rights of citizens and the environment for a fairer and more sustainable world. The Legal Tools for Citizen Empowerment initiative tests approaches, documents lessons and shares tools and tactics amongst practitioners. [Read more about the project.](#)' Below this text are two small images: one showing a protest sign that says 'STOP DESTROYING LAND' and another showing a group of people sitting together. To the right of the main text is a sidebar with a search bar and a section titled 'Latest publications' which lists a briefing paper: 'Agricultural commercialisation contracts: concessions over people?' by Lorenzo Cotula and Thierry Berger, dated 1 October 2014. At the bottom right of the page, there is a link for 'More legal tools publications'.

# Agricultural investment, or 'land grabbing'?



**CASH RECEIPT**

No. 322 22nd Oct 1982

RECEIVED from Kwabena Agye

The sum of two hundred and fifty Cedis  
and 00 Pesewas

Being Abunu fee with Opanin  
Kofi Ackaah

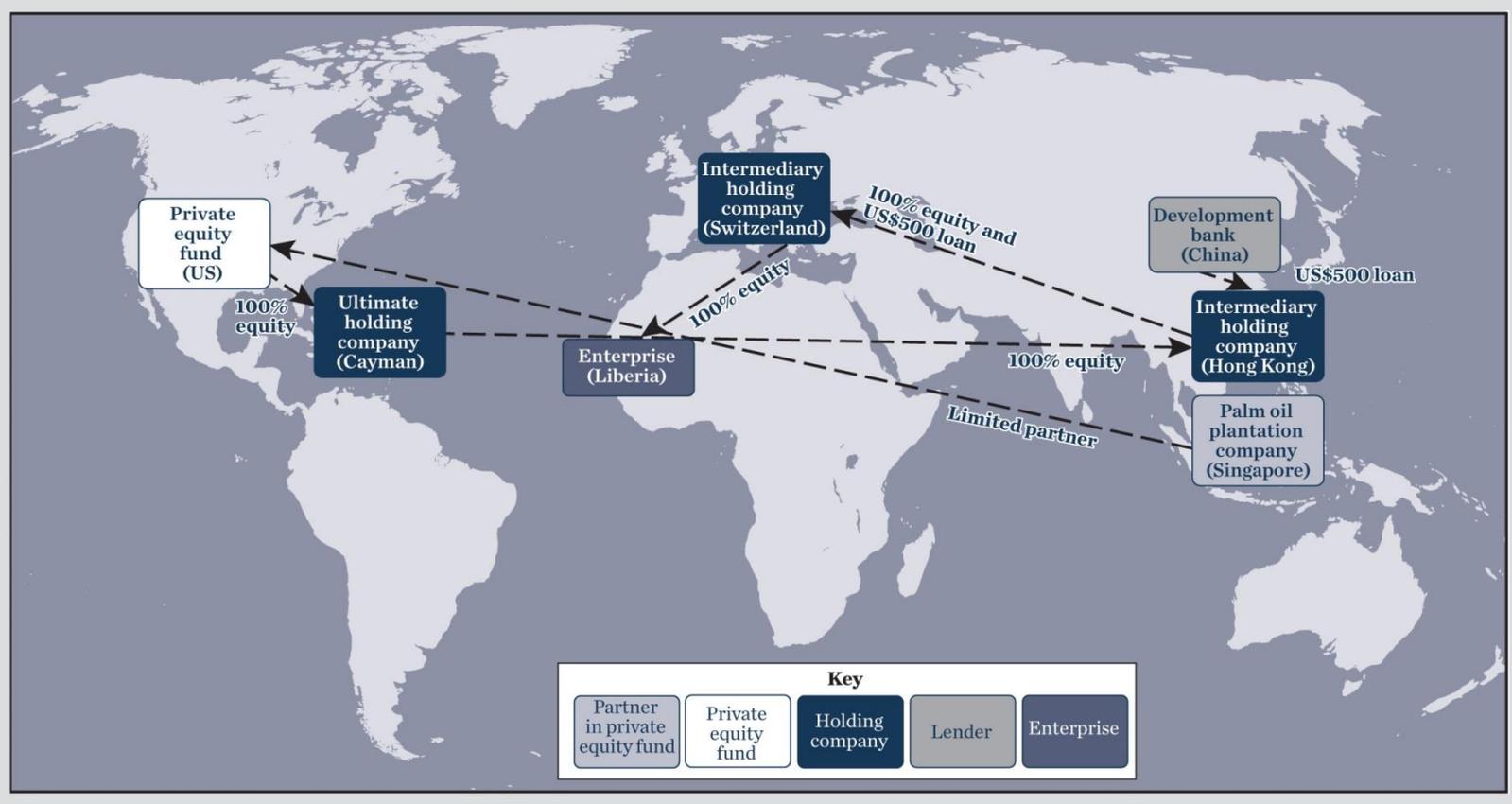
C. 250 =

Signature [Signature]



Handwritten ledger with columns for dates, descriptions, and amounts. The text is dense and difficult to read due to handwriting.





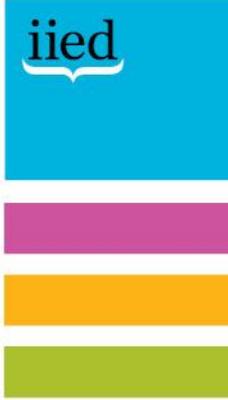
Source: Cotula and Blackmore 2014

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OF LAND, FISHERIES AND FORESTS IN  
THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY





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**Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises**

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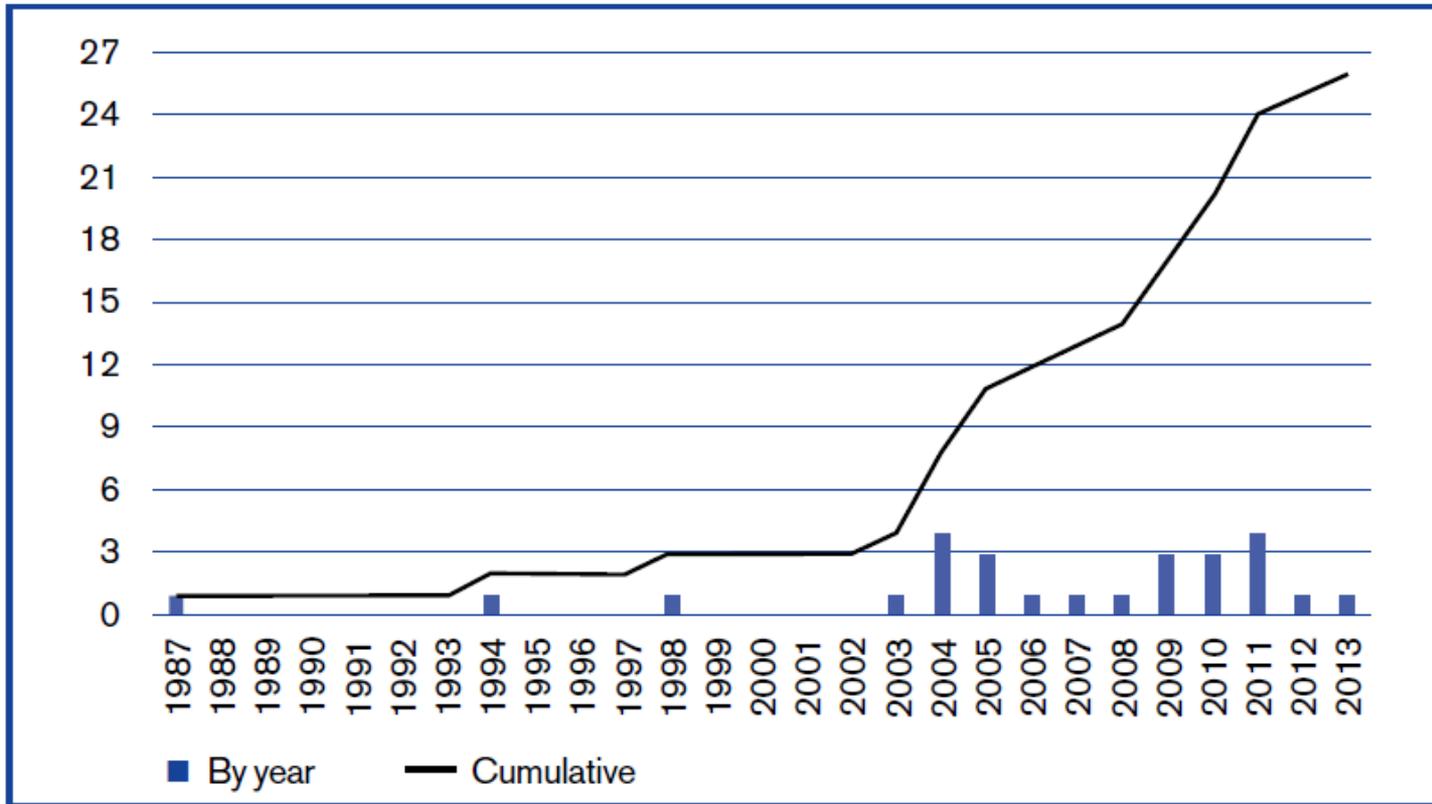
[Business and Human Rights overview](#)



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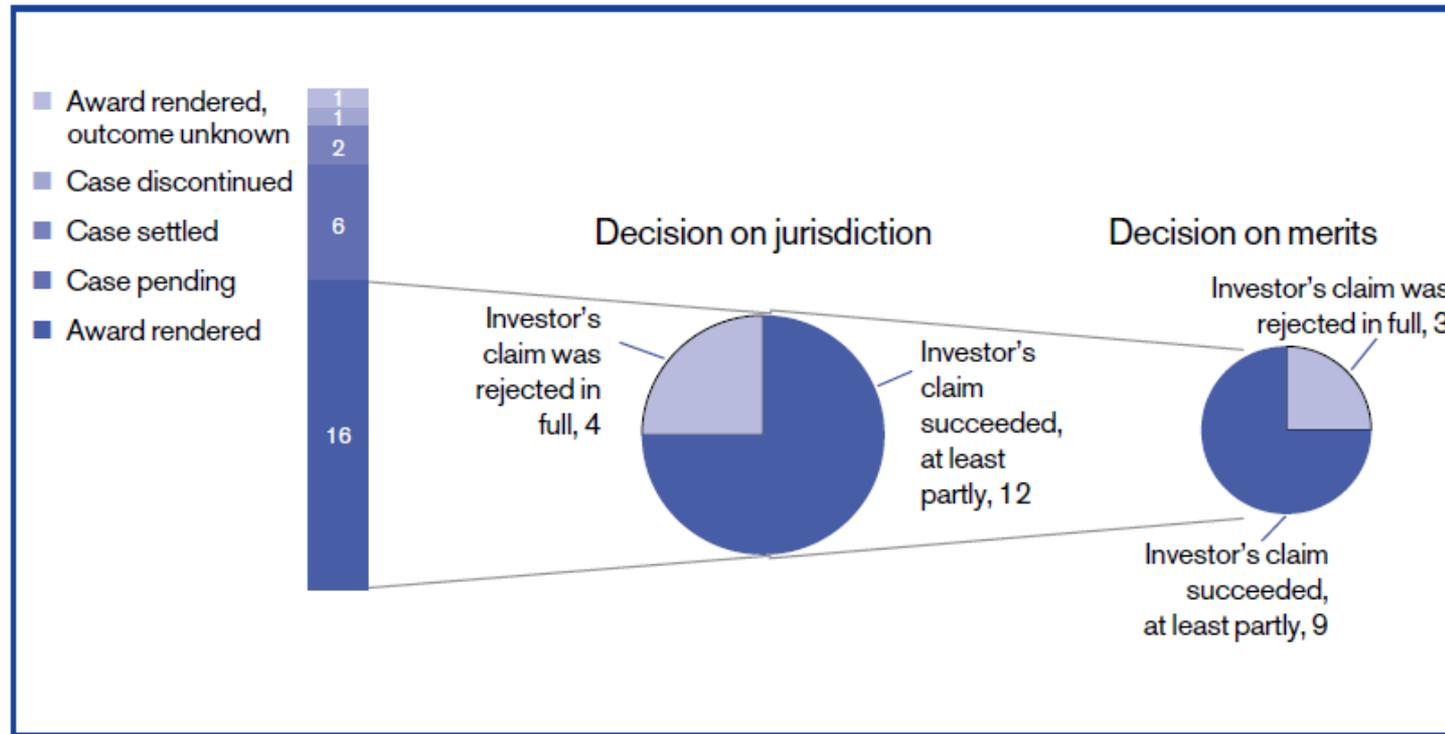


**Figure 8. Agriculture-related investor-state arbitrations over time**



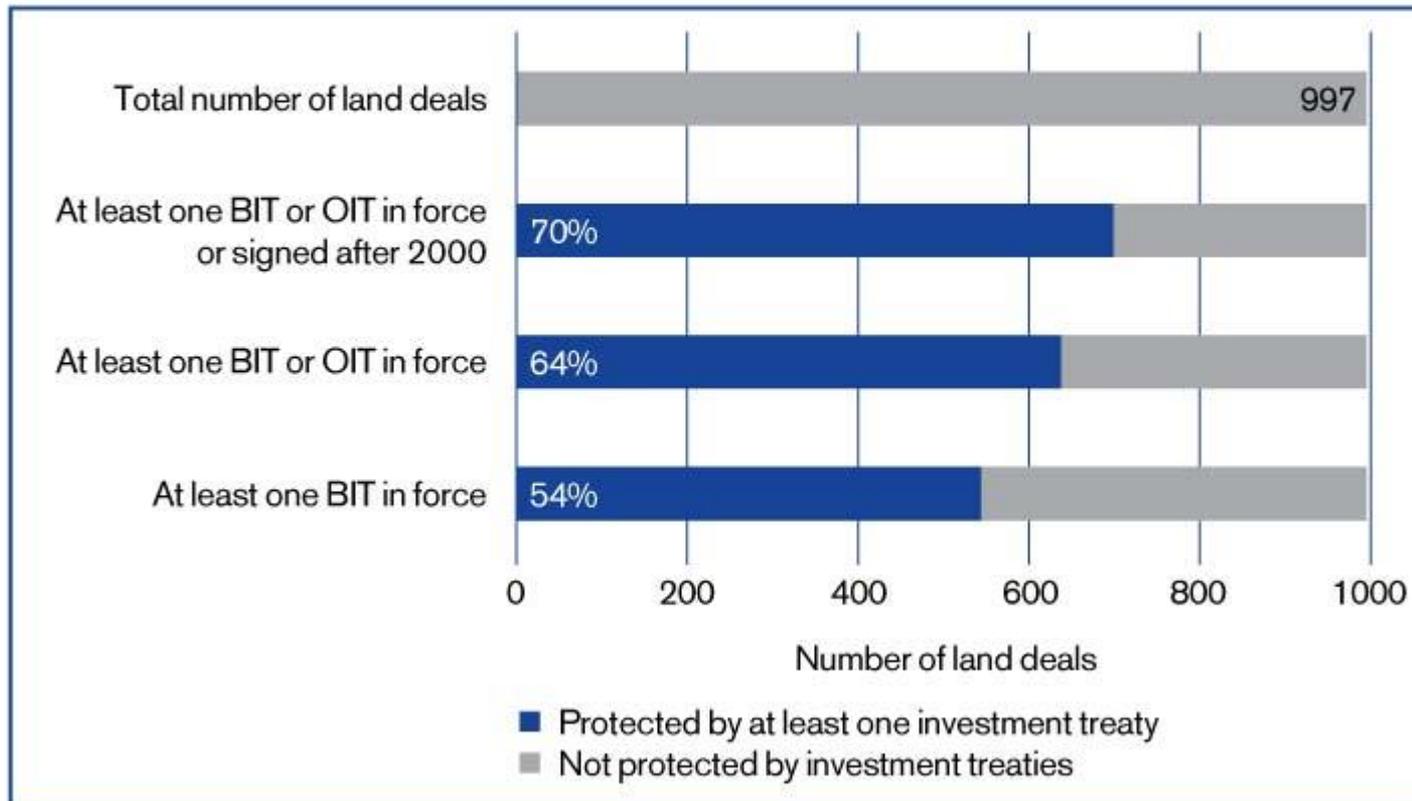
Source: Cotula and Berger, 2015

**Figure 9. Outcomes of agriculture-related investor-state arbitrations**



Source: Cotula and Berger, 2015

**Figure 1. Number of land deals for agribusiness investments covered by investment treaties**



Source: Cotula and Berger, 2015

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a Bloomberg Business article. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-01-11-karuturi-challenges-ethiopia-decision-to-cancel-farm-project>. The article title is "Karuturi Challenges Ethiopia Decision to Cancel Farm Project" by William Davison, dated January 11, 2016. The article content discusses Karuturi Global Ltd.'s challenge to the termination of its farm project in Ethiopia. A sidebar advertisement for IG is visible on the right side of the article.

**BloombergBusiness** News Markets Insights Video

# Karuturi Challenges Ethiopia Decision to Cancel Farm Project

by William Davison

January 11, 2016 – 5:59 AM GMT Updated on January 11, 2016 – 3:24 PM GMT

- ▶ MD says termination contravenes India-Ethiopia accord
- ▶ Ethiopian government rejects further negotiations on issue

**f** Karuturi Global Ltd., one of the largest investors in Ethiopia's farm industry, is challenging the termination of its project, claiming the government broke the terms of its agreement with the company.

**t** The Agriculture Ministry's cancellation last month of the company's 2010 lease is invalid as it didn't follow procedure, contravened an investment agreement between India and Ethiopia, and wrongly accused the company of inadequate progress, Managing Director Sai Ramakrishna Karuturi said in an interview Jan. 5 in the capital,

**➔**

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## Legal tools for citizen empowerment

Around the world, citizens' groups are taking action to change the way investments in natural resources are happening, to protect the rights of citizens and the environment for a fairer and more sustainable world. The Legal Tools for Citizen Empowerment initiative tests approaches, documents lessons and shares tools and tactics amongst practitioners. [Read more about the project.](#)



### Understanding growing pressures on land: 'Land grabbing' and beyond

Land is central to livelihoods, culture and identity for millions of people across the developing world. But there is growing concern that people's connection to their land is being undermined



### Legal tools for citizen empowerment: sharing lessons from innovation

Citizens' groups are taking action to change the way investments in natural resources are happening. The legal tools for citizen empowerment initiative explores and shares tactics and lessons

### Legal tools for citizen empowerment

A collaborative initiative to strengthen local rights and voices

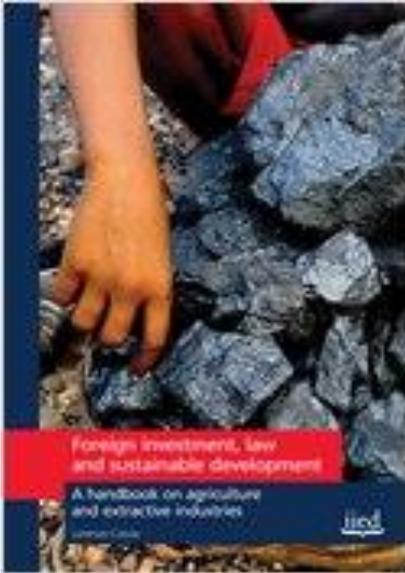
## Latest publications



### Harnessing the law to contest 'land grabs'

Lorenzo Cotula  
1 October 2015

[More legal tools publications](#)



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 @LCotula  
 www.iied.org/legal-tools

