

## **Land Grabs and Land Titling in Mozambique: Security Tenure for Whom?**

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Among the many debated issues connected to the topic of Land, there is the concern of promoting a secured land ownership tenure that will give incentives for bigger investment in land as well as the importance of preventing and correcting social inequalities to promote a more equitable development. This topic is of the utmost importance for developing countries and particularly Sub-Saharan African countries where the agricultural sector provides employment and a source of subsistence for more than half of the population. This subsistence is sometimes seen as threatened with the increasing number of foreign investments in land either for agricultural, biofuel production, forestry, mining, tourism or other activities. This foreign interest in land, in the particular case of Mozambique, has raised concerns over the implication of this concessions in the tenure status of rural communities, majority of which only have a customary right to the lands they occupy in a context of a Pluralist legal land system. In response, it has been promoted the formalization of rights or titling of communal lands as a way to ensure their protection to rip the benefits of this investments. This presentation will analyse how the large scale investments in land are shaping land security in Mozambique and to which extent land titling improves the rural communities' bargaining power when land concessions are negotiated.

**Keywords:** Tenure security, land grabs, land reform