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**Focus: Nicaragua Grand Inter-oceanic Canal**

Nitlapan, a partner of the LM-LAFP, reported on the construction of the "Nicaragua Grand Inter-oceanic Canal", a huge land deal uploaded onto the Land Matrix as case #5076. This case refers to a concession made in 2013 by the Nicaraguan government to a Chinese group (HKND) over an area of over 300,000 hectares of agricultural and forest land located in rural and indigenous areas. The objective of this concession was the development of an inter-oceanic canal similar to the one in Panama, which includes free trade zones, resorts, airports, and highways (Figure 1).

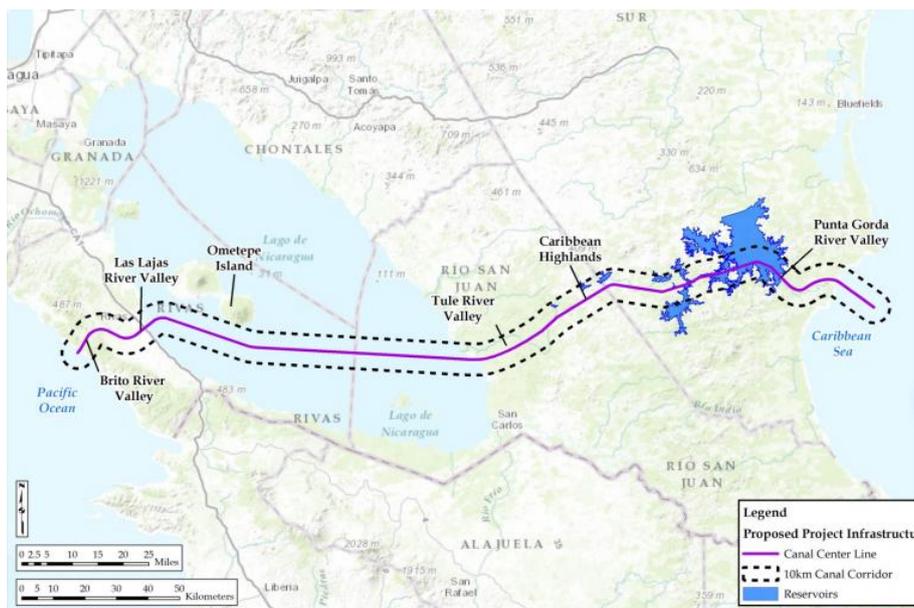


Figure 1. The Nicaragua Grand Inter-oceanic Canal.

## Updating of existing deals in Latin America

LM-LAFP successfully concluded a complete update of the regional database. Out of a total of 639 cases, 373 were already visible on the public interface while 266 were undergoing an editing process. After a thorough review, 574 were validated (some where also updated with new information) and remain in the database. During the review, 65 cases that did not meet the minimum requirements set by Land Matrix were identified and temporarily removed from the public interface. These cases are being subjected to a second review and some of them could eventually be removed from the database. Validated and updated cases will soon be visible on the website.

## New land deals uploaded to the database

Table 1 shows cases uploaded since the previous newsletter (February 2016).

Table 1. Cases uploaded by the LM-LAFP between March and May, 2016.

| Case N° | Country   | Location            | Primary Investor              | Area (ha) |
|---------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| #5007   | Brazil    | Mato Grosso         | ElephantVoice                 | 1133      |
| #5008   | Brazil    | Pará                | Sococo                        | 2000      |
| #5057   | Brazil    | Sao Paulo           | Parkia Participações          | 210000    |
| #5058   | Brazil    | Tocantis            | Agrícola del Sol              | 16000     |
| #5066   | Brazil    | Rio Grando do Sul   | Agrícola del Sol              | 600       |
| #5067   | Argentina | Formosa             | Adecoagro                     | 18321     |
| #5068   | Argentina | Buenos Aires        | Adecoagro                     | 4215      |
| #5069   | Argentina | Buenos Aires        | Adecoagro                     | 2086      |
| #5070   | Argentina | Buenos Aires        | Adecoagro                     | 6302      |
| #5071   | Argentina | Santa Fe            | Adecoagro                     | 17494     |
| #5072   | Argentina | Santa Fe            | Adecoagro                     | 4087      |
| #5073   | Argentina | Santa Fe            | Adecoagro                     | 8444      |
| #5074   | Argentina | San Luis            | Adecoagro                     | 3400      |
| #5075   | Argentina | Santiago del Estero | Adecoagro                     | 4970      |
| #5076   | Nicaragua | RA Costa Caribe Sur | HKND Group Management Limited | 300000    |
| #5077   | Paraguay  | My. Lagerenza       | LatAm Farms                   | 8000      |
| #5078   | Argentina | Entre Ríos          | Tompkins Conservation         | 1180      |
| #5079   | Argentina | Corrientes          | Tompkins Conservation         | 13080     |
| #5080   | Argentina | Río Negro           | Grupo Mindlin                 | 19279     |
| #5081   | Chile     | Región de los Lagos | Tompkins Conservation         | 346       |
| #5082   | Chile     | Región de los Lagos | Tompkins Conservation         | 430       |
| #5083   | Chile     | Región de los Lagos | Tompkins Conservation         | 209       |
| #5084   | Uruguay   | Durazno             | Estancia del Lago             | 17000     |

## Contribution to LM Analytical Report: global grains market

As a new contribution to the Analytical Report of the Land Matrix due in July, we made a short description of the regional implications of the activities of some multinational companies active on the global grain market. The global market for grains and other agricultural products is controlled by a small number of companies. Four of them, namely Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Bunge, Cargill, and Louis Dreyfus, are known as the ABCD group. These companies operate not only at the stage of commercialization, but have recently begun a gradual diversification process that includes the production and marketing of agro-industrial products. As a result, these companies now have direct impact along the entire value chain: from primary production, through trade to storage,

distribution, processing, and marketing. The companies of the ABCD group are present in several Latin American countries, including predominantly export-oriented countries such as Argentina and Brazil. According to the information provided in corporate websites, Cargill operates in more countries than any other ABCD company, followed by Dreyfus, Bunge, and ADM, in that order (Figure 2).

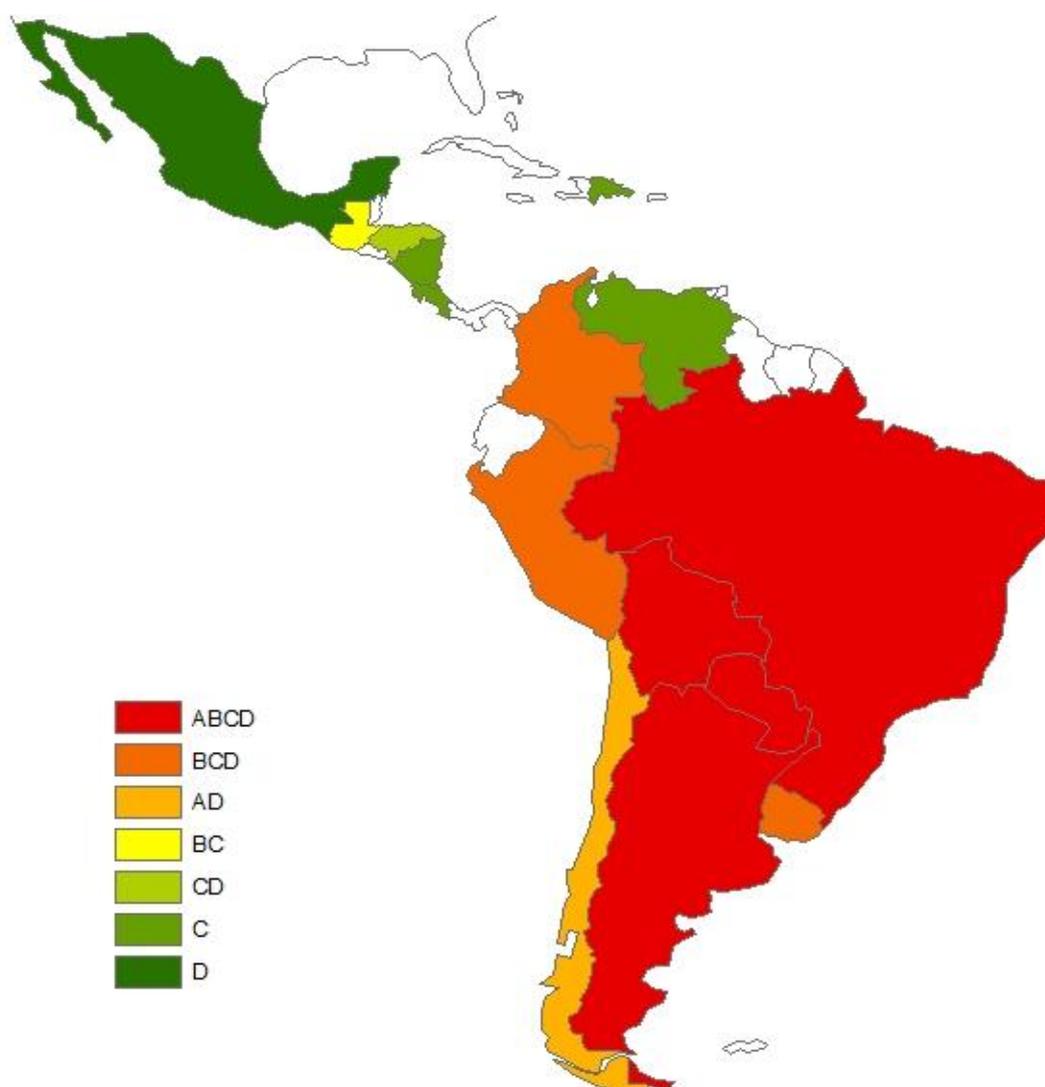


Figura 2. The ABCD group in Latin America. A: Archer Daniels Midland (ADM); B: Bunge; C: Cargill; D: Louis Dreyfus.

Although companies in the ABCD group have acquired relatively small amounts of agricultural land in Latin America, their increasing control of the entire supply chain is likely to affect the food and economic sovereignty of some of the countries in this region. Directly or indirectly, these companies also contribute to the processes of deforestation and land use change taking place in several Latin American countries.

## A Swiss intern joins the team

Manuel Müller, a graduate student from Zürich (Switzerland), joined the LM-LAFP as intern (Figure 3). During a few months, he will work on a project that intends to unravel the relationship between large land acquisitions and virtual water trade in the Chaco region (province of Salta, Argentina). This project is part of the Ph.D. project of Griselda Salas Barbosa, mentored by Lucas Seghezzo. Manuel will help Cristian Venencia identify and upload land deals in the study area and will team up with José Luis Agüero, an undergrad student who is currently doing his thesis on the subject.



Figure 3. Lucas Seghezzo, Cristian Venencia, Manuel Müller, Griselda Salas Barbosa, and José Luis Agüero in Salta, Argentina.

Contribute to the database on land transactions!

This is an [invitation](#) to organizations working on land issues, academic institutions, researchers, grassroots organizations, government offices, and committed individuals to share information on large land acquisitions in Latin America.

**Latin American Focal Point:** Fundapaz – INENCO

**Network of Collaborators:** Nitlapan (Nicaragua), Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia), Sabiá (Brazil) y Guyra (Paraguay)