Turkey has signed an agriculture cooperation agreement with Sudan, which gives Turkish General Directorate of Agricultural Enterprises and Turkish companies several options to control and operate farmland in the north African state.

According to the deal agreed on Monday, the Turkish General Directorate of Agricultural Enterprises (TIGEM) and Turkish companies can invest directly in Sudan, engage in partnerships with local partners or fund agro-processing and food-production projects.

Sudan has very large agricultural land and the rainwater is enough for irrigation in some regions of the country, said Turkey's Food, Agriculture and Livestock Minister, Mehmet Mehdi Eker, at a signing ceremony in the TIGEM conference center in the Turkish capital of Ankara.

"The agreement is the first for Turkey. Turkey's TIGEM and an institution from Sudan will establish a joint-venture company. The company will rent 780,000 hectares of land for the long-term in Sudan. We have already set the land for this. Turkey will help with its technology, mechanization and animal breeding. The company will export its production to the world," he said.

The accord aims to use Sudan's land resources and export surpluses to Turkey and the rest of the world to
contribute to solving the world’s food shortage before another price hike in food prices, Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, Minister of Agriculture of Sudan said.

Food prices in the world have been increasing since the 2008 crisis. Drought in Australia and the U.S. and tensions in Ukraine will hike food prices again. Sudan has fertile land with water facilities, and Sudan will benefit from this,” said Hamid.

'Solid partnership'

Badr El-Din Mahmoud Abbas, Minister of Finance and National Economy of Sudan, said the agreement between two countries will encourage more investment in Sudan and will create a solid partnership for further economic cooperation between the two countries.

'After this agreement, Sudan will use more efficiently its natural resources of land and the Sudan government wants Turkish private sectors to invest in Sudan and we are always ready for help,' Abbas said.

Before the signing ceremony, Ali Babacan, Turkey's deputy prime minister in charge of the economy, received Badr El-Din Mahmoud Abbas, Minister of Finance and National Economy of the Republic of Sudan, Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Engineer and Abdelrahman Hassan Abdelrahman, the Hashim Governor of the Central Bank of Sudan in his office in the presence of a number of officials from both parties.

According to the Turkish Statistical Institute, trade between the two nations stood at US$295 million in 2013. Turkey's exports to Sudan were US$268.7 million, while imports from Sudan were US$26.3 million.

Freshwater dwindling

The countries also signed a Memorandum of Understanding to set up a free-trade zone for agricultural products and livestock to boost bilateral transactions and agreement for investment protection for private companies.

Meanwhile, with the world’s population reaching more than 7 billion people, food prices keep rising every year. Freshwater supplies in plenty of areas are dwindling and climate change is bringing drought in some regions.

Sudan was the largest country in Africa before the cession of South Sudan and loss of one-third of its land and two-thirds of its natural resources, covering almost 1 million square miles.

Chinese state corporations, well known for their interests in minerals and oil, appear to be one of the more modest “land grabbers” in Africa, operating in countries such as Sudan and Ethiopia. Other countries are India, South Korea, America (Wall Street firms) and several oil-rich, food-poor Arab nations.

Land-grabbing has been accelerating ever since a massive surge in grain prices back in 2008.

Source: World Bulletin
Welcome to the new farmlandgrab.org! We have closed the site's social media accounts - please follow @GRAIN.org on Twitter and @GRAIN.org on Facebook instead. Thank you!

Who's involved?

Languages

Special content

Archives

Select month

---

Les bâillonnés (2/2)

09 Jun 2018

Huile de palme : à Bornéo, des pratiques qui font tache

08 Jun 2018

Karuturi workers accuse CFC Stanbic Bank for the malpractice

06 Jun 2018

Cameroun. Socapalm, des terres agricoles louées à prix d’ami

06 Jun 2018
Bollore's Belgian friend in court

Stop parading RSPO certificate, ERA charges Okomu Oil

Failed farmland deals: a growing legacy of disaster and pain

En toute propriété

The ripple effect caused by closure of Sher Karuturi Flower Farm

Lettre d’interpellation adressée au gouvernement de la République du Sénégal, des pays membres du G7 et à l’Union Africaine

Les bâillonnés (2/2)

Huile de palme : à Bornéo, des pratiques qui font tache

Karuturi workers accuse CFC Stanbic Bank for the malpractice

Cameroun. Socapalm, des terres agricoles louées à prix d’ami

Bollore's Belgian friend in court

Stop parading RSPO certificate, ERA charges Okomu Oil
Failed farmland deals: a growing legacy of disaster and pain

En toute propriété

The ripple effect caused by closure of Sher Karuturi Flower Farm

RaymondHoing

Kerry

Very interesting work/list. So what is the pathway forward? What are the policy options? Social movement?

John

Of all the agricultural land in Australia suitable for growing food what percentage is now owned by foreign investors? 5, 10, 15% or more and when do y...

boucard

Comment se procurer ce film pour des débats publics. Peuples solidaires, association à laquelle j'appartiens, a organisé la semaine dernière une r...

Elijah

Was pleased to read your article. I am however surprised that the story of the frustration that DFL is going through with the investor being harassed b...

sebastian

Excelente trabajo de investigación. Se los agradezco mucho. Consultaré todas las fuentes que ustedes proporcionan para tener un informemàs acabado c...

Anonymous

La critique est facile mais l'art difficile; j'ai rarement vu des ONG créer des emplois et contribuer au développement socio-économique autant que d...