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the global rush for farmland and peoples' struggles against it

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## Corporate farming will exacerbate food crisis: NGO

## 0 Published: 18 Oct 2009

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Women buying flour on subsidized rates from Ramadan Sasta Bazaar near Committee Chowk, August

The News | Sunday, October 18, 2009

<mark>Chulam D</mark>astageei

PESHAWAR, "Routs for Equity" Director Dr Azra Talat Sayed has said Pakistan was facing acute water shortage and t would further deteriorate if corporate farming was promoted in the country.

"Pakistan faces acute water shortage and with corporate farming being promoted the scare be used by foreigners for earning prefits through food, which will increase hunger and dep people of Pakistan," she told a press conference at the Pethawar Press Club in connection v

e water resources will rivation among the vith World Food Day on

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She demanded of the government to	stop giving agricultural land on lease to the foreign food companies, and
rather these lands should be giver	e local growers to overcome food crisis in the country.
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Dr Azra said the Corporate Farming	Ordinance (CEO) was a chemical intensive capital intensive production

method, which would only exacerbary the shortage and apparent food crisis in the country. She said that according the United Nations statistics, 25 percent of Pakistani population was malrourished m

the rural areas.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), she added, the prices had gone up due to a number of reasons, including the tendency of investment firms such as Schroeder and GlobalAgriCap to treat food as a commodities market, and investing in food and agriculture to increase their profits.

"They are fully conscious of land and water resource shortages that are happening globally and are estimating that investment portfolios in agricultural commodities will be immensely lucrative.

"It is with this factor in mind that many investors are descending on Pakistan as vultures, wanting to tense our agricultural land, so they will be in a position to grow food for trading," she said and added that Pakistani government had allowed foreign investors to lease agricultural land through the Corporate Farming Ordinance, 2001.

The ordinance, she added, allowed heavy tax benefits to investors, as well as allowing foreign firms to get land or lease for a 49+50 years period.

She warned that the corporate farming would also aggravate the climate change crisis, as it is dependent on the use of heavy machinery.

She demanded an immediate halt to leasing land to foreigners, saying: "Saudi Arabia is being promised more than 500,000 acres of land and rumours circulate that nearly six million acres of agricultural land has been promised fo cultivation."

Source: The News

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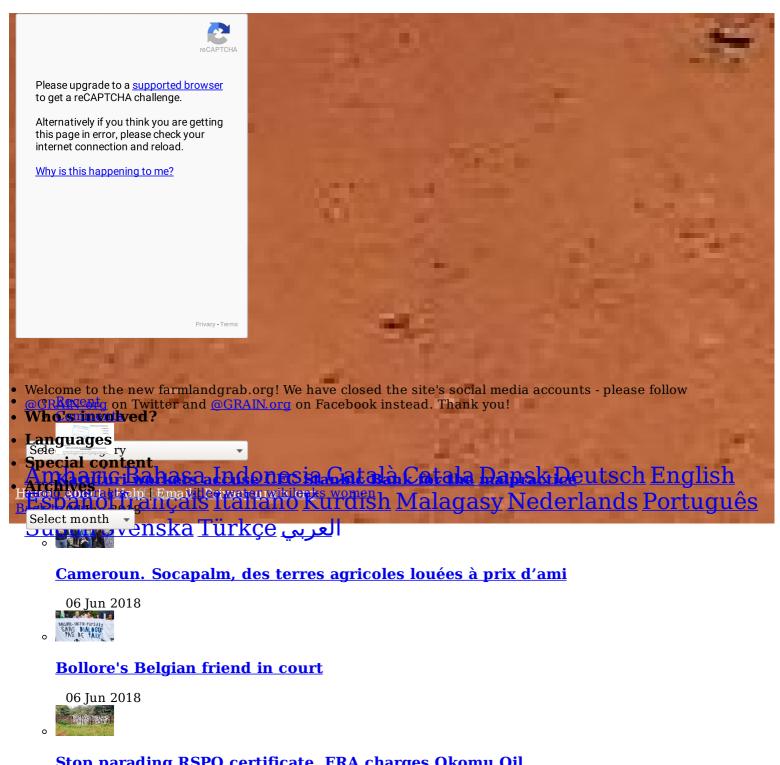
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#### • 🗬 <u>Kerry</u>

<u>Very interesting work/list. So what is the pathway forward? What are the policy options? Social movement?</u> 25 May 2018

### • 🟴 John

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Excelente trabajo de investigación. Se los agradezco mucho. Consultarè todas las funtes que ustedes proporcionan para tener un informemàs acabdado c... 09 Dec 2016

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