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BHO Bioproducts of India to Spend \$120 Million on Ethiopia Farms

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09/27/12

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BHO Bioproducts of India to Spend \$120 Million on Ethiopia Farms

sweetsingle (19)



Lust zu Chatten?
vor 1 Minute

FLIRTCAFE



Rice farm in Ethiopia File Photo

BHO Bioproducts of India to Spend \$120 Million on Ethiopia Farms

By William Davison

Bloomberg -- BHO Bioproducts, a closely held farming company, said it plans to invest more than \$120 million in rice and cotton production in Ethiopia's western Gambella region during the next four years.

BHO signed a 25-year renewable lease at 111 Ethiopian birr (\$6.14) a hectare a year for a 27,000-hectare (66,719-acre) plot in Itang district of Gambella region in May 2010, Chief Operating Officer Sunny Maker said by phone from London today. "It's incredibly rich, fertile land," he said. "It should be all cleared within the next three years."

Ethiopia's government, which according to the London-based Overseas Development Institute is one of the world's top five recipients of food aid, has set aside 4 million hectares of land for commercial agricultural investment, primarily to grow cash crops for export to earn the country foreign exchange. Critics including the Oakland Institute, a California-based advocacy group, have said the projects will increase hunger and that investments have displaced people. A total of 360,099 hectares has been leased under the program nationwide, according to the Agriculture Ministry's website.

By 2017, the project may generate about \$135 million a year from sales divided equally between domestic and international markets, Maker said. The company may receive a total of 100,000 hectares if the government is satisfied with its performance, according to its contract.

Rice will be rain-fed, while cotton will be irrigated using ground water, he said. Although the company has rights to water from the Baro River "we're not looking to take water from outside," Maker said.

Billionaire Investor

Other investors in Gambella include Bangalore-based Karuturi Global Ltd., the world's largest rose grower, with a 100,000 hectare plot close to BHO's, while Saudi billionaire Mohamed al-Amoudi's Saudi Star Agricultural Investment Plc is growing rice on 10,000 hectares in the region. There are nine Indian companies, eight domestic businesses, six owned by Ethiopians living abroad and one Chinese company that have leased large tracts, according to the ministry.

BHO Bioproducts, which is registered in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, is nearing investment of \$5 million so far, Maker said. The project will be financed by its owners, who also hold Delhi-based Bharat Herbals & Oils, investors the company is in discussions with,

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and possibly the state-owned Development Bank of Ethiopia, he said.

Resettlement Program

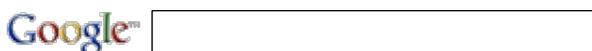
The government has set aside 877,000 hectares in Gambella, about 42 percent of the state, for investment. A resettlement program in the region has forcibly displaced tens of thousands of indigenous Anuak and Nuer people, partly from investment areas, New York-based advocacy group Human Rights Watch said in January.

Ethiopia's government said the report contained "fabrications" and that the program was unconnected to leases and was to provide people with better access to services. Five people employed by Ghulam Rasool & Co., a closely held Pakistani engineering company working for Saudi Star, died in April after being shot gunmen. "We've had no issues and no displacement of people," Sunny said. "We have not come across anything of that sort."

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23 comments

Comment from: Seattle [Visitor]

Beware!
The indians are coming
09/27/12 @ 01:33

Comment from: Alem [Visitor]

"Oakland Institute"....I don't understand why people are wasting their time mentioning this "Tera Ye Sefer" advocacy group....it is an irrelevant group run by an Indian woman, which sadly enough, she is using "Land Grap" as a charity begging bowl. I say to her & the entire group - Get Fu&\$%d.

"..... projects will increase hunger and that investments....." Qe Qe Qe...Now, investment is a cause of hunger. How funny is that?

09/27/12 @ 02:01

Comment from: C'est moi senait [Visitor]

Tell those activist to go to hill. Their main goail is Ethiopia to stay darn and beggar list for 100 years to come.

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Get ride of these parasites charities.

More investment from india and china is a finnal solution to stop begging.

09/27/12 @ 03:03

Comment from: Yohannes [Visitor]

Is that dude in the picture indian? doesnt look Habesha! So the labour is from India aswell? i am confused. Once gain Indian investments are always dodgy to me!!!

09/27/12 @ 03:18

Comment from: Dagmawi [Visitor]

do not bother whether he is indian or ethiopian, he is hard working! he deserve to be respected, not insulted. Every investment, every aggreement is one plus to ethiopia, we should be happy. only ethiopian enemies are sad about evenstment in ethiopia.

09/27/12 @ 03:59

Comment from: TEDDY [Visitor]

By the way ,who is the guy on the picture .He surely not sounds Anuyak or Muhere Guy but a Pendjabi .Hey TPLF Thugs ,here are then the famous economic progress scored by your Dead Leba Master ...LOL !!!!

09/27/12 @ 04:10

Comment from: Ethiofriendly [Visitor]

Some Good hope smells in here!

Ethiopia Rise!

09/27/12 @ 05:01

Comment from: TEDDY [Visitor]

Ethioff do you mean a Hope when peoples are strown away and their lands been giving to Foreigners .Who told you that a Gambella guy can not exploit his land or any Ethiopian as this guys .If the opportunity would be also given to them .For your Information when Karturi has brought more than 8000 pendjabis to work on the leased lands .They are not really creating job opportunities and wealth to the local peoples .but colonising the lands .

09/27/12 @ 06:15

Comment from: Engda [Visitor]

Again From London in England. This is the way how they live and damaging the world innocent for centuries. It seems they cannot stop interfering in others affairs because of this is the way how they are living/existing. Doing nothing practical the Chinese, Indians and so on are doing which building roads, Bridges, improving farming and so on. But talk and interfering with politics and policies that are not to be translated to any benefit for others but themselves. This is the best cheating ways to hurt others while benefiting themselves.

"Ethiopia's government, which according to the London-based Overseas Development Institute is one of the world's top five recipients of food aid, has set aside 4 million hectares of land for commercial agricultural investment, primarily to grow cash crops for export to earn the country foreign exchange."

Who are they after all talking about us? Do they know we are doing anything to be self reliance rather than being the shit talking and laughing pot to them? Do they think Ethiopia will export food to feed foreigners while there is shortage in the

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country Let alone we are in food aid? Who are they after all acting as if they do care about us coming far away while so many minorities in their country are suffering in many ways?

They are trying for years to stop us from developing in our way that would stop them playing all dirty games using our weakness/poverty as if their best weapons are to talk and beg in our names the name of Charity/NGO for their living. As long as they get something, they have no what so ever hesitation to damage our image as worst and quick possible in international levels. They are evils get no attention but punishments and ignoring them as if they are not existing. Remember: India has more than 2148 Ethnic groups. There is a cast system where more than 200 million people subjected to be naturally cursed and have no what so ever right to live as equal citizens. Some Indians are badly brainwashed by English and they are behaving the way the English do. Therefore, any India woman or man that is trying to blackmailing Ethiopia first need to think what is going on in their own country especially with untouchables. The English colonized India for hundreds years using including cast system the best way to divide and rule. Yet, they are still getting nerves to interfere in Ethiopian affairs as if they are doing anything good to any nation they have been. Among the others they colonized, exploited and enslaved India for hundreds years including growing Tobacco in order to sell in China where more than 12 million Chinese (more than 10% of the population that time) became addicted. In today's number it could be 135 million Chinese. This has done with plan to benefit themselves at the cost of millions of Indians and Chinese. It was the same against millions worldwide.

Yet, till today they didn't stop from that kind behavior. They are coming with so many ways and using tactics to stop us from developing. Development mentally and materially is what they hate and don't like to see especially in Ethiopia knowing Ethiopia is became their way of life at least for 28 years since 1984 using her weakness their strength to talk and beg in her name. Look those in the name of NGO, Charities, right groups and so on using the poor and weak nations to trade on their names. If those nations are developed, they would get no reason to behave the way they do. Being poor, weak, ignorant and suffering under poverty is the best way they can play games on others names to benefit themselves and to be in world stages as if they are all that and doing such good things. .

Let them go to hell. They are in big and deep troubles for themselves. That is why they are looking anything weaknesses in others nation in a way they seem are trying to escape from the difficulty they are facing or trying to use others to have the solution as their foundation is based on colonization and slavery which is affecting others as worst as possible like it was the case in Australia and elsewhere they have been including in Africa.

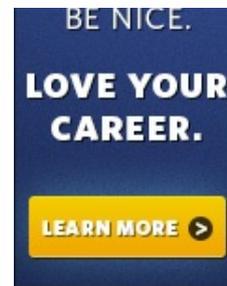
Some Indian individuals are very nice and useful people. There are many Indian intellectuals helping Ethiopia for many years. But, keep in mind, there are lost and brainwashed Indians like that woman in Oakland trying to act the way their masters (English) are doing in a way serving them. So, it is important to recognize who is who hand have good relation with useful Indians. Indians are good in Agriculture, medicine, education and so on. Don't forget, India is the most diverse society on earth in terms of race, Religion, Ethnicity, cast, tradition, culture, custom and so on even stronger, deeper and diverse that USA. So, we have to have what is good for us while rejecting the rest.

09/27/12 @ 07:20

Comment from: M P Haran [Visitor]



India had been a British Colony. India suffered and, finally, drove them out. India knows pain of living under a foreign



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rule. They, for sure, wont like to the mistake the British did. Karuturi, and the recent BHO Biio, shall realise this. They have to ensure true progress and prosperity of the native land owners. Else, colony-building efforts will not last even 2 years...leave alone 200 years

09/27/12 @ 07:33

Comment from: Mr. H. Crawford [Visitor]



India's investment in Ethiopia is very good, the same as with other international investors and locals investors. The land is leased, export profits will be shared and citizens will be employed... RIGHT ON!

09/27/12 @ 07:57

Comment from: TEDDY [Visitor]



Hey Mr Crazyhorse are you kidding ,your Hindus bros are not really ready to employ local citizens .The guy on this picture named most probably Sanjai than Kut Regassa ,Lema ,Asgedom ,woya...LOL!!!

09/27/12 @ 09:35

Comment from: Observer [Visitor]



Where is the foreign exchange coming? The farm is owned by foreign entities and they take the product and sell it overseas. What does the Ethiopian government gets beside the land lease which is 6 dollars a hectore which is almost free. Can someone tell me if there is any other way the government is going to get foreign exchange?

Farming is not the way to go to develop a third world country. If that was the case then Honduras, Nicaragua, and lots of other central American countries would have been way developed. Farming do not provide lots of jobs because most farms are mechanized. What Ethiopia needs are industries that will hire lots of people that could build the middle class. When the rest of the world is going high tech we are going to foreign farming. If our own people do the farming then foreign exchange will come to the country and then that could be used to develop industries.

09/27/12 @ 10:31

Comment from: Wajjo [Visitor]

I agree !

We have to break this vicious cycle of drought some how by bringing commercial farmers to the country.

We need to strict the volume of export to surplus of local food demand. I wish we can do this on our own, but it is unrealistic.

We will eventually take over all our commercial farms. In the mean time our farmers at large will get knowledge transfer.

No India will stay here for ever, remember we are "ETHIOPIANS" not

Long Live Ethiopia

09/27/12 @ 12:20

Comment from: Observer [Visitor]



I wish you are right and Ethiopian will take over the farms but the leases are for 25 years with extension options. All you have to do is look at other countries that allowed farming like Honduras and Monsanto and Cheketta Banana have been there for more than 50 years and there are not in the mood to give that kind of cheap labor which gives them such a huge profit margins. This companies are after one thing and one thing only that is to make money and there are going to

take the product to the world market and get maximum price they can get. They are not in Ethiopia to help Ethiopia, they are investors to make money. You need to understand that first. If there is any way Ethiopia can make money by doing that I like to know that and I would love someone to explain it to me.

09/27/12 @ 13:23

Comment from: kul [Visitor]



It is really sad to see these moronic woyanes sell our land with dirt cheap price. They charge only \$6.14 per hectare per year!!!! They give 27,000 hectares of fertile land to Indians who are delighted to have such a gift at a shockingly low price. I just did the math. The Indian looters only pay \$165,780 per year for 27,000 hectares of fertile land. Our people are starving to death year in year out while woyanes keep selling virgin and fertile land to outside invaders.

I am not surprised if some people in Gambella attack those Indian looters. If the foreign looters don't leave the land, the people of Anuak have every right to fight for their land.

09/27/12 @ 14:35

Comment from: me [Visitor]

@kul...

you are full of shit... we have been starving before the land lease... there are still a lot of land that needs to be farmed... economics dictates that in order to develop you have to use your abundant resource abundantly... our abundant resource is land & manpower... therefore nothing wrong with leasing those lands to foreign investors... we don't have the capital to invest in large scale agriculture anyway... i'm not also worried about the lease price... because the most important part is the development & technological transfer... if you have to question, question the current gov't legitimacy to do what they are doing... anyway... i just want to tell you you aren't as smart as you think you are... you are full of bs

09/27/12 @ 22:24

Comment from: kul [Visitor]



@me

First of all, you don't need to use bad words to convey your message. You can always make your point without using profane words. You said that if we want development, we should "use [our] abundant resources abundantly". I say we should use our resources wisely and fairly. I don't think it is wise and fair to sell our fertile land to foreign commercial farmers while 13% of Ethiopia's population still relies on food aid. I don't think it is fair to displace the local people simply because the government wants to lease the land. Woyanes first tried to say that no one settled on the land being leased. They denied the existence of any settler on the land they forcefully taken from the local. When reporters reveal the truth they changed their story and said that there will be some resettlement. Try to put yourself in the place of those "miskin" locals who were displaced by force and tell me what you think.

You also said there is nothing wrong about leasing our land to foreigners. But I would like to tell you what an Indian looter said when woyanes sold him Gambela's virgin land. Here is what he said:

"We never saw the land. They gave it to us and we took it. Seriously, we did. We did not even see the land. (Triumphantly cackling laughter) They offered it. That's all.....It's very good land. It's quite cheap. In fact it is very cheap. We have no land like this in India. There [India] you are

lucky to get 1% of organic matter in the soil. Here it is more than 5%. We don't need fertiliser or herbicides. There is absolutely nothing that will not grow on it. To start with there will be 20,000 hectares of oil palm, 15,000 hectares of sugar cane and 40,000 hectares of rice, edible oils and maize and cotton."

Sorry for the long quote but it can say a lot about what is happening.
I think I don't have to be very smart to see the injustice here.

Good day!

09/28/12 @ 10:44

Comment from: me [Visitor]

@kul,

my apologies for my weak choice of words...

my point is simple...

1. the fact that millions of ethiopians are starving (relies on food aide) has nothing to do with commercial farming. Land leasing has been a recent phenomenon. people has been and are starving before it and now. therefore, you can't claim land leasing cause starvation.

2. agriculture accounts for more than 80% of the labour force and yet a good number of the population still relies on food aide. that tells me there is a fundamental problem with the way things was going on.

3. we have the land and lobour, what we missing is capital. we need foreign capital. I wish we dont. I wish we could rely on domestic capital. we just dont have it. we can't help it... it is what it is

when you put all these things together, it isn't that hard to understand what the current gov't is doing. like i said before my only concern is their luck f legitimacy & their poor record on human right.

one question for you my friend... you said using our abundant resource wisely & fairly... I agree with the statement but can you tell me your idea of wise & fair use of resource in regards to the land leasing?

thanks

09/28/12 @ 15:51

Comment from: kul [Visitor]

★★★★★

@me

Apology accepted.

Please note that I never said land leasing causes starvation. The unwise and unfair nature of the leasing transaction emanates from the autocratic and undemocratic nature of the ruling party. They never listen what the people on the ground say. They always think they are the ones who know everything. They are corrupt.

One year ago Dr. Fikre Tolossa wrote an excellent article about this issue. I recommend you to read it if you haven't yet. I am sure you will get a good idea how the government is abusing its power when it comes to leasing our land. Here is a link.

<http://nazret.com/blog/index.php/2011/03/03/land-grab-in-africa-the-case-of-ethiopia?blog=15>

Have a great weekend!

09/28/12 @ 17:06

Comment from: me [Visitor]

@kul,

thanks for the article... I didn't get a chance to read the article before.

The Dr. has a point... I specially like the last part of his article. It is practical & in the best interest of our county. But I think he went too far with his neo-colonialism analysis. I believe the current socio-political and economic environment is by far different from colonization era. The fact that the he predicted 70, 100 years from now the current investors who give birth to their children and grandchildren multiply and become stronger and stronger economically and politically gave me a pose for 2 reasons:

1. Per his prediction 100 years from now Ethiopia will still be a country where the haves control the have-nots. With that prediction regardless of who are the haves i.e. the settlers or the natives there will always be injustice. Is the Dr. suggesting the devastation is minimal when you are inferior to the natives than outsiders? For the problem can't be solved by not allowing foreigners in the country. Power should come from the people to the people. We have to build strong institution that promotes and protect democracy. This has less to do with democratization than land leasing.

2. He said the new settlers will be citizens of that country by virtue of their births in it, but their loyalty and allegiance will be to the places of their origins. I don't claim to be historian and I don't know if the statement has historical backing. But I can say that is not what I witnessed on US born Ethio-Americans or naturalized Ethio-Americans. They love their birth and adopted nation without any reservation. Yes they love their country of origin and their loyalty for their county of birth or adopted nation isn't questionable.

Again I'm not trying to dismiss all the concerns most Ethiopians share in regards with the land leasing. I'm just wondering the impartiality of most of the commentator. As some of us confuse Ethiopia with TPLF.

09/29/12 @ 17:15

Comment from: C'est moi senait [Visitor]

Kul

Me

Dr.Fikri tolossa is totally confused by his prediction like a Maoiest of India. Neo-colonialist is a new term in his daily political discusstion . Why is he so mad and angry about investors who come to Ethiopia to invest their money? Why is he not mention a single word about those parasites charities that are invading us and poison our people?

Do not speak against India and china as a neo-coloniser. This word created by so called western activist who are a modern solders of western countries who do not want Africa to develope at all. Dr. Fikri tolosa has forgotten that Ethiopia is under CHARITIES AND NGO COLONISATION.

I ADVICE DR. FIKRI TOLO TO STRAIGHTEN HIS EYE GLAS OR CHANGE IT TO MODERN ONE WITH BETTER magnifiere so he can see who the real invaders or colonisers are before he comments next time.

No one has said a word against these parasites charities and NGO nazi-colonisers who are now killing our people to be lazy and turned us a beggar nation.

Why not comments about them? Are n't they neo-nazi-western colonisers ?

Capitalism is the oldest stage of imperialism .Neo-colonialism is the latest stage of colonialism .

09/30/12 @ 02:06

Comment from: gokul [Visitor]

I dont think these indian firms employ indians on a large scale because these days labour in india became soo costly that it doesn't make any economic sense.May be they can bring in a few only to demonstrate locals about best practices.

10/02/12 @ 05:56

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