**Visit to Savelugu**

**Community entry**

I visited Dipali community where the site for a sugar cane farm and factory is situated on the third of September, 2020. I was accompanied by an aid (a native of Savelugu) who know the customs of the community and also speak their language. Upon entry, we went to the chief linguist of the chief who gave a little bit of information about the sugar farm and then took us to the chief’s palace where we had a dialogue with the chief, his secretary and community elders. However, we did not find any of the company representatives in the community.

**Deal information**

According to the chief and elders, the said deal is only an expression of interest and no actual contracts have been signed between the chief and any of the companies. According to the current chief, a white lady (they could not tell me her name, country or company) came to the late chief to ask for land to farm sugarcane and a piece of land was earmarked for that. The lady then brought surveyors to demarcate the land. Some soil samples were also taken for soil test. According to the current chief’s secretary, the lady didn’t disclose the exact size of the land and never made available to the late chief copies of the cadastral plans. After the demise of the then chief, the lady insisted that the Regent (acting chief) signs a contract. The lady went to the higher chief whose son was the regent to sign but upon the advice of the Regent, the higher chief refused to sign the contract and insisted that the exact size be indicated in the contract. Since then, the white lady hasn’t visited the community anymore but has been sending greetings to the chief and promises to come. When a change in government occurred in 2016, a new investor (BIET-Ghana) expressed interest under the One District one factory government initiative (1D1F). They came to the community and inspected the site in 2018 and they promised to bring their equipment in January, 2020 but never came back.

Some time around 2015, the Northern Rural Growth Programme (NRGP) partly developed an irrigation system close to the site for the sugar cane. The infrastructure includes a pumping room and pumping machine. It is currently not operational because the NRGP couldn’t complete it due to shortage of funds. I was told that an investor (lady) from Egypt also came in and proposed block and contract farming. She did a bit of work on the irrigation infrastructure but coudnt get it running. Later she brought in a generator and farmed on the irrigation for only 2 years and stopped.

All investors promised community development activities like the award of scholarships, building of schools, hospitals and roads. However, none of these promises has been fulfilled by any of the companies.

**Summary**

So far, none of the investors has undertaken any farming activity on the site for the sugar cane. Only local farmers are farming on portions of the land. From our conversation, I got the impression that the current chief and the community is more interested in giving out the land to an investor because they want to facilitate development in the community. The thinking is that, allowing such large-scale investment can facilitate the community’s development. The first investor was only concerned with farming sugar cane but the factory development came in when the second investor came under the 1D1F initiative. The chief and the community do not know the exact size of the land and do not seem to have exact information the investors.