

## NCCR Trade Regulation Brown Bag Series

Carin Smaller, Advisor on Agriculture and Investment for the Economic Law and Policy program, IISD

### Investment contracts for farmland and water

Monday, 23 May 2016, 12.30 – 13.30

Silva Casa Auditorium, World Trade Institute, University of Bern  
Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern, Switzerland

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#### Abstract

A wave of foreign investment in agricultural land and water is transforming rural economies and livelihoods. The Land Matrix Partnership says that more than 1,200 deals have been concluded in developing countries, covering 43 million hectares of land – ten times the size of Switzerland. Rural areas and the agriculture sector desperately need investment. Eight hundred million people go to bed hungry every night. Seventy per cent of those people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Foreign direct investment is one source of investment that is crucial to agriculture, but it must be done right. One key step is to reform the legal and policy frameworks for investment. Other tools are investment contracts, which will be discussed during the presentation.

IISD reviewed more than 90 existing contracts for farmland investments and found a number of shortcomings. In working with governments to improve the contracts, we developed our own model contract for farmland investments. I will lay out the ten key steps to becoming an expert in drafting investment contracts that promote sustainable development.

#### Biography of the Speaker

Carin Smaller is an Advisor on Agriculture and Investment for the Economic Law and Policy program at IISD. She advises governments and parliamentarians on law and policy issues related to foreign investment in agriculture. She is the author of the *IISD Guide to Negotiating Investment Contracts for Farmland and Water*, the first attempt to create a model contract for developing countries to attract investment for agriculture, while at the same time, promoting the needs of the poor and protecting the environment. She has lived and worked in several developing countries, and advised dozens of government officials on how to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks from foreign investment in the agriculture sector. She has organised and participated in international conferences on agriculture, trade, investment and human rights; has worked with several non-governmental organisations; and has carried out media relations, particularly providing access to the media for people whose voices are not usually heard.

**Participation is free of charge, no registration is needed.  
We warmly welcome you to join our seminar at the World Trade Institute!**

NCCR Trade Regulation Brown Bag Seminars are 30-minute presentations, given by external or in-house researchers. The presentations are followed by a 30-minute Q&A session. The Brown Bag concept comes from the US; it means that people bring their own lunch and eat it during the presentation.