

Conflicts over land and global change
Freie Universität Berlin



Organising for Interest Representation: Outgrowers in Ghana's Plantation Agriculture



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2nd December 2016



Focus

Discuss outgrower and smallholder employment relations and labour force needs arising out of the position within GOPDC production structure

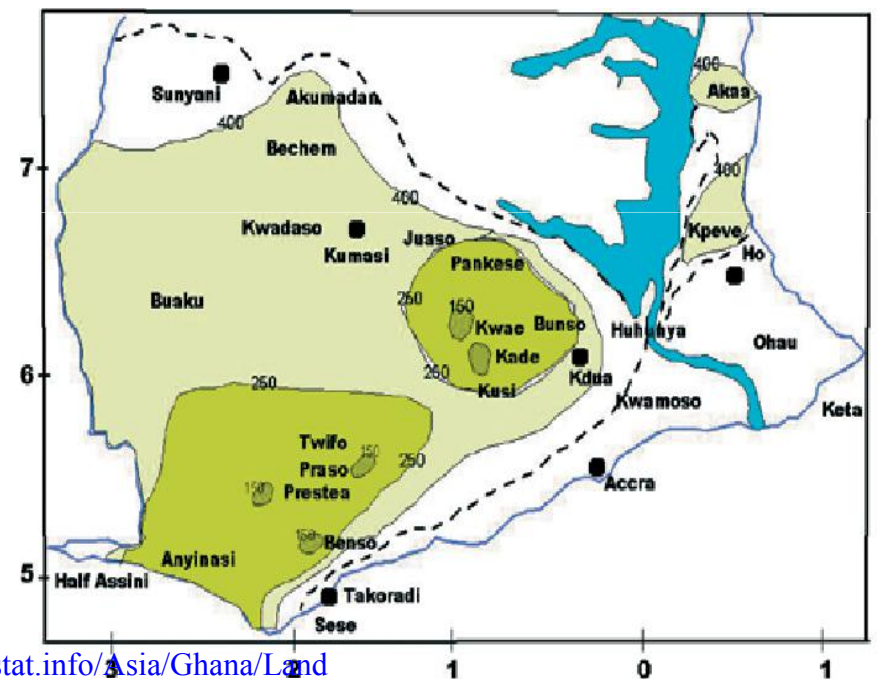
Details

Organisational modes for interest representation
Sources of power and

Part of a larger collection

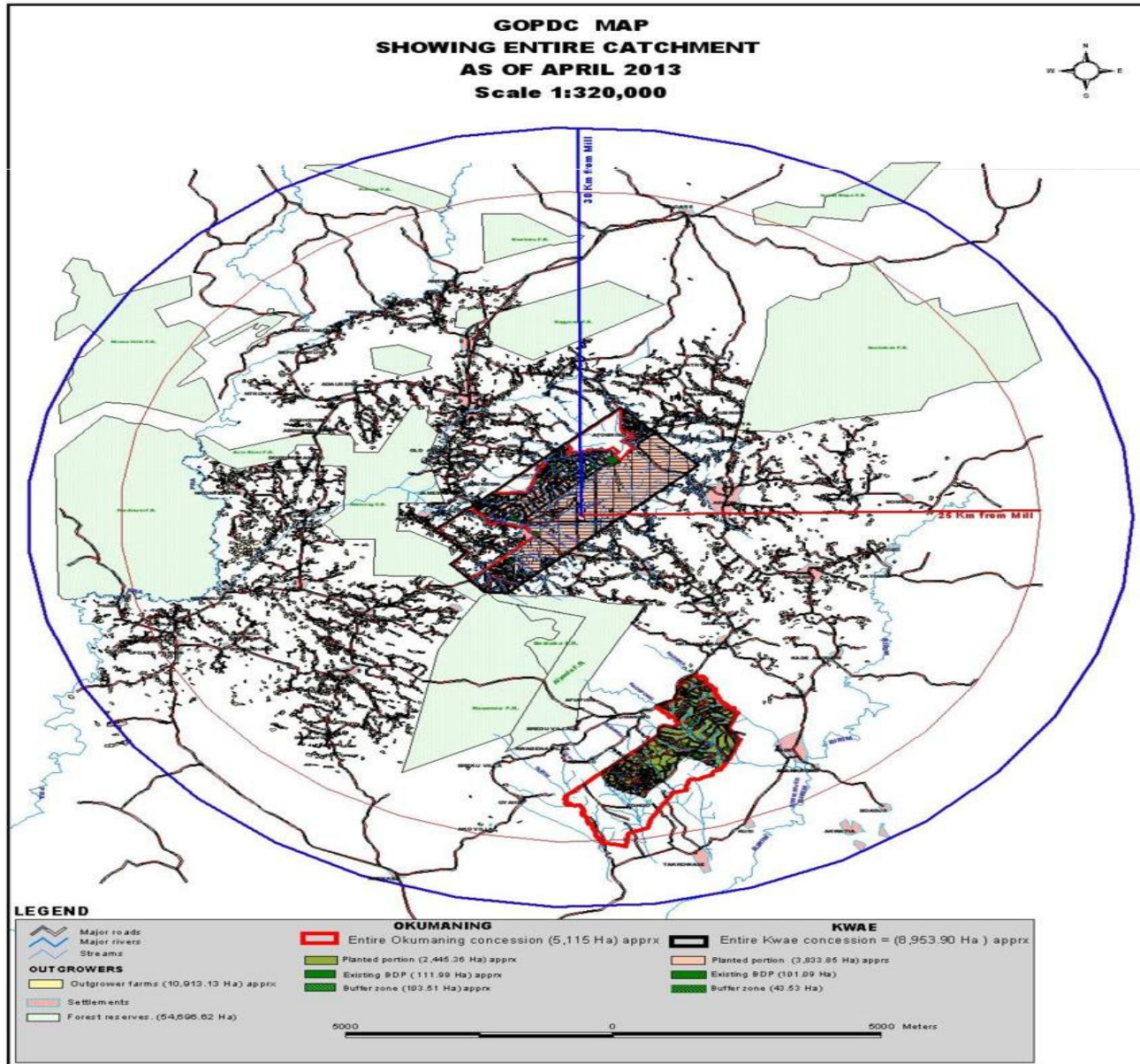
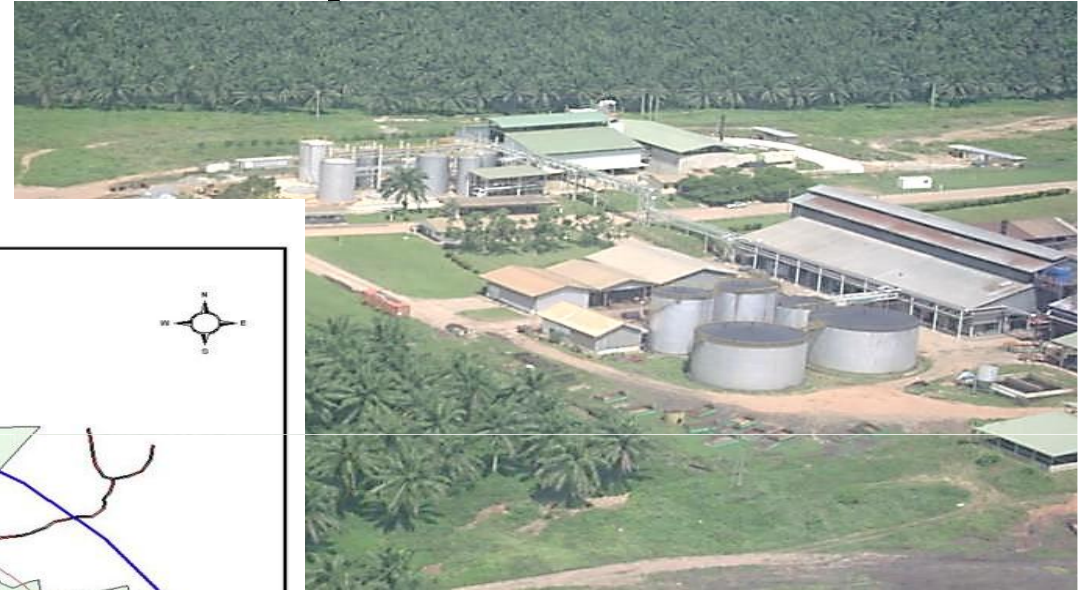
Crossing the divide precarious workers and the future of labour





Ghana Oil Palm Development Corporation

Member of Société d'Investissement pour l'Agriculture Tropicale (Siat) Group of Belgium



Largest (22,352ha of 41,086 ha

Industry leader more products

Milling capacity
60 tons/hour,
National 172 tons/hour

Oil palm in Ghana

Oil palm as a global commodity

Several uses: food, cosmetic, pharmaceutical, detergent, bio-fuel (Väth & Kirk, n. d.).

Enterprise expansion through labour deregulation/informalising schemes

Production share of FFB

Nucleus estate 30-40% (6500ha)

Outgrowers produced 50-60% (13,000ha)

Smallholders less than 1%

Central issue is land ownership





The outgrower scheme

About 6,000 outgrowers within
30 km radius 13,000 ha

Contractual relations

Co-financing land,

GOPDC:

Inputs (seedlings, fertilizer,
technical assistance, pest
management, transporting FFB
to mill)

Farmers:

100 % delivery to GOPDC

7 year grace period

Payment deductions from cost of
FFB delivered

Production relations

Contractual relations representing Roberts' notion of articulation

Redrafting of pre-capitalist forms of production in capitalist accumulation

The coexistence of multiple socio-economic formations (Webster and Bhowmik 2014)

Multiplicity of production relations;

Land access—land owners and tenant farmers

Peasant production often supported by casual labour

Household labour—dependants and household—social relations of entitlement to labour

Marriage, parent, kin and notion of fostering—mutualism

Restructuring

Privatisation,
Downsizing,
Fragmentation,
Subcontracting,
Indirect recruitment,
Outsourcing,
Guest ownership

Labour types

Small holders,
Out growers
Temporal, Casual,
Seasonal,
Contract
Tenant farmers
Household

Contestations

Negotiating price of FFBs

Deductions and rates

Determining production targets

Time for effecting payments

Land use and

Disposing over aged palm
trees



Power sources



Power resources the point of agency (Knafo, 2008)

Reformulation of Wright's power sources by Scully exit option;

Symbolic, structural, associational
Seeking redress without pursuing transformation;

Ability to recognise and utilise power sources



Further contestations

Production targets, bonuses & Corporate social responsibility



Mobilising power resource

Representation: Associational form

Market power, GOPDC, domestic and international
Independent mills and middle women

Numbers: Threat to demonstrate within confines of the law;
Encroaching land

Symbolic

State power (DCE); awareness of state capacity
(smallholders, court, pest control)

Relations with enterprise owner;

New media and information (world market pricing)

New demands and the future

Space in price fixing with recourse to arbitration

Sustaining their association

