# German investment funds involved in land grabbing

A research paper by Profundo prepared for FIAN Deutschland e.V.

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# **Summary**

This report focuses on opportunities to invest in land grabbing offered to German private and institutional investors. A distinction is made between several categories of investment opportunities: specialized mutual funds, private equity funds and German stock-exchange listed companies.

#### Specialized mutual funds

Specialized mutual funds are funds that generally concentrate on one sector. This report has focused on specialized mutual funds that invest in shares of stock-exchange listed agricultural companies. These agricultural companies can be grouped in three categories:

- Companies which own large areas of land themselves. Examples are Wilmar International and Olam International;
- Companies which operate in other parts of the agricultural supply chain, and often buy supplies from companies that own land. Examples are agricultural conglomerate Archer-Daniels-Midland and meat company JBS SA;
- Agribusiness and chemical companies, which are not directly involved in land grabbing, but also benefit from the increasing value of agricultural commodities and land.
   Examples are Syngenta and Viterra;

Table 1 provides an overview of all specialized mutual funds investing in agricultural companies which are offered on the German market. The total amount invested by these funds is € 4.5 billion. While some funds are offered by German institutions, like Deutsche Bank and Allianz, other funds are offered by non-German institutions on the German market. The regional focus of the specialized mutual funds is very broad. Many funds invest in companies *based* in on North America and Brazil. However, the operations of these companies could span the whole globe. Table 1 shows that most funds are established in 2007 and 2008.

Table 1 Specialized mutual funds

Fund	Owned by	Size (€ million)	Launch date	Region
Allianz RCM Global Agricultural Trends	Allianz	184.0	April 2008	US, Singapore, Canada, Malaysia, Netherlands, Brazil
Amundi Funds Global Agriculture	Baring Asset Management (UK)	100.0	March 2008	Asia, US, emerging countries
Baring Global Agriculture Fund	Crédit Agricole and Société Générale (France)	133.3	January 2009	US, Singapore, Brazil, China
BGF World Agriculture Fund	BlackRock (offered by Deka Investment)	20.3	February 2010	North America, Asia, Europe, Latin America
Deutsche New Resource Mother Fund	Deutsche Bank	396.4	Unknown	North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia
DJE Agrar & Ernährung	DJE Kapital AG	21.6	June 2008	US, Norway, Netherlands, Canada
DWS AgriX Garant 2013	Deutsche Bank	5.2	October 2008	Unknown
DWS Global Agribusiness	Deutsche Bank	630.0	October 2006	US, Canada, Brazil, Switzerland, Australia, Germany, China

DWS Global Equity Agribusiness Fund	Deutsche Bank	70.7	September 2006	US, Brazil, Switzerland, Canada, Australia
DWS GO Agrikultur Aktiv TR Index Zertifikat	Deutsche Bank	15.0	March 2007	US, Germany, Japan
DWS Invest Global Agribusiness LC	Deutsche Bank	1,572.0	November 2006	US, Switzerland, Canada, Brazil
DWS World Agribusiness Mother Fund	Deutsche Bank	132.8	Unknown	Europe, North America, Latin America
DWS Zukunftsressourcen	Deutsche Bank	590.6	February 2006	US, Germany, China, Canada
JB EF Agriculture	Julius Bär Group (Switzerland)	25.9	June 2008	US, Brazil, Canada
Parvest Agriculture	BNP Paribas (France)	257.5	March 2007	Unknown
PF(LUX)-Agriculture Fund	Pictet (Switzerland)	104.0	May 2009	North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia
Robeco Agribusiness Equities D EUR	Rabobank (Netherlands)	185.7	August 2008	North America, Europe, the Far East
Stabilitas Soft Commodities	ERA Resources	2.1	December 2006	Canada, Australia, US, Asia
Universal Investment AgroInvest	Universal Investment Gesellschaft mbH	47.0	Unknown	Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia
Total		4,494.1		

# Private equity funds

Private equity is an asset class consisting of equity securities in companies that are not publicly traded on a stock exchange. This report focuses on German private equity funds investing in land directly or in non-listed agricultural companies owning land outside Germany. Table 2 provides an overview of all private equity funds which are owned by German institutions. For many equity funds, the current size is unknown. If all funds will reach (or have already reached) their expected size, the total size of these funds is almost € 800 million. The regional focus of these funds is especially on the United States, Europe, Brazil, Australia and New Zealand.

Table 2 Private equity funds

Fund	Owned by	Size (€ mln)	Expected size (€ mln)	Launch date	Region
AC AgrarINVEST I/2009	Aquila Capital	Unknown	45.0	September 2008	Australia, New Zealand, Brazil
Agricultural Value Opportunity Fund	GA Global-Agro	0.0	Unknown	Not yet	New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Chile, the Dominican Republic, EU, Mexico, Uruguay
Aquila AgrarINVEST II	Aquila Capital	Unknown	15.0	June 2010	New Zealand
Aquila Institutional Global Timber Fund	Aquila Capital	Unknown	158.0	December 2008	Globally
Aquila WaldINVEST	Aquila Capital	21.1	18.0	July 2007	Brazil

Fund	Owned by	Size (€ mln)	Expected size (€ mln)	Launch date	Region
Aquila WaldINVEST	Aquila Capital	Unknown	15.0	March 2010	Brazil
Business 50Plus	LIM AG	42.0	42.0	June 2007	Liechtenstein, Africa, other
DWS Access Global Timber GmbH & Co. KG	Deutsche Bank	Unknown	Unknown	January 2008	US, Uruguay, Serbia, Indonesia, Brazil and China
DWS Global Agricultural Land and Opportunities Fund (GALOF)	Deutsche Bank	110.0	110.0	July 2007	Australia, Zambia
Elana Agricultural Land Opportunity Fund	Elena (Allianz 26%, QVT 50%)	59.0	59.0	June 2005	Bulgaria
FarmInvest 1	Agriworld	6.8	18.0	January 2008	US
FarmInvest 2	Agriworld	Unknown	18.6	December 2009	US
Pan-European Farmland Fund	Palmer Capital (UK/Germany), Bidwells (UK)	Unknown	300.0	September 2008	Europe
Total		238.9	798.6		

## German listed companies

The final category of focus in this report is German stock-exchange listed agricultural companies owning land outside Germany. Table 3 presents an overview of these companies. Two companies cultivate land while one company purchases and leases land. The regional focus of these companies is Europe and Africa.

Table 3 German listed companies

Company	Listed on the stock exchange since	Activity	Area (ha)	Region
Acazis AG	February 2007	Cultivation of vegetable oils for the biofuels sector: Jatropha, castor	300,000	Africa
Agrarius AG	November 2008	Purchasing land and broker it to leaseholders	Unknown	Eastern Europe
KTG Agrar	November 2007	Cultivation of cereals, maize and rapeseed	30,000	Germany, Lithuania

In addition, several other opportunities, which fall in neither of these categories, are listed in paragraph 1.5. Most opportunities in this category are non-listed companies, some of which might attract capital or go public in a later stage.

Case study: Deutsche Bank

Eight specialized mutual funds offered by Deutsche Bank were discussed in more detail in this report. Together, these funds have invested more than € 263.0 million in companies which own large amounts of land, representing at least 16.2 per cent of the total amount invested by the funds in agricultural companies and 7.7 per cent of their total assets. In addition, many more millions were invested in companies which operate in other parts of the supply chain and in agribusiness and chemical companies.

In addition, an in-depth case on DWS GALOF, a private equity fund managed by Duxton Asset Management in Singapore, was provided. This fund converts mid-size farms into large farms of around 10,000 hectares. By improving management and the increased value of land, the fund targets 18 per cent returns. The fund owns more than 100,000 hectares of land in Zambia, Australia, Congo, Australia and Tanzania.

# Introduction

This report focuses on investment opportunities to invest in land grabbing offered to German private and institutional investors.

The main opportunities identified are divided in several categories. Chapter 1 will discuss these different opportunities for land grabbing, focusing on:

- Specialized mutual funds offered in Germany, investing in shares of stock-exchange listed agricultural companies. Some of these agricultural companies own large areas of land themselves, while others operate in other parts of the supply chain or operate in the agribusiness and chemical sectors (paragraph 1.2);
- German private equity funds, investing in land directly or in non-listed agricultural companies owning land outside Germany (paragraph 1.3);
- German stock-exchange listed agricultural companies owning land outside Germany (paragraph 1.4);
- Other German investment opportunities related to land grabbing (paragraph 1.5).

A list of investment opportunities will be created providing the following information: date of establishment, type of investment opportunity, financial volume, the financial institution offering/managing it, countries where is invested in.

After that, Chapter 2 will provide an in-depth case about the eight specialized mutual funds managed by Deutsche Bank (paragraph 2.2), and one specific private equity fund: DWS GALOF (paragraph 2.3).

A summary can be found on the first pages of this report.

# Chapter 1 Opportunities to invest in land grabbing

## 1.1 Introduction

Over the past few years, interest in crop land and agricultural infrastructure as an investment opportunity has grown substantially among private and institutional investors. This trend can be attributed for a large part to rising prices of agricultural commodities since 2006. Due to increasing prices of crude oil and the growing demand for agricultural commodities, especially non-food crops, it is generally assumed that prices will continue to rise, making way for profits when the value of land rises. In addition, increased meat consumption, competition for land use and a need for diversification as a result of the economic downturn have contributed to the increasing attractiveness of investments in agricultural land.<sup>1</sup>

An increasing amount of investment opportunities have been created over the past years to invest in the area of farmland, agricultural companies, agricultural commodities and agribusiness. For some years now a real run on the resource of land has been observed. In development politics there has been a tense debate going on for two years about this global phenomenon called 'land grabbing'. FIAN defines land grabbing as follows:

Land grabbing is defined as taking possession of and/or controlling a scale of land for commercial/industrial agricultural production which is disproportionate in size in comparison to the average land holding in the region. This definition does not focus on abusive practices in the process of acquiring the land but rather on the distributional aspects of the phenomenon and its impact on the political economy and the local and national populations' right to resources for both today and the future.

Compared to an annual expansion of agricultural land of less than 4 million hectares before 2008, 45 million hectares of large scale farmland deals were annuanced before the end of 2009.<sup>2</sup> The most attractive locations where land is being acquired are North America, Australia and New Zealand, Eastern Europe, South America (especially Brazil) and Africa. The investment strategies implemented range from 'conservative', e.g. when productive permanent cropland land is acquired and developed in North America, to 'aggressive', e.g. when raw or underdeveloped row crop is acquired and transformed in developing countries.<sup>3</sup>

Investments in land, food commodities and biofuels are increasingly managed by a wide variety of financial structures: large scale financial institutions, private equity funds, hedge funds, real estate investment trusts (REITs) as well as private or public companies.<sup>4</sup> The debate's focus lies especially on investors from Arab or Asian countries as well as on concrete companies or investing states. But the role played by European investors and money from investment funds in this context is largely unknown and less discussed. A recent study by the OECD highlights that 44% of all funds involved in agricultural land and related infrastructure investments are located in Europe.<sup>5</sup>

This chapter will focus on German investment opportunities to invest in land grabbing offered to private and institutional investors. The opportunities will be grouped under the following categories:

- Specialized mutual funds offered in Germany (paragraph 1.2), investing in shares of stock-exchange listed agricultural companies. These agricultural companies can be grouped in three categories:
  - Companies which own large areas of land themselves. Examples are Wilmar International and Olam International;
  - Companies which operate in other parts of the agricultural supply chain, and often buy supplies from companies that own land. Examples are agricultural conglomerate Archer-Daniels-Midland and meat company JBS SA;

- Agribusiness and chemical companies, which are not directly involved in land grabbing, but also benefit from the increasing value of agricultural commodities and land.
   Examples are Syngenta and Viterra;
- German private equity funds, investing in land directly or in private agricultural companies owning land outside Germany (paragraph 1.3);
- German stock-exchange listed agricultural companies owning land outside Germany (paragraph 1.4);
- Other German investment opportunities related to land grabbing (paragraph 1.5).

# 1.2 Specialized mutual funds

#### 1.2.1 Introduction

This paragraph will summarize a range of specialized mutual funds available for German investors. Specialized mutual funds are funds that generally concentrate on (companies in) one sector. This report focuses on specialized mutual funds that invest in stock-exchange listed agricultural companies. Together, the assets of the funds listed in this chapter equal € 4.5 billion. It must be noted that not all agricultural companies in the portfolios of the specialized mutual funds are directly involved in land grabbing. Some of the companies own large amounts of land themselves, while others operate in other parts of the supply chain. Often, fertilizer companies are also included in the portfolios of the mutual funds. These companies are not involved in land grabbing directly, but they do also benefit from the rising prices of agricultural commodities and land.

# 1.2.2 Allianz RCM Global Agricultural Trends

Allianz RCM Global Agricultural Trends was established in April 2008 and is owned by Allianz Global Investors. The fund invests in the sectors raw materials production and product processing & distribution. As at 16 September 2010, the fund's total assets amounted to US\$ 239 million (€ 184 million). Companies in the fund's portfolio include a range of oil palm companies owning large amounts of land in Indonesia and Malaysia, like Wilmar International, Golden Agri-Resources Ltd, IOI Corporation and Kuala Lumpur Kepong. In addition, the fund has invested in Olam International and Archer-Daniels-Midland.<sup>6</sup> The fund mainly invests in companies based in the United States (29%), Singapore (17.4%), Canada (12.3%), Malaysia (6.8%), the Netherlands (5.7%) and Brazil (5.1%).¹ The manager of the fund is the Bryan Agbabian, who lives in the United States.²

# 1.2.3 Amundi Funds Global Agriculture

Amundi Funds Global Agriculture was established in March 2008 and is managed by Amundi Luxembourg SA, the asset management division of two major French banking groups: Crédit Agricole and Société Générale. At the end of June 2010, the size of the fund was US\$ 122.1 million (€ 100.0 million). The fund is offered in Germany and several other European and Asian countries. Companies in the fund's portfolio include Archer-Daniels-Midland, Wilmar International, Bunge, SLC Agricola, Astra Agro Lestari and Olam International. The fund mainly invests in companies based in the Asia (30.3%, excluding Japan), the United States (29.2%) and 'emerging countries' (9,0%).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The regions in which the funds invest are based on the home countries of the companies in the fund's portfolio. However, the activities of the companies can span the whole globe.

## 1.2.4 Baring Global Agriculture Fund

Baring Global Agriculture Fund was launched in January 2009 and is managed by UK's Baring Asset Management. The fund invests in agriculture and soft commodities. In June 2010, the size of the fund was £ 113.1 million (€ 133.3 million). The fund is offered in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, France and other countries. Countries in the fund's portfolio include Olam International, Indofood Agri Resources, Wilmar International, Kuala Lumpur Kepong Bhd and SLC Agricola. The fund mainly invests in companies based in the United States (31.2%), Singapore (10.5%), Brazil (10.2%) and China (9.1%). The minimum investment in the fund is £ 2000 (€ 2,350).

# 1.2.5 BGF World Agriculture Fund

BGF World Agriculture Fund, a BlackRock fund, is offered by Deka Investments on the German market. The fund was launched in February 2010 and at the end of February 2010, the fund had a size of US\$ 27.7 million (€ 20.3 million). Companies in the fund's portfolio include Archer-Daniels-Midland, Indofood Agri Resources, Wilmar International, IOI, SLC Agricola and Illovo Sugar. The fund mainly invests in companies based in North America (44.6%), Asia (19.2%), Europe (18.2%) and Latin America (9.9%). 2.3% of the companies the fund invests in are based in Africa.

#### 1.2.6 Deutsche Bank

Deutsche Bank's subsidiary DWS Investment manages several funds devoted to investments in global agriculture:<sup>2</sup>

- Deutsche New Resource Mother Fund is managed by DWS Investment GmbH. At the end of December 2009, the fund size was US\$ 568.1 million (€ 396.4 million). Companies in the fund's portfolio include Syngenta, Yara International, Agrium, Bunge and Potash Corp of Saskatchewan. The fund mainly invests in companies based in North America (38.7%), Europe (35.2%), Latin America (13.5%) and Asia (10.0%).<sup>14</sup>
- DWS AgriX Garant 2013, managed by DWS Investment GmbH, was established in October 2008. The fund size as at 31 August 2010 was € 5.2 million. The AgriX index, to which DWS AgriX Garant 2013 is linked, primarily consists of main players in the agriculture industry. Companies in the fund's portfolio include Potash Corp of Saskatchewan, Archer-Daniels-Midland, Moller - Maersk, Monsanto, Wilmar International and Bunge. The fund manager is Dr. Matthias Reimer and the management location of the fund is Germany.<sup>15</sup>
- DWS Global Agribusiness was launched in October 2006. The fund size as at 31 July 2010 was US\$ 822 million (€ 630 million). Companies in the fund's portfolio include Archer-Daniels-Midland, MCB Agricola, Olam International, SLC Agricola and São Martinho. The fund mainly invests in companies based in the United States (29.7%), Canada (10.1%), Brazil (6.8%), Switzerland (6.5%), Australia (5.4%), Germany (4.5%) and China (4.5%). The manager of the fund is Oliver Kratz and the management location of the fund is the United States.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> An in-depth case of the eight specialized mutual funds of Deutsche Bank can be found in Chapter 2.

- DWS Global Equity Agribusiness Fund, managed by Deutsche Asset Management (Australia) Ltd, was launched in September 2006. The fund size as at 30 June 2010 was US\$ 86.3 million (€ 70.7 million).<sup>17</sup> The fund invests in all kinds of businesses related to food production, from planting to distribution and sale of the end product. Companies in the fund's portfolio include Monsanto, Viterra, Syngenta, Corn Products International, Bunge and Olam International. The fund mainly invests in companies based in the United States (23.6%), Brazil (12.4%), Switzerland (7.7%), Canada (7.2%) and Australia (6.4%).<sup>18</sup>
- DWS GO Agrikultur Aktiv TR Index Zertifikat was launched in March 2007 and is managed by Deutsche Asset Management Schweiz. In July 2007, the fund had a total size of € 15 million. Companies in the fund's portfolio include Potash Corp of Saskatchewan, Yara International, K+S AG, Monsanto, Kubota, Bunge and Archer-Daniels-Midland. The fund mainly invests in companies based in the United States (31%), Germany (27%) and Japan (14%).<sup>19</sup>
- DWS Invest Global Agribusiness LC was launched in November 2006. The fund size as at 31 August 2010 was US\$ 2,051 million (€ 1,572 million). The fund invests in companies that are either operating in the agricultural sector or profit from this sector. Companies included in the fund's portfolio are SLC Agricola, Bunge, São Martinho, Olam International and Australian Agricultural Co Ltd.<sup>20</sup> The fund mainly invests in companies based in the United States (28.9%), Switzerland (7.1%), Canada (6.8%) and Brazil (6.8%). The fund manager is Oliver Kratz and the management location of the fund is the United States.<sup>21</sup>
- DWS World Agribusiness Mother Fund is managed by Deutsche Investment Management Americas, with managing director Theresa Gusman. As at 27 July 2009, total assets of the fund were US\$ 188.7 million (€ 132.8 million). Companies in the fund's portfolio include JBS SA, SLC Agricola, Olam International and Brasilagro.<sup>22</sup> The fund mainly invests in companies based in Europe (35.9%), North America (27.9%) and Latin America (23.1%).<sup>23</sup>
- DWS Zukunftsressourcen, managed by DWS Investment GmbH, was launched in February 2006. The fund invests in companies operating in the water, agriculture and renewable-energy sectors. The fund size as at 31 August 2010 was € 590.6 million. Companies in the fund's portfolio include Yara International, K+S AG, Wacker Chemie, Mosaic Co, Syngenta, Bunge and Archer-Daniels-Midland.<sup>24</sup> The fund mainly invests in companies based in the United States (37.0%), Germany (16.1%), China (8.4%) and Canada (6.8%).<sup>25</sup>

In addition, the following investment opportunity is offered by Deutsche Bank:

DB Agriculture: The PowerShares DB Agriculture Fund was incepted in January 2007, based on the Deutsche Bank Liquid Commodity Index Diversified Agriculture Excess Return™ and managed by DB Commodity Services LLC. The Index is a rules-based index composed of futures contracts on some of the most liquid and widely traded agricultural commodities (like corn, soybean, wheat, live cattle and sugar). The portfolio is managed by Kevin Parker. At the end of June 2010, the fund's total assets amounted to US\$ 1,847 million (€ 1,334 million).<sup>26</sup>

#### 1.2.7 DJE Agrar & Ernährung

DJE Agrar & Ernährung was established in June 2008 and is managed by the German asset manager DJE Kapital AG. At the end of August 2010, the size of the fund was € 21.6 million. Companies in the fund's portfolio include Archer-Daniels-Midland, Bunge, Astra Agro Lestari and Wilmar International.<sup>27</sup> The fund mainly invests in companies based in the United States (18.4%), Norway (10.7%), the Netherlands (9.2%) and Canada (7.8%).<sup>28</sup>

## 1.2.8 JB EF Agriculture

JB EF Agriculture is managed by Julius Bär (Luxembourg) S.A., part of the Swiss Julius Bär Group. The fund was launched in June 2008. At the end of June 2010, the value of the fund was € 25.9 million. The fund invests in companies operating in raw materials and in companies which are part of the global agricultural value chain. The fund is offered in Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the UK. Companies in the fund's portfolio are mainly based in the United States (44.9%), Brazil (8.1%) and Canada (7.6%).<sup>29</sup>

# 1.2.9 Parvest Agriculture

Parvest Agriculture, which was previously known as Parworld Agriculture, was launched in March 2007 and is managed by BNP Paribas Asset Management S.A.S, part of the French BNP Paribas. The fund is offered in Germany and Switzerland. The fund follows the indices DJ-UBS Agriculture-Index (50%) and Enhanced Strategy #10 Agriculture & Livestock-Index (50%). At 31 May 2010, the value of the fund was € 257.5 million.<sup>30</sup>

# 1.2.10 PF (LUX) - Agriculture Fund

PF(LUX)-Agriculture Fund was launched in May 2009 and is managed by Pictet, one of Switzerland's largest private banks. As at 31 March 2010, the size of the fund was US\$ 127.9 million (€ 104.0 million). The fund invests in companies involved in farming, as well as companies involved in other areas of agribusiness. The fund is offered in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. Companies in the fund's portfolio include Archer-Daniels-Midland, Bunge, Wilmar International and Olam International.<sup>31</sup> The companies in the fund's portfolio are mainly based in North America (35.6%), Europe (25.9%), Latin America (18.7%) and Asia (18.6%).<sup>32</sup>

#### 1.2.11 Stabilitas Soft Commodities

ERA Resources is a German investment advising company headed by Werner J. Ullmann and headquartered in Augsburg. One of the funds managed by ERA Resources is Stabilitas Soft Commodities, which invests in the soft commodities sector (food, grain, forest, fertilizer etc.). The fund was launched in December 2006. At the end of July 2009, the fund had a size of € 2.1 million. Companies in the fund's portfolio include Cermaq, China Fishery Group, Legend International Holdings, Phoscan Chemical Corp and Sino Forest Corp. The fund invests in companies based in Canada (30%), Australia (25%), the United States (20%) and Asia (20%). The minimum subscription for the fund is € 1,000.<sup>33</sup>

#### 1.2.12 Robeco Agribusiness Equities

Robeco Agribusiness Equities D EUR is a fund offered by Robeco Asset Management, part of the Dutch Rabobank, on the German market. The fund was established in August 2008. Next to Germany, the fund is offered in Finland, France, the UK, Hong Kong, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria and Switzerland. At the end of August 2010, the fund had a size of € 185.7 million. Companies in the fund's portfolio include Bunge, Archer-Daniels-Midland, JBS SA, Wilmar International, SLC Agricola and Illovo Sugar. The fund mainly invests in companies based in North America (45.9%), Europe (24.7%) and the Far East (22.8%). Companies based in Africa represent 2.1% of the fund's investments.

#### 1.2.13 Universal Investment AgroInvest

Universal Investment AgroInvest is a fund managed by Universal Investment Gesellschaft mbH, a German investment company. At the end of February 2010, the size of the fund was US\$ 64.0 million (€ 47.0 million). Companies in the fund's portfolio include Cermaq, Nutreco, Potash Corp of Saskatchewan, Ebro Foods and Agrium. The fund mainly invests in companies based in Europe (44.2%), North America (30.2%), Latin America (12.8%) and Asia (11.0%).<sup>36</sup>

# 1.3 Private equity funds

#### 1.3.1 Introduction

This paragraph will summarize a range of private equity funds. Private equity is an asset class consisting of equity securities in companies that are not publicly traded on a stock exchange. After having experienced their largest boom between 2005 and 2007, private equity funds under management totaled US\$ 2.5 trillion (€ 1.8 trillion) at the end of 2008. International Financial Services London (IFSL) forecasts that funds under management will increase to over US\$ 3.5 trillion by 2015, starting from less than US\$ 1 trillion (€ 0.95 trillion) in 2003.<sup>37</sup>

The following sub-paragraphs summarize the German private equity funds investing in land directly or in private agricultural companies owning land outside Germany that could be found.

#### 1.3.2 Agriworld

Agriworld, based in Hamburg, was founded in 1991 by German and Swiss businessmen. The company manages more than 11,600 of acres of farmland for European investors. The company's land, with a value of more than US\$ 190 million, is mainly based in the Mississipi Delta and California, the United States. The company manages the following private equity funds:

• FarmInvest 1: This fund was launched in January 2008, turning Agriworld into the first enterprise to give larger group of investors access to investments in farmland in the United States in the form of a closed fund. The fund invests in farms in the Mississippi Delta and provides its investors with rental income as well as profits from the increased value of the land. Upon establishment, the fund was expected to reach a value of US\$ 26.5 million (€ 18.0 million) plus 3.5% premium, with a maximum of US\$ 35 million (€ 23.8 million). The investment period was 10-15 years, and investors needed to invest at least US\$ 350,000 or the dollar equivalent of € 200,000.<sup>38</sup> By September 2008, FarmInvest 1 had attracted more than US\$ 10 million (€ 6.8 million) from European investors.<sup>39</sup>

• FarmInvest 2: Because FarmInvest 1 was successful, AgriWorld decided to launch its successor FarmInvest 2 in December 2009. FarmInvest 2 invests in the Mississippi Delta and California. The fund has an expected size of US\$ 28 million (€ 18.6 million), with a minimum of US\$ 10 million (€ 6.7 million) and a maximum of US\$ 60 million (€ 39.9 million). The minimum investment amounts to US\$ 25,000 (€ 16,600) plus a premium of 5 per cent. The planned annual payments amount to around 5-7 per cent. Possible gains from increased land value will be distributed after 10 years. 40

## 1.3.3 Aquila Capital

Aquila Capital is an alternative investment company based in Hamburg with € 2.1 billion under management. The company manages the following funds related to agriculture:

- AC AgrarINVEST I/2009: Launched in September 2008. The fund, with an expected size of US\$ 30-100 million (€ 20-70 million), aims to invest in dairy farms in Australia and New Zealand and in cattle breeding and agriculture in Brazil. Aquila Capital mentions the Brazilian company Proterra Agropecuária S.A as a potential company to invest in. This company has invested in 250,000 hectares of suitable land for sugarcane cultivation in Brazil. The minimum investment in AC AgrarINVEST I/2009 is US\$ 20,000 (€ 13,600) plus 5% premium. The expected running time of the fund is until 2014 and the expected total return amounts to 180% of the subscription amount.<sup>41</sup>
- Aquila AgrarINVEST II: Launched in June 2010. The fund focuses on the growing demand for milk products by investing in dairy farms in New Zealand. The fund is expected to have a size of € 15 million, with a maximum size of € 50 million. The minimum investment in the fund is € 10,000 plus 5% premium. The expected running time of the fund is until 2015 and the expected total return amounts to 158% of the subscription amount.<sup>42</sup>
- Aquila WaldINVEST I: Launched in July 2007. The fund invests in timber production in Brazil. Upon establishment, the fund was expected to have a size of US\$ 25 million (€ 18 million). The minimum investment in the fund is US\$ 20,000 (€ 14,700) plus 5% premium. The expected running time of the fund is 10-12 year and the expected annual return would amount to 9.0%. In February 2010, Aquila WaldINVEST I made its first payment to its investors, realizing a return of 10%. By then, the fund had a size of US\$ 28.9 million (€ 21.2 million) and owned 3,030 hectares of land in Brazil.<sup>43</sup>
- Aquila Institutional Global Timber Fund: Launched in December 2008. The Fund is expected to have a size of US\$ 200 million (€ 158 million). The minimum investment in the fund is US\$ 10 million (€ 8 million). The expected running time of the project is 15-18 years and the project expects annual return of 12%.<sup>44</sup>
- Aquila WaldINVEST III: Launched in March 2010. The fund will engage in sustainable management and conservation of up to 1 million hectares of tropical rain forest in Brazil. The fund is expected to have a size of € 15 million. The minimum investment in the fund is € 10,000 plus 5% premium. The expected running time of the project is until 2024 and the project expects total return of up to 315% of the subscription amount.<sup>45</sup>

# 1.3.4 Deutsche Bank

Deutsche Bank manages several private equity funds:

DWS Global Agricultural Land and Opportunities Fund (GALOF)³ was established in July 2007. The size of DWS GALOF is € 110 million. The fund is based in the Cayman Islands but is managed from Singapore. <sup>46</sup> GALOF enters into joint venture agreements with farmers and supplies them with equity in order to expand their farms. The fund currently has farms in Australia and Zambia, but is looking at opportunities in Argentina, Vietnam and New Zealand. <sup>47</sup>

- DWS Access Global Timber GmbH & Co. KG was established in January 2008. It is a closed fund, with a target group of German private investors. The fund invests in forests and wood processing plants. The minimum investment in the fund is US\$ 10,000 (€ 6,700) and the running time is 30 years, with various termination options, such as after 10, 15, 20 and 25 years. Initial investments are already made in the United States, Uruguay, Serbia, Indonesia, Brazil and China.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2007, Deutsche Bank set up a trust fund to invest in agriculture-related ventures globally. <sup>49</sup> In 2008, it was announced that Deutsche Bank was planning to invest in livestock companies in China as part of this fund. Deutsche Bank was said to be pursuing a US\$ 60 million (€ 41 million) investment for a 30% stake in a poultry farm rearing 150,000 pigs in Shanghai and to be looking at investing in Tianjin Baodi Agriculture and Technology Co Ltd, which plans to build 10 large-scale meat processing parks across the country. <sup>50</sup> However, no recent information was found on these investments.

# 1.3.5 Elana Agricultural Land Opportunity Fund

Elana is a real estate investment fund (REIT) in Bulgaria. The fund was established in June 2005. In June 2007, the size of the fund was € 59 million.<sup>51</sup> The fund purchases agricultural land, consolidates it and leases the consolidated plots. The acquired land will be sold out after 2011, unless the fund's shareholders decide to extend its life after 2012. In February 2009, the fund had acquired 29,320 hectares of land in several regions Bulgaria at an average price of € 1,120 per hectare. The Fund plans expand to about 37,900 hectares by the end of 2010. Allianz owns 26 per cent of the fund and QVT, a New York based hedge fund which is set up by a former Deutsche Bank manager, owns almost 50 per cent.<sup>52</sup>

## 1.3.6 GA Global-Agro

GA Global-Agro is a German company that aims to invest in agricultural land in several countries through its Agricultural Value Opportunity Fund. The company sees most investment opportunities in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Chile, the Dominican Republic, the European Union, Mexico and Uruguay. GA Global-Agro will acquire farmland with its own funds only, excluding debt financing. Realized profits from the sale of farmland will be reinvested by GA Global-Agro. Investors can request information on the company's website. 53

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> An in-depth case of DWS GALOF can be found in Chapter 2.

#### 1.3.7 LIM AG

LIM AG, a German investment and management company established in 1975, manages the private equity fund Business 50Plus. This fund, which was established in June 2007, invests in non-listed operationally active small and medium-sized enterprises in the sectors renewable energy, special growth industries and technology. The size of the fund is € 42 million, with a minimum investment of € 10,000 plus 5% premium. The expected return of the fund is 8-15% and the running time is 8 years. The Business 50Plus fund has invested € 2 million in Pacific RIM Invest, a company that owns 7,000 hectares of fallow land in Liechtenstein on which it aims to cultivate jatropha, and € 3.5 million in BFT Bionic Fuel Technologies AG, the parent company of Bionic Palm Limited (see paragraph 1.5.5).<sup>54</sup> In its company presentation, Bionic Palm Limited, an oil palm company which plans to acquire 100,000 hectares in Ghana, indicates that LIM AG through the Business 50Plus fund will provide the company's mid-term equity funding.<sup>55</sup>

#### 1.3.8 Pan-European Farmland Fund

In September 2008, UK's Palmer Capital (which also has a main office in Germany) and UK's Bidwells launched a joint fund □, the 'Farmland Fund', with a value of € 300 million. The fund would invest 70-90% in farmland, with up to 15% allocations in timber and supporting infrastructure. Land investments would target Germany, France, the UK, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Romania. The fund wants to realize a net income return of 5.5% a year over a ten-year lifespan. The partners said capital growth in land prices over this period should net investors with overall returns of between 10%-15%. <sup>56</sup>

Palmer Capital manages capital raisings and investor relations on behalf of a group alternative investment managers and chosen placings for European public companies. Palmer has already raised in excess of US\$ 7 billion on behalf of a variety of partner hedge and private equity funds since its inception in October 2001.<sup>57</sup>

# 1.4 German listed companies

#### 1.4.1 Introduction

This paragraph presents an overview of German stock-exchange listed agricultural companies owning large amounts of land outside Germany.

#### 1.4.2 Acazis AG

Acazis AG, formerly Flora Ecopower Holding, is a German company which is based in Munich. The company's principal activity is to produce and supply vegetable oil to the global biodiesel-, power generation- and heating markets. The company is engaged in the production and supply of biodiesel and the provision of advisory services to various industries in the area of biodiesel projects. Acazis has operations in Ukraine, Ethiopia, China and Israel. The company is a spin-off company of the Israeli Hovev Group, an enterprise involved in the management of agricultural farms and agribusinesses. Since December 2008, the Luxembourg-based renewable energy group Athanor Equities holds the majority of the shares in Acazis. The company is listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange since February 2007.

In April 2008, Acazis announced that it had obtained a contract for the lease of agricultural land in Madagascar. The company planned to cultivate jatropha on 50,000 hectares, for a total investment of € 16 million. <sup>61</sup>

In Ethiopia, Acazis has leased 56,000 hectares in Ethiopia for 50 years and has further concession of 200,000 hectares. The biofuel crop used is the castor plant. In 2009, Acazis invested US\$ 77 million (€ 57 million) in Ethiopia's Oromia state for biofuel crop cultivation on 13,000 hectares. 62

# 1.4.3 Agrarius AG

Agrarius AG was founded in 2007 by a group of group agriculture experts and entrepreneurs. The company purchases selected tracts of arable land on a large scale in Central and Eastern Europe and brokers it to leaseholders. Through this business concept, the company earns rental income and also profits from the increasing value of the purchased land. Currently, Agrarius AG invests especially in Romania and Eastern Germany, but it plans to invest in the Baltic States, Czech Republic, Bulgaria or Slovakia at a later stage.<sup>63</sup>

In November 2008, the company was listed on the Frankfurt Open Market stock exchange. The company currently has a market capitalization of US\$ 2.9 million (€ 2.2 million).<sup>64</sup> In March 2009, Agrarius AG planned a significant capital increase on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. However, the targeted issue of up to 15 million new shares could not be reached and the company decided to cancel the issue.<sup>65</sup> In July 2010, the company again announced that it planned to raise shares, this time on the XETRA stock exchange.<sup>66</sup> The shares have not yet been raised. On the company's website, interested investors can still register.<sup>67</sup>

#### 1.4.4 KTG Agrar

KTG Agrar group, based in Hamburg and headed by KTG Agrar AG, is comprised of more than 30 operating companies. The group's core activity is the organic and traditional cultivation of market products such as cereals, maize and rapeseed. It manages more than 30,000 hectares in Germany and Lithuania and plans to expand to 40,000 hectares. Most of KTG Agrar's land is leased, but the company wants to increase the amount of land it owns in order to benefit from the growing value of farmland. In addition, KTG Agrar produces bioenergy, operating biogas plants with a total capacity of around eleven megawatts. Since November 2007 KTC Agrar AG is listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. The company has a market capitalization of € 5.7 million.<sup>68</sup>

In September 2010, KTG Agrar AG issued a corporate bond ("KTG Biowertpapier") for total proceeds of € 50 million (twice as high as planned) on the Bondm segment of the Stuttgart Stock Exchange. The proceeds will be used to fund the company's expansion. <sup>69</sup>

#### 1.5 Other

#### 1.5.1 Introduction

This paragraph presents an overview of other kinds of investment opportunities in the agricultural sector. Most opportunities in this category are non-listed companies, some of which might attract capital or go public in a later stage.

#### 1.5.2 ABG Holding AG

ABG Holding AG produces and merchandises bread-wheat, oilseed rape, and energy-crops. The company establishes new undertakings at diverse prospered locations. The company is currently looking for new agricultural locations in the East-European area.<sup>70</sup>

#### 1.5.3 Agroyield

Agroyield is an agriculture and forestry company based in Stuttgart. The company buys tracts of farmland (grain products, fruits and oilseeds), searches for a suitable operator and continues to monitor the farms. Currently, the company focuses on investments in Romania, but it plans to expand to Serbia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. The company also indicates on its website that going public would be an option in a later stage.<sup>71</sup>

#### 1.5.4 Barnstädt eG

Barnstädt eG is a German agricultural company, based in Saxony-Anhalt, that grows wheat, winter barley and oilseed rape, sugar beet, corn, hops and wine.<sup>72</sup> The company owns 8,000 hectares of land in Ukraine.<sup>73</sup>

#### 1.5.5 Bionic Palm Limited

The German Bionic Fuel Group (BFG), based in Groß-Gerau, is an engineering company that develops and builds synthetic fuel reactors and turnkey production plants. Since 2008, the group is expanding in Ghana, and set up Bionic Palm Limited (BPL), an agriculture and agri-processing company, for this purpose. The subsidiary aims to bring sustainability to African agriculture reverting depleted former farm land into high value crop land through a unique soil management process. Over 50% of the company's plantation land used will be permanently dedicated to the planting of food crops, while the remainder will be used for soil management purposes and non-food oil crops. In 2009, BPL indicated that it had plans to acquire up to 100,000 hectares of arable land in the Coastal Savannah in Ghana. A 50-year lease has already been secured for 1,750 hectares of land. The managing director of BPL is Ulrich Riemann.<sup>74</sup>

#### 1.5.6 EkoNiva

The Russian-German EkoNiva group of companies is an agricultural holding comprised of 25 enterprises in 16 regions of Russia and in the Republic of Tatarstan. The president of the company is German entrepreneur Stefan Dürr. The total area of agricultural lands exceeds 100,000 hectares, growing cereal crops, potatoes, fodders, rape, and other agricultural crops.<sup>75</sup>

In April 2010, Ekoniva began construction of a new cattle breeding complex in selo Kolybelka in Liski district of Voronezh region. The new complex would hold 1,800 head of dairy herd. RUB 646 million (€ 16.5 million) was invested in the project.<sup>76</sup>

#### 1.5.7 Eurix International

Eurix International engages in the sale of commercial and residential real estate in major cities worldwide, as well as real estate funds, hotel investments and new investment concepts. On its website, the company offers investment opportunities to buy farmland, mainly in Argentina, with annual returns of 10-14%.<sup>77</sup>

#### 1.5.8 Germanagrar

Germanagrar is a German company based in Hamburg, which engages in the buying of agriculture or cattle farms in Eastern Europe. The company expects the land prices of the purchased farmland to rise steeply, realizing high returns. Next to buying the land, Germanagrar also engages in management services, consultancy services and selling agricultural machinery manufacturers.<sup>78</sup>

#### 1.5.9 JatroGreen

JatroGreen is a joint venture between German JatroSolutions, a leading consultancy in the field of renewable energies and an affiliate of the Entrepreneurship Center at the University of Hohenheim, and the Madagascan company GreenIsland Madagascar. JatroGreen aims to establish jatropha plantations on extremely eroded, unused areas in Madagascar. The company wants to produce biodiesel to substitute for fossil diesel in Madagascar and issue CERs through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). Under the CDM, developed countries can meet their carbon emission reductions under the Kyoto protocol by investing in projects in developing countries which generate Certified Emission Reductions (CERs). If the project document will be approved, JatroGreen will issue 26,797 CERs over 7 years, by reducing the consumption of fossil energy in combustion engines in the transport sector or stationary electricity generation.<sup>79</sup>

As part of the project activity, a jatropha plantation will be established on 3,000 hectares of wasteland. Oil presses and a biodiesel production plant will be set up on the site and biodiesel will be marketed domestically.<sup>80</sup>

#### 1.5.10 JSL Biofuels

JSL Biofuels Madagascar is a German-Malagasy joint venture which aims to become a leading national provider and distributor of biofuels in Madagascar as well as a major international player in the plant oil business.<sup>81</sup> The company was created by Malagasy businessman Nirilalaina Andriamiharisoa, with the aid of specialists from the Global Exchange for Social Investment (GEXSI) organisation.<sup>82</sup> JSL is part of the global jatropha learning network which has been established by GEXSI and works with international research institutes.<sup>83</sup>

The company wants to deliver fuels to local villagers and transport companies. JSL will buy the jatropha seeds from small farmers. The company currently operates several pilot plantations and outgrower schemes of 300 hectares in Madagascar, which will be extended over time. In addition, the communities have allocated 32,000 hectares of their land for reforestation with jatropha and other oil-bearing plants. JSL is also planting a further 500 hectares.<sup>84</sup>

A number of technical activities will also be performed: engines have to be modified to work with biofuel and diesel generators which run on jatropha oil will be introduced. An oil mill with a capacity of 480 litres a day will be installed in the town of Mahajanga.<sup>85</sup>

#### 1.5.11 Prokon

The German Prokon Group was founded in 1995 and is headquartered in Itzehoe. The company's core activity is the development and realisation of wind parks. Furthermore, Prokon offers ecological capital investments. More than 12,000 investors have already placed nearly € 220 million in the company's activities in the renewable energy sector. <sup>86</sup>

Because of the increasing demand for alternatives to fossil fuels, Prokon decided to expand its biofuels operations to other countries. For this purpose, the group established Prokon Renewable Energy Ltd in 2006. In 2009, Prokon started a 10,000 hectare jatropha outgrower programme in the Mpanda district in southwest Tanzania. The first harvest was expected in 2009, and an oil mill was planned in Mpanda to process the crop. The oil would supply both the Tanzanian and the German market.<sup>87</sup>

## 1.5.12 Sustainable Bio Energy Holding GmbH

Sustainable Bio Energy Holding GmbH (SBE) was established in 2007 and is based in Ukraine. The company is majority-owned by Stadtwerke Uelzen (37.5%) and Stadtwerke Schwäbisch Hall (37.5%), both utilities of German towns. SBE grows wheat, rapeseed and soybean on 4,900 hectares of land in Ukraine. Another 6,700 hectares are leased by the company. Stadtwerke Uelzen has invested € 4 million in the business, which is currently performing poorly.<sup>88</sup>

#### 1.5.13 ThyssenKrupp

In late 2006, the South African government released a draft strategy on a biofuels strategy in the country. One are that would be targeted for biofuels production was the Mzimvubu Basin in the former Transkei, in the Eastern Cape. A R 1 billion (€ 107 million) investment would involve the planting of 20,000 hectares of canola, with expansion to 70,000 hectares. The investment was said to be supported by the German company ThyssenKrupp (through its subsidiary Uhde), which had already invested R 3 billion (€ 322 million) in building large biofuels plants in the Eastern Cape. However, no recent information could be found on the project.

# **Chapter 2 In-depth case: Deutsche Bank**

## 2.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses two of the investment opportunities offered by Deutsche Bank in more detail. Paragraph 2.2 covers the specialized mutual funds of Deutsche Bank that invest in stock-exchange listed agricultural companies. Information is provided on the activities of several companies which are in the portfolios of these mutual funds and the total amount invested in these companies. Paragraph 2.3 focuses on one of the private equity funds offered by Deutsche Bank, DWS GALOF. Information is provided on the strategy of the fund, the countries the fund invests in and other relevant information. This information mainly acquired through an interview with one of the managers of the fund, because it was very difficult to find publicly available information. This is the case for many private equity funds, which are generally not open to the public and often focus on large pension or insurance firms or wealthy individuals.

# 2.2 Specialized mutual funds

As demonstrated in paragraph 1.2.6, Deutsche Bank, through its subsidiary DWS Investment, offers a range of specialized mutual funds which invest in stock-exchange listed agricultural companies. Table 4 presents an overview of the size of these eight funds and the amount of assets invested in agricultural companies. Together, the funds own assets of € 3.4 billion. Of this amount, € 1.6 billion (47%) is invested in agricultural companies, including companies which own large amounts of land, companies that operate in other parts of the supply chain and agribusiness and chemical companies. € 263.0 million is invested in companies which own large amounts of land (which will be discussed later in this paragraph and are listed in Table 5).

The remaining amount is invested in restaurants, financials, food retail and other sectors.

The funds with the largest investments in agricultural companies are DWS Invest Global Agribusiness LC and DWS Global Equity Agribusiness. DWS Invest Global Agribusiness LC has invested € 138.3 million in companies which could be classified as land grabbers.

Table 4 Size of DWS mutual funds and their agriculture investments

Fund	Total assets (€ mln)	Agriculture (€ mln)	% of assets	Investment in companies listed in Table 5	% of assets
Deutsche New Resource Mother Fund	396.4	136.7	34.5	11.1	2.8
DWS AgriX Garant 2013	5.2	5.2	100.0	0.4	7.7
DWS Global Equity Agribusiness	70.7	36.9	52.2	1.5	2.1
DWS Global Agribusiness	630.0	325.1	51.6 <sup>4</sup>	80.6	12.8
DWS GO Agrikultur Aktiv TR	15.0	13.8	92.0	0.3	2.0
DWS Invest Global Agribusiness LC	1,572.0	771.9	49.1	138.3	8.8
DWS World Agribusiness Mother Fund	132.8	92.5	69.7	13.8	10.4
DWS Zukunftressourcen	590.6	245.1	41.5	17.0	2.9
Total	3,412.7	1,627.2		263.0	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Based on sector allocation of top-10 holders

This paragraph discusses several agricultural companies which are in the portfolios of these funds in more detail. The focus is on the companies which own large amounts of land themselves. Table 5 lists these companies. As the table shows, many companies are currently expanding their land area, and expect to increase the area further in the future. Therefore, they could be classified as land grabbers.

The total investment of the eight Deutsche Bank specialized mutual funds in these companies amounts to € 263.0 million. The actual amount is probably higher, because for three of the mutual funds, only the top holdings could be found and it is most probable that we have not detected all companies that invest in land directly. The amount invested in the companies which own large amounts of land represents at least 16.2 per cent of the funds' total investments in agriculture and 7.7 per cent of the funds' total assets.

In addition to the investments in the companies that own land themselves, the amount invested in companies which operate in other parts of the supply chain, like Mafrig Alimentos, JBS and Archer-Daniels-Midland, is also substantial. JBS, world largest meat company, for example, is often accused of Amazon destruction. In this company, the funds have invested a total amount of  $\in$  3.5 million. In Archer-Daniels-Midland, an agricultural conglomerate which processes several agricultural commodities, such as soybeans, cotton seed, sunflower seeds, canola and rape seed, for the food and feed industries, the funds have invested an amount of  $\in$  98.1 million.

In addition, many agribusiness and chemical companies, like Syngenta, Bayer, Corn Products International and Agrium are included in the funds' portfolios. These companies mainly produce products to enhance crop yields and food quality. While these companies are not involved in land grabbing directly, they do profit from the rising value of agricultural commodities and land.

Table 5 Investments by Deutsche Bank funds in agricultural companies

Company	Country	Funds	Total investment (€ mln)	Activities	Source
Agroton Public	Ukraine	D, F	2.6	Agroton is a large agricultural producer in Eastern Ukraine. Between 2001 and 2009, Agroton tripled its harvested area from 41,000 ha to 140,000 ha. In October 2010, the company announced plans to raise finance in order to increase its land bank even further.	90
Australian Agricultural Co (AAC)	Australia	D, F, G	14.2	AAC is the largest beef cattle company in Australia, which owns 7.7 million hectares, comprising 1.2 per cent of Australia's land area. The company derives its returns from its two main asset holdings, cattle and land.	91
Brasilagro	Brazil	D, F, G	12.5	Brasilagro is a Brazilian company, owned by the Argentinean Cresud, that produces sugarcane and grain products comprising soybean, sorghum, and corn. The company currently has a land area of 174,840 ha and is expanding. A rural property of 14,358 ha was acquired in March 2010. In addition, BrasilAgro revealed its aim to accelerate the growth in its planting to 40%, taking 2010-11 sowings to 65,000 ha. The expansion will	92

Company	Country	Funds	Total investment (€ mln)	Activities	Source
				be accounted for by both grains and sugarcane.	
				One of the world's largest agricultural trading companies. Bunge is currently expanding in the Brazilian cane sector. In April 2010 it was announced that Bunge had plans to acquire more than 10,000 ha in Brazil from the local firm Açúcar Guarani to grow sugarcane. The deal was closed in May 2010. In addition, in 2008 Bunge established a joint-venture with Japanese trading house ITOCHU Corporation to produce sugar and ethanol in Tocantins, northern Brazil. The sugarcane farm is expected to start operating in 2010. In April 2010 Bunge announced that it would continue to invest in its Brazilian sugar operations, especially to expand its three largest mills.	
Bunge	United States	A, B, C, D, E, F, H	90.7	In May 2010 it was announced that Bunge was seeking investors for an investment fund of around US\$ 100 million that would buy land in Brazil to take advantage of demand for sugar and sugar-based ethanol.	93
				In August 2010 Bunge announced that it is considering to purchase oil palm plantations in Indonesia and Malaysia. When a deal is closed, the company plans to establish refineries on India's eastern and western coast. Bunge also wants to expand its sugar business in India, either through joint venture or acquisitions.	
				In Argentina, Bunge also owns a large area of land. Together with three other producers, Bunge owns 2 million ha in the Pampas region.	
China Forestry Holdings	China	F	2.0	The company manages and develops forests for harvesting and sales. The group's plan is to seek rapid and sustainable growth through the acquisition and expansion of forest reserves. In March 2010, China Forestry Holdings acquired new forests covering 53,333 ha, bringing the total amount of forests to over 210,000 ha.	94
Cresud	Argentina	D, F, G	17.8	Argentinean agricultural company that invests in land, cattle and technology. Cresud generates profits through the acquisition, transformation and sale of	95

Company	Country	Funds	Total investment (€ mln)	Activities	Source
			(C.IIII)	farmland. The main crops of the company are wheat, corn, soybean and sunflower.  The company is rapidly expanding, and currently has 625,000 ha under control in Argentina. It also owns land in Brazil (through Brasilagro), Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay.	
Khon Kaen Sugar Industry	Thailand	D, F, G	10.9	Khon Kaen Sugar Industry engages in the manufacture and distribution of sugar and molasses in Thailand. In 2007, the company together with Cambodian and Taiwanese partners acquired a 90-year 20,000 ha concession in Cambodia (the company owns 50%) and a 30-year 10,000 ha concession in Laos (the company owns 50%). From these countries, the company aims to supply sugar to the European Union. In January 2010, the company inaugurated its sugar mill in Koh Kong, the first of its kind in Cambodia.	96
KTG Agrar	Germany	D, F	0.6	The group's core activity is the organic and traditional cultivation of market products such as cereals, maize and rapeseed. It manages more than 30,000 hectares in Germany and Lithuania and plans to expand to 40,000 hectares. Most of KTG Agrar's land is leased, but the company wants to increase the amount of land it owns in order to benefit from the growing value of farmland.	
Magindustries	Canada	D, F, G	6.3	The company engages in the operation and development of industrial projects in the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo.  Since 2005, Magindustries has rights to manage a 68,000 ha eucalyptus forestry plantation, supported by a 500,000 tonne per year wood chip plant located in the Republic of Congo.  In addition, the company owns rights in the Kouilou Potash project located in Congo. The company focuses on the construction and commissioning of a first phase 600,000 tonne per year module of a 1.2 million tonne per year potash plant to produce primarily agricultural-grade	98
MCB Agricole Holding	Ukraine	D, F, G	0.6	potash fertilizers for South American, South African and European markets. MCB Agricole Holding AG engages in growing and selling crops, mainly wheat, rapeseed, barley, sunflower seed and	99

Company	Country	Funds	Total investment (€ mln)	Activities	Source
				corn. The company has a presence in 12 regions of Ukraine and currently owns a land bank area of 100,000 ha. In 2008, the company announced that it aimed to expand its land bank area to 400,000 ha. In its company presentation of 2010, the company no longer mentions such large expansion, but still aims to expand its land bank area substantially.	
Olam International Ltd	Singapore	C, D, F, G	21.2	Olam International operates as an integrated supply chain manager of agricultural products and food ingredients worldwide. The company owns oil palm and rubber plantations in West Africa, coffee plantations in Laos, almond orchards in Australia, dairy farming in Uruguay, farming of peanuts in Argentina, rice in Nigeria and Mozambique, and forestry concessions in tropical hardwoods in Gabon. One of Olam's current strategic initiatives is to selectively integrate upstream into plantations and farming.  In August 2010, Olam signed a contract with the government of Gabon to develop a special economic zone, which includes a 300,000 ha oil palm plantations and a facility to process 1 million cubic meters of timber annually.  Olam International is also engaged in a massive contract rice-growing scheme in Nigeria, including 14,000 rice farmers on 15,000 ha.  In addition, the company acquired the New Zealand company NZ Farming Systems Uruguay in September 2010. This company owns several dairy farms in Uruguay, on 12,500 ha of land.	100
Razgulay Group	Russia	D, F	10.6	A Russian agricultural producer mainly of grain, sugar and rice. The company is rapidly expanding its land area in Russia. In 2008 the company had a land area of 232,000 ha and in 2009 the area increased to 319,000ha. The company plans to own 332,000 ha in 2010. In September 2008 the Razgulay Group was even planning to expand its land area to 670,000 ha.	101
São Martinho SA	Brazil	D, F, G	21.4	One of the largest producers of sugar and ethanol in Brazil. The planted area of the company is 114,000 ha.	102
Sintal Agriculture Plc	Ukraine	D, F, G	3.5	Cultivates a range of crops, including wheat, barley, maize, sunflower, soy,	103

Company	Country	Funds	Total investment (€ mln)	Activities	Source
				rapeseed and corn. The company owns about 100,000 ha of agricultural land in Kharkiv and Kherson regions, Ukraine. By 2012/2013, the company aims to have a land area of 150,000 ha.	
SLC Agricola	Brazil	D, F, G	45.7	One of the largest land owners in Brazil. The company cultivates soy, cotton, coffee, corn seed, and wheat. In 2008, SLC Agricola owned a land bank of 117,000 ha. In 2008, the company was able to expand its holdings to over 200,000 ha due to a loan provided by IFC. Currently the company owns 223,000 ha, and it plans to expand to 250,000 ha by 2011.	104
				In October 2010, it was announced that SLC Agricola planned to create an agricultural-property company and sell a 49 per cent stake to an investor in 2010.	
Union Agriculture Group	Uruguay	D	2.2	UAG was established in 2008 by combining several agricultural projects of the company's founders in Uruguay. Institutional investors were invited to invest along the management team to take the company further into its next growth phase before seeking an IPO. Currently, UAG owns 41,860 ha of land in Uruguay. The properties are used for cattle, sheep, dairy and grains.	105
Wilmar International	Singapore	В	0.2	A Singaporean oil palm company owning large amounts of land mainly in Indonesia and Malaysia. In May 2010, Wilmar announced that it aimed to acquire at least 58.45% of the entire issued ordinary share capital of Benso Oil Palm Plantation Limited in Ghana.	106
Total			062.0	Wilmar also has an interest in Oil Palm Uganda Limited, which holds a 10,000 ha concession in Uganda. The government has agreed to source 30,000 additional ha on the mainland, including 20,000 ha of nucleus estate.	
Total			263.0		1

A = Deutsche New Resource Mother Fund B = DWS AgriX Garant 2013<sup>5</sup> C = DWS Global Equity Agribusiness<sup>6</sup> D = DWS Global Agribusiness

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Only top-10 holdings were available <sup>6</sup> Only top-10 holdings were available

E = DWS GO Agrikultur Aktiv TR<sup>7</sup>

F = DWS Invest Global Agribusiness LC

G = DWS World Agribusiness Mother Fund

H = DWS Zukunftressourcen

# 2.3 DWS GALOF<sup>8</sup>

DWS GALOF is a closed-end fund which was established in July 2007 and has assets of € 110 million since its establishment. The fund is offered by Deutsche Bank but the day-to-day management of the fund is delegated to Duxton Asset Management based in Singapore. Duxton Asset Management and Deutsche Bank are currently thinking about re-opening the fund for its existing shareholders. The running time of the fund is another six years. The target return of GALOF is around 18 per cent annually. These returns are generated by superior management of firms which are acquired all over the world as well as the appreciation of the value of land. Unless the investors of GALOF decide they want to list the fund, the managers of the fund start selling the investments in the seventh year.

The strategy of DWS GALOF is generally to convert mid-size farms into large farms, in order to create synergies. According to the managers of the fund, the optimal size of a farm to be well-managed is between 8,000 and 13,000 hectares. In Australia for example, 31 properties were aggregated by GALOF into a farm of around 10,000 hectares. This cuts well on labour and equipment costs. In addition, the management of the farm is improved after the takeover by superior knowledge for example about soils and the use of fertilizer.

The fund is looking at agricultural land anywhere in the world. However, three conditions must be met for farms to be beneficial to acquire:

- 1. No subsidies must be provided by the host government, because it is perfectly possible that these subsidies will be cut in the future;
- 2. A good legal system must be in place. A good rule of law is very important in this respect.
- 3. The place must have a clear title, or a lease for 60-99 years is preferred. And the title must preferably have a long history.

DWS GALOF currently owns more than 100,000 hectares of farmland and is seeking to expand further. Table 6 provides an overview of the area of the farms of DWS GALOF per country. GALOF owns land in Zambia, Australia, Congo, Argentina and Tanzania. In addition, the fund is looking at opportunities in India, New Zealand and the Philippines.

Table 6 Farm area of DWS GALOF

Country	Area of farms (ha)
Zambia	27,000
Argentina	20,000
Australia	27,000
Tanzania	5,000
Congo	25,000
Total	104,000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Only top-16 holdings were available.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> This chapter is based on a personal conversation with the managers of Duxton Asset Management.

Most farms are cultivating broadacre (land suitable for farms practicing large-scale crop operations, including the crop segments oilseeds, winter and summer cereals, pulses, sugarcane and rice) and dairies. The farms owned by GALOF usually sell the produce on the local market, and achieve high prices by placing the quality of the gains into different buckets. Especially in Australia, a significant proportion is also sold overseas.

In Tanzania for example, DWS GALOF owns the biggest commercial farm in the country, called Mountainside. This farm yields 30-35 per cent returns. The farm is currently expanding. The farm is situated at around 7,500 feet (2.3 kilometres) above sea level and is approximately 5,000 hectares in size of more than half is under cultivation growing wheat and barley crops. The farm also runs about 1,200 sheep on the property which has a boundary of 8 km bordering Kilimanjaro National Park. GALOF works with South African Breweries (SAB) for the barley produced. 107

Currently, Duxton Asset Management is launching another private equity fund that will be similar in nature to GALOF. This fund will have a maximum capacity of € 250 million. Duxton looks to take in separate mandates from two institutional investors (pension funds, insurance companies) a year, both investing around € 100 million.

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