



**Rabobank**

# Land governance Statement

**Rabobank Group**

Changes in the governance and the use of land and natural resources may have economic, social, and environmental impacts on communities, families, and other stakeholders. Inherent scarcity of land and natural resources may lead to disputes and conflicts, which are sometimes not easily resolved because of weak governance regarding land tenure or limited practical state protection of rights. They can significantly affect communities if they have insufficient countervailing power to defend their legitimate interests and rights. Rabobank recognizes the legitimate rights of local communities and individuals regarding access to and use of land, and we expect our business clients to do the same in their own operations and in their relationships with business partners and suppliers. We also recognize the rights of our business clients to acquire land or change the land use if this is done in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, while applying land governance best practices, and while hearing and resolving grievances in a professional and fair way. We also recognize that, in spite of acting responsibly and in good faith, not all interests of all stakeholders involved may

be always fully reconciled. This is often due to systemic or historic factors.

We take responsibility to promote sound and fair land governance practices, including the guidance of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT).

We encourage clients to apply best practices and guidelines regarding good land governance, to respect rights of indigenous peoples, vulnerable groups and affected stakeholders and to ensure that their concerns are fairly addressed. This includes, among others, respecting land tenure rights and the right to free, prior and informed consent of affected stakeholders regarding changes in land ownership or land use, addressing gender issues, operating on inclusive business models and implementing best practices to hear and resolves grievances and disputes.

We see promoting and improving land governance as a joint responsibility and effort of companies involved in land-, forest- or fishery-related operations, policy makers, states, financial institutions and affected stakeholders.