Table. Failed corporate rice farms in Africa

Company (country)	Countries	Summary
China CAMC Engineering Co. Ltd (China)	Angola	In 2011, the Angolan government approved CAMCE's project to construct a rice mill in Longa and establish a 1,500 ha pilot hybrid rice farm in the area. The farm, known as Fazenda Agro Industrial do Longa, occupies a total of 4,500 ha of land. The project was financed by the Angolan government through a US$76 million credit line from the China National Development Bank. However, the project has been stalled since 2017 because of financial difficulties.
Shaanxi Overseas Investment and Development Co, Ltd (China)	Cameroon	In 2006, Shaanxi Overseas Investment and Development Co, Ltd, signed a US$120 million investment agreement with the government of Cameroon, giving it the Nanga-Eboko rice station and the promise of a 99-year lease for another 10,000 ha of land. The company began trials of rice and maize, and also planned to grow cassava. Progress on the farms was slow, with the company only ever cultivating around 100 – 150 ha. As of early 2018, it appears that test plantings of rice and cassava at the two sites have not flourished, and the 10,000 ha land lease has yet to be granted to the company.
Louis Dreyfus (France)	Côte d'Ivoire	In 2013, Louis Dreyfus signed an agreement with the Côte d'Ivoire's ministry of agriculture, giving it access to between 100,000 and 200,000 ha for rice production. Government officials would later say that the agreement only made mention of a potential 100,000 ha in Pôro (Korhogo), Tchologo (Ferkessédougou) and Bagoué (Boundiali et Tingrela) and that the company would have to negotiate with local communities, parcel by parcel. It was also said that the project would be a joint venture between Louis Dreyfus and the government, with support from the EU, and that it would develop a model farm and focus on rehabilitating existing irrigation projects in the targetted areas. These plans have not materialised.
ETG Group (Singapore)	Côte d'Ivoire	Export Trading Group, owned by Kenya's Patel family, is incorporated in Singapore but its farming operations are run through its Mauritian subsidiary, ETG Holdings. In November 2013, ETG signed an agreement with the government of Côte d'Ivoire for a project in the northwest involving rice production, processing and trading, as part of the Cooperation Framework of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. The Minister of Agriculture, Coulibaly Mamadou Sangafowa, said the project would lead to the development of 23,429 ha of modern rice farms but the only result was some contract farming arrangements with local rice farmers that have provided few benefits.
Novel Group (Switzerland)	Côte d'Ivoire	In partnership with AGCO and the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, Switzerland-based NOVEL Group established a joint venture called YAANOVEL in Côte d'Ivoire's Yamoussoukro district. There, it planned to create a business unit of agro-industrial production, cultivating rice on approximately 15,000 ha of land as part of the Cooperation Framework of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. The company planted an initial 48 ha in 2014, but by 2015 it was reported that the project had failed and its director had resigned.

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Prairie Texas Incorporated (US)	Ghana	Prairie Volta Rice Ltd is a joint venture between the government of Ghana (30%) US-based Prairie Texas (40%) and the Ghana Commercial Bank (30%). The company took over a rice project in the South Tongu District of Ghana that is formerly owned by another group of US American investors. The Ghanaian government's share in the company is based on its contribution of 1,000 ha of lands it seized from the people of Mafi Dove by decree in 1977. By 2013, the Ghanaian government had lent the company US$7.2 million to revitalize the project. The company, however, was only able to bring 300 ha into cultivation and in 2016, beset by land disputes and debt, the project completely collapsed. The company is now suing the Government of Ghana for damages.
T4M (UK)	Ghana, Nigeria	T4M claimed to have completed negotiations for a 25-year lease on 100,000 ha in Ghana and 300,000 ha in Nigeria for rice farms. It was working in partnership with the government of Vietnam and claimed to have support from the UK government. The company was looking for investors to inject US$425 million for each 10,000-ha farm it planned to establish on the lands it leased. But nothing has materialised and the project appears to have been abandoned.
Dominion Farms (US)	Kenya, Nigeria	Dominion Farms is owned by Calvin Burgess, a wealthy US entrepreneur who made his fortune in construction and real estate. Burgess set up the company to develop rice farms in Africa. It established its first farm on a 7,000-ha piece of land in the Yala Swamp area in Kenya, which it obtained on a 25-year lease in 2003. Rural working people living in the area complained of being displaced without compensation; losing access to water and pasture for their livestock; losing access to potable water; poor working conditions on the farm; and pollution from the regular aerial spraying of fertilisers and other agrochemicals. By 2018, faced with mounting financial problems, Dominion Farms stopped cultivating rice, laid off its workers, and put up its farm for auction. It is now reported that some of the lands will be taken over for sugar plantations by a Kenyan conglomerate. In Nigeria in 2012, Dominion Farms signed a memorandum of understanding with the Nigerian government and the government of Taraba State to establish a large rice farm on a 30,000-ha concession that is part of a public irrigation project used by thousands of rural smallholder farming families. Dominion's mega rice farming operation was part of the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa. In 2014 the company had prepared 1,000 ha, but a year later it abruptly announced that it was withdrawing from the project, citing government corruption and a failure by the state and national governments to honour their financial commitments.
Vita Rice (Singapore)	Madagascar, Tanzania	Vita Grain is a Singapore-based company owned by Intrasia Capital, which is mainly a mining investor but took interest in rice farming after the food crisis of 2008. It began by looking for lands in Madagascar for a rice farm, but decided to exit the country when the government brought in export restrictions. It then shifted to Tanzania, where its subsidiary Tanza Grain acquired a 98-year lease on 30,000 ha in the Rufiji Basin for rice farming. The company initiated some trial plantings but shortly closed the project because it was,in the wordss of its CEO, "too difficult to put together"

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Malibya (Libya)	Mali	In May 2008, the government of Mali and the Gaddafi government of Libya signed an investment agreement giving Malibya—a subsidiary of the Libyan sovereign wealth fund's Libyan African Investment Portfolio—a 50-year renewable lease covering 100,000 ha in the Office du Niger. The land was given for free on condition that Malibya develop the lands for irrigated agricultural production. Malibya was also given unlimited access to water for a small user fee. By 2009, Malibya had completed a 40-km irrigation canal and had announced plans for the production of hybrid rice, but the project was suspended when the Gaddafi regime collapsed in 2011. In 2018, a delegation of Libyans were in Mali to discuss the completion of the project.
Southern Global (US)	Mali	Southern Global is a US-based company that was incorporated in Alabama in 2004 with a focus on investment in West African agriculture. As part of former Malian president Amadou Toumani Toure's "Initiative Riz", which called for a 50% increase in rice production, the company intended to produce rice in the Office du Niger. In 2015, Southern Global still listed the project as "current" on its website, but offered no public information with regards to its scope or status.
Foras (Saudi Arabia)	Mali, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal	Foras is the investment arm of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with shares owned by the Islamic Development Bank and several conglomerates from the Gulf region. In 2009, Foras announced that within 7 years it would produce 7 million tonnes of rice on 700,000 hectares of irrigated lands across Africa. It initiated a pilot farm in Mauritius and signed deals for large land areas in Senegal, Mali, Nigeria and Sudan, but these projects failed to get off the ground. The lease contract it signed in Mali, for instance, was annulled in 2013 due to delays in starting the project and irreconcilable differences between investor and host government.
Wenbao (China)	Mozambique	In 2005, China's Hubei State Farm Agribusiness Corp established a rice farm on 1,000 ha of land provided by the government of Mozambique, in the Xai-Xai irrigation system. The project did not advance, and private company Wanbao Grain And Oils Co took over the project in 2012 through its Mozambican subsidiary. The company was given another 333 ha to develop rice, soybeans and other cash crops. In December 2012 it then signed a contract with the Mozambican government to lease 20,000 ha of land for a rice farm in the same area, with a 50-year lease. After forcibly displacing local farmers, the company managed to plant around 7,000 ha in 2013 but its crop was almost entirely destroyed by floods. The Chinese government canceled a loan in 2015 after concluding that the flood risks were too high. The company subsequently shifted to contract production with local farmers, but farmers complained of low prices and poor conditions. The project is now barely operating and the communities are fighting to get all their lands back.
Sefrioui (Algeria)	Senegal	In 2017, the Government of Senegal awarded the Algerian conglomerate Sefrioui a 10,000 ha concession in the north of the country for a large-scale rice farm. The local communities were outraged, and challenged the concession in court. In April 2019, the Supreme Court ruled that the concession was not legal. Contacted by reporters, the company claimed that it had already abandoned the project back in 2017.

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African Land (UK)	Sierra Leone	In 2009, African Land, a British limited liability company, took out a 50-year lease on Yoni Farms, an area of 1,214 ha in southwest Sierra Leone, and tried to attract investors. The investment scheme was promoted by a company called GreenWorld, registered in the British Virgin Islands. In 2012, it was reported that much of the land was still scrub and that local employees were not being paid their wages. In July 2013, the UK government started a legal case against African Land and its promoters. The companies were accused of running a collective investment scheme without proper authorisation, providing false information and making misleading statements to investors. The company, however, responded that it had hired GMX Consulting, a London-registered company based in Vietnam, to take over the development of the farms. (GMX's subsidiary, Harvest Africa, is an investment holding that claims to be developing large-scale rice projects in a number of West African countries including Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ghana.) In March 2015, the British regulators won their case against the firm, finding it guilty of running collective investment schemes. The firm is not allowed to appeal this decision.
Agrica (UK)	Tanzania	Agrica, a UK company based on the island of Guernsey, was established in 2005 by former Financial Times journalist Carter Coleman to invest in agricultural projects in East Africa. In 2008, it acquired a contested land concession to the 5,818-ha abandoned Mngeta farm in Kilombero, Tanzania through a joint venture with the Rufiji Basin Development Authority called Kilombero Plantations Limited (KPL). KPL has received considerable financial and technical support from various development institutions including the UK Department for International Development (DfID), USAID, Norfund and the Norwegian Development Bank, as well as Capricorn Investment Group of the US; furthermore, the project is part of the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition Cooperation Framework with Tanzania and within the SAGCOT corridor that is supported by the World Economic Forum and several foreign donors. The KPL plantation dispossessed the local communities of their land and homes; and farmers engaged in contract farming with KPL drowned in debt and bankruptcy. In 2019, KPL went up for sale after defaulting on loans from several financial sources.