

## **A Contested Development Nexus: Participation in Contract Farming Schemes**

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It is explicitly recognized that agricultural expansion due to the growing demands of food, fuel and fibre is a major cause of deforestation despite the importance of forest. Most of these forests are home to poor vulnerable farmers. Agricultural innovations are generally considered as core drivers of poverty reduction and economic in many developing countries. These innovations aim at market integration, higher yields and lower environmental footprints. Higher yields and higher incomes have been documented but also several trends of farmer exclusion, exploitation and social stratification. These innovations, are not only relevant to agriculture but also to forestry, given that some crops such as palm oil are at the interface of both. In particular, contract farming, is being proposed as an inclusive business model to address farmer inclusion and is gaining much traction. Despite the optimism that surrounds contract farming, farmer participation continues to remain very contentious and highly debated. The absence of a comprehensive literature review on comparative practices on farmer participation in contract farming schemes limits the policy implications of contract farming. By conducting a systematic literature review, this poster seeks to identify the factors and trends in farmer exclusion from contract farming schemes across developing countries. The poster discusses the link to the broader debate on inclusive development.