

## BRASIL -CHINA INNOVATION DIALOGUE 2024. TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT

### *Land digitization, land market, and the new agrarian question in Brazil*

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The agrarian and land dimension of Brazilian society has gained significant contours in recent decades, much less studied by the literature dedicated to the subject, but significant in explaining, even, the country's insertion into new flows of international trade and the new *modus operandi* of global geopolitics. This becomes even more evident when the socio-environmental dimensions of the problem are highlighted. In particular, without the pretense of exhausting the subject, we recall here some processes that seem strategic to the debate proposed by this seminar in particular: a) the increasing flows of international capital invested in land in Brazil (something that specialized literature has conceptualized as "land grabbing"), originating from Asian countries and the "Global North", has a much greater impact and significance than that revealed by official statistics and has been contributing significantly to the expansion of the so-called "agricultural frontier" based on the production and export of commodities; b) derived from this process, but also from other initiatives, there has been an increasing control of these areas by digital mechanisms and platforms that, intending to "better organize the territory", end up highlighting a new field of disputes, besides questioning the role of the Brazilian state in this process. The Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) may be the most forceful expression of this phenomenon in the last decade; c) associated with these two previous aspects, we witness a movement of financialization of Brazilian agriculture, especially in the period after 2004, expressed in the creation of specialized instruments for the rural sector and in the increase in the number of investment funds backed by agricultural goods and natural resources. The Fund for Investment in Agroindustrial Production Chains (FIAGRO), created in 2021, has been assuming a decisive importance in this direction. Although these three dimensions do not exhaust the reconfiguration of the current Agrarian Question, they seem significant to us to emphasize some points that sometimes do not receive due attention. These dimensions are not necessarily dependent on each other, but their association drives certain initiatives and opens up to a new set of social actors – such as “agrofintechs”, for example – that are not usual. Thus, an approach to these themes seems pertinent to us within the range of subjects foreseen for this important dialogue.

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