

Can you hear me? Yes, I can hear you. Can you hear me? Wonderful. I can hear you.

Just hold a minute, it's just a few seconds. Yes, I would like to cut up on...

come in to the conference hall because we are supposed to begin.

learning how to manipulate my screen. I am by the way going to make my power

For example, this. You see? You see nothing? That's the way to go. That's the

that with a black screen so that there's no image in front of that. It's okay. It's okay, we understand. If you do it intentionally, I think we...

that's intentional if it happens. OK. Thank you. But I realize I'm probably not going to need it. But let me see. I just want to. Yeah.

Okay, I guess we might need it if we have to follow what you're saying, we might ourselves need it.

the PowerPoint and come back to just being a speaker. Oh, okay, okay. We had to start this strategy.

this is still Better

1.5% 1.5% 1.5% 1.5% 1.5%

So let's learn how to do those efectas.

Just fantastic. Thank you very much. If I may have your attention, please. So we're going to proceed to the next session.

We are going to proceed and our keynote speaker today

from American University Department of Environment, Development and Health. Thank you for making time to give this

Jessie is studying hunger from market grabbing. Elite price fixing in rural markets. His long-term field work.

and climate change and on former representation in resource struggles. He teaches environmental politics at American University.

Before that, he taught in geography, anthropology, and natural resources, and environmental science, at the University of Illinois.

MIT. For eight years he was a senior associate at World Resources Institute. He has been

2019, Kagan Hame, Reboot Recounts, Fiendings, Through Books, Articles, Briefs, Editorials.

Iter Record. So at this junction please help me to welcome our speaker.

a lot of applause please. Thank you very much. Jesse over to you. Bye.

I'm going to thank all of you for inviting me and the organizing committee for the opportunity.

I have not spoken about or been in the domain of energy and development for a long time. I don't work on energy.

issues of justice matter and in all markets which energy involves quite a few of there are big problems in fact let

by just putting this little piece up by old Pope Francis, the land of the southern port is rich.

for meeting vital needs is inhibited by a system of commercial relations and ownership which is structurally perverse.

Pope Francis, he wrote a fabulous book on politically college. Now just to take that off the screen and come back to where...

energy does matter and we want it to be sustainable and carbon neutral but we also want it to be just and aqua

is an interesting fuel across the continent. It is sustainable. We don't need to transition

away from it. Tree.

last I looked and they re sequester the carbon. So charcoal is actually often villainized, but it is...

In recent years, my attention has turned from research on energy really in the last 20 years.

representation and more recently to the issue of seasonal hunger. And seasonal hunger matters deeply.

years and observing the hungry season but had not done research on it until more recently.

in the area that I work in, experience this question of hunger. They can't feed their families for a long time.

And what is interesting is what does hunger have to do with charcoal and charcoal production?

agricultural crops. True they don't eat charcoal and I'm glad they don't eat charcoal but charcoal makers don't make enough money to feed themselves and

sustain the people who make it. This has a lot to do with you if you work in charcoal production and marketing and use charcoal

as you can, as you will see, are not that well off. I will also bet this is a problem in every other energy market.

workers are probably underpaid. This is not socially sustainable. And I begin studying the hungry season

and the Holy Season is defined as the period after people have harvested it.

of cash from the previous harvest. They run out of food and they have not yet been able to harvest the next crop.

research that I did with Dr. Poppify, a former doctoral student of mine. Methods we used are interviews surveys up.

and most importantly commodity chain analysis. Field work presented today was done over many...

to 2016 and I'll speak today about poor producers in the charcoal sector. I'll end by talking about

unions and social movements can actually fight this problem of below subsistence pay.

retained enough of the wealth that they are producing in order to be well off. Eat well, invest in their own

on to my talk, which is not about East Africa, where you are. It is about West Africa,

Senegal.

But this is where I've done most of my field work. It's a dry land area with open canopy forests.

season and typical explanations of it. Every year 80% of the farmers in Senegal experience

and we see stunting in children 25% of them under 5 years old. This is terrible stuff. It ends up with brain damage and other...

observed since the colonial period it is not new. In years with good harvest prices tumble and farmers left without sufficient income and in bad

left without sufficient income because the harvest is smaller. The common expert explanations of this are changes.

Well, it turns out rains are increasing in West Africans, how forests are increasing in cover, and this cannot explain.

productivity is another common explanation, but this is nonsense. I think the technical word for it is bullshit because they

So you can't say it's low-farm productivity. Land degradation does not explain it is simply not sufficient. Crop loss is not sufficient to explain that.

But there's little need for storage especially with non-perishable crops such as charcoal or cotton for

But this has not been the problem. People prefer to sell their crop early for a number of cash needs, and mostly they produce non-substance.

bananas and peanuts so they want to get rid of them so they can purchase food. Anyhow, this does not explain the problem that we're seeing.

Interestingly enough, it does explain a lot. Farmers and foresters, when you would ask them, they attribute a lot of...

in the merchants for these low prices. It could be, well, they could be wrong, but we've looked into this. Is this price fixing? Is it non-market?

are that there's a divergence between domestic, national and international prices. When international prices are high, food prices are still low.

cost prices are still low and the margins for the merchants are enormous. Neoclassical economists will tell you that should not be the case that indicates

by merchants. That's another thing. We actually see them doing it. We see them talk and teach other. We talk to them and they say yes we set the price. Via Manopsanese

They collude. Not too surprising. If you were a merchant you'd do it too. Price shapes

of famous economists basically said, famine is caused by free markets because of what he calls entitlement.

They don't have effective demand. Free markets cause hunger and they lead to famine. My hypothesis is that

markets. The what I call access failure. The market grabbing, market elites take food away from the hungry.

away from the hungry. Market-grabbing merchants cut off farmer access to lucrative trade opportunities in various ways, which will

can't retain the wealth that they're producing. Captured markets basically cause hunger, but interestingly enough, they don't...

And that is an interesting phenomenon because merchants don't want famine. It is politically a horror. They get in trouble. So do the politicians.

system. In Senegal, certainly, I think around the globe markets are captured and managed. Markets are not just...

créer

What we're seeing is market grabbing, by merchants, their managing markets to maximize hunger which maximizes merchant profit.

because it's political liability. So free markets allocate food away from the hungry causing famine. Graph markets manage efficiency.

leading famine crises. And we have seen a reduction in famine occurrences and extreme events in

Governments depend on support by market elites to consolidate their power. This is what...

government support them in doing so for the purposes of territorial control, vote garnering, tax collection, un-

these areas can help the government to accomplish. And today, however, there's a new government in Senegal that has a very broad

and it seems like an opportunity because they don't need these elites anymore they have such a broad political base and

to support farmer well-being. They claim that. So let me get into the cases. I only put this up because there's an obsession about

everybody's talking about land grabbing their all kinds of books about it it's a real issue but in parallel to this what we are missing is that market grabbing

I'm going to just briefly present cotton and then dive into its charcoal in more depth in Tamakunda.

Cotton. Okay, I just happen to like this guy's t-shirt, but cotton is produced in the area. It is purchased.

It happened to only be about 38 degrees out that day so people felt a little cold. The hell's a warm part of the world.

It's for export and foreign exchange. The prices are fixed by a single buyer of an opposite.

are in debt from advances that they received from this buyer for seed and fertilizer and so on. Price that is that they get.

The air comes, collects the product, comes back later, and says, here's the price we're giving you for what you gave us last month. And it is usually...

in debt and in hunger. Charcoal. So that was a quick run through the cotton. Charcoal more familiar to many...

Eastern Senegal. These are the kind of forests I work in. They're open canopy, but rich in deadwood actually, but I...

Charcoal is independent of annual rains, so it kind of helps take away the this is due to climate variability explanation

to fix by an oligopoly, a group of buyers. The producers make about \$1,000 a year, which is just about \$1,000.

can't really make ends meet. Merchants make between 10,000 for the tiniest ones, and over a million for the big ones. I'm not going to say that.

a little charcoal market, right? A million bucks? That's pretty stunning. Forresters determine access to markets,

And these are the mechanisms that help the merchants capture access to the markets. And it's also done via interlocking credit labor.

basically involve loans that mean you have to sell back to the merchant you bought from. Woodcutters, cutters basically are totally dependent on merchants.

Not only that, there's also a discourse in forestry, which you all know, which is, look, here in the Old Book, which you must obey, you have right...

without taking the trees, so you all have to make do with the stumps and some seeds. You can grow village woodlots, eucalyptus repine, will help you...

and look, learn and do as we say, even democratization will be on its way. We must protect forests from people like you so that people...

So there's an ideology that this is all for the market and not about subsistence and the like. And you've heard it, you've seen foresters.

I'm going to get into this in terms of how these markets are controlled, but this is the charcoal market. You have forest, villagers, woodcutters, or...

transporters but they're in between and they're managed by the urban merchants. The wholesalers happen to also be urban but they're a different group.

calculate the profits in this market by looking at the margins, the expenses, and the market shares through many years of interviews.

I'm not afraid. Let me just give you the legal infrastructure of the market.

Transporters have to go through checkpoints. Merchants have to deal with licenses, quotas, taxes, transport permits.

production permits that they get from the merchants and the elected local councils they ostensibly control the farce they have the rights but the farce

The law says you control it. We allocate it in control. So it's supposed to be democratic, but it's taken away from the democratic authorities because it's look-

That was to 1998 when they had quotas. And by the way, later they changed it and I'll get to that in a second.

not just a market. The retailers and wholesalers are related because they're full bay. These retailers are captives from a capital...

are former nobles. Same as the merchants and the woodcutters. Woodcutters are former captives of former nobles. They migrated from Guinea together. They are a group that

involved the merchant unions and their religious brothers who intervene to push the ministry to push the forestry department.

cooperatives and merchants and that is partly how it gets concentrated and the very great interest.

during structural adjustment. Can't have a quota, that's not the free market, right? It was changed and relabeled.

the cross-stab because it doesn't exist anymore. USAID come in. They come in and they say government. Bad, bad, bad, bad, bad, bad.

and adaptation and they bring in the business model. So the quota was relabeled the contract. I will tell you the quote.

where and when and how much. Guess what the contract says? Who can produce where, when and how much? Guess who oversees the

They really labeled it and therefore the world bank said, now it's a contract, you're free-mortgaged, I was from Duryla, you know, it's great. Okay, go for it, right? Well...

They did also introduce management plans which meant that forest villagers now under the contract had the burden.

They don't survive. And they knew that the trees they were cutting were coppicing species and regrouped, but they were still forced to do all this extra labor. Bringing

their-

So, what is the distribution of profit in a market like this? Is it surprising? I think it's a little surprising. We found...

interesting when you start getting figures of how many people are at each level. They made 7%. Whole sellers made 22%. Richens made...

The cutters made 16% and forest villagers who were basically renting out houses, cooking meals and other little things made 3%.

will point out that 54% of the entire market profit went to 160 merchants.

the entire market profit went to 11,000 wood covers.

Do we believe the neoclassical economists say, well, you know, the intermediaries' prices reflect their risks that they take. And all but...

take if you transfer this profit down here, it would more than triple their income. I don't think that they're worried about the risk so much.

some key points that I want you to take away from this overview.

capture or market grabbing as I call it. As I say put these in your pipe and smoke them. First of all,

is due to price fixing enabled by market.

or inadequate production. Here, market grabbing is the capture of market shares, okay?

The margins control things by the capture of market shares, the volume that they control within the market of charcoal.

It's only a few merchants that end up doing it and groups of merchants and it is...

to fix the prices. The solution is not however free markets as they allocate food away from the Hungry as a Marchus end.

Senegal's markets are simply not free. They're grabbed and managed by merchant cabals and they do this with state

with state support. The solution must be something else, not free and not managed by merchants. We need markets

peasants rather than buy and for elites. Senegal's new government could support this by supporting

Agricultural or Forestry associations are one potential solution to this. That is they could

to bargain for better market access, farm gate prices, and forest edge prices.

that have to do with the more right wing governments that have undermined their

ability to organize across sectors and across even their own sectors.

San Miguel. San Miguel's government, as I mentioned earlier, is much less dependent on elites, so I think change is possible.

government and support for agriculture is their stated goal. They also, I think, would be very favorable to supporting forestry.

markets around the world, around Africa, I think it is. And unfortunately, the governments are not necessarily as progressive as the government.

stronger. So in a sense responsive transformative adaptation that is vulnerability

via redistribution. That is, you work with farmers and farmer collectives, co-ops,

analysts in commodity chain analysis that is how do farmers and foresters become?

If you act like an economist and make everything very complicated, it can be difficult, but you don't need all that mathematical money.

profit distribution in markets is important. They can do this. They can analyze market share capture and they can do the analysis of price

is what I call transparency. This will make markets transparent. Farmers will see charcoal makers and foresters will see

being robbed through what mechanisms. Farmer and farmer collectives must organize to renegotiate prices so they have to understand how

must help disable policies that enable merchant market grabbing. That is the disabled control of export control.

important to acknowledge that most social movements have succeeded when they have had allies within government. So this isn't social movements

fires, cooperation. If farmers and foresters have cash, I would argue they can invent...

And I basically call this transformative adaptation. They can invest in their own well-being. Let them keep their lives.

The vulnerable isn't that terrible. We need to help them adapt. I've seen enough of that over the years. And last but not least, slide.

to support transformative adaptation, ho ho ho, let's see in the current political

not done, maybe it won't even happen if Donald Trump continues in power. Which may happen, he's probably going to declare us

being hopeful. I do think COP32 will happen. And we need to help farmers and foresters. We need to ask those.

to become market grabbing experts and analysts, they need training so that they can

know how much their wealth is being grabbed away.

from markets so that they can then organize and negotiate for better prices. Help farmers negotiate for prices.

transformative and help them via unions and associations to retain the wealth that they generate.

and their own security. Encourage governments to assist in the fight against market grabbing. Farmers need allies.

of the farm and forestry economy, incumbe-enable farmers and foresters to invest in their own adaptation to reduce climate-related

is a formula for transformative adaptation and most importantly it is just and being just it is so

transitions in energy or any other sector, we need to attend to justice so that whatever we set up for the future.

sustainable. And with that, thank you very much.