A Food Regime Analysis of Sub-Saharan African Food Crisis:
The Development of Corporate Food Regime and Counter-Movement in the Region.

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Philosophy

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September 2011
ABSTRACT

The food crisis and resulting food riots in a number of developing countries in 2008 laid bare the inability of developing countries to tackle even the most basic human rights issue, food security. At the same time, our current food system is also facing a wide spectrum of crises threatening the very survival of poor people in the developing world of which the food regime is one of the major culprits.

In order to preserve the corporate food regime, agribusinesses are inventing new products to tackle those crises and Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is one of the major destinations of their products. Meanwhile, in view of the dispossession effects brought about by those new products, the regime’s counter-movement, the food sovereignty movement is presenting a whole new set of measures to the poor people and governments in SSA.

At the same time, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round negotiation has reached the tenth year since its commencement in 2001. One of the deadlocks in the negotiation is the proposal made by developing countries on short and long term agricultural trade safeguard methods to protect the small-scale farmers at home. The bargaining power of the developing countries has been enhanced by forming various bargaining coalitions. Although the outcomes of the negotiations remain to be seen, the strategies of the coalitions are worth studying.
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