

# Unclear land policies threaten food security-report

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JOHANNESBURG June 24 (Reuters) - Lack of a clear government policy on land ownership in developing countries is a threat to global food security, head of South African grocer chain Pick 'n Pay said, the Business Day reported on Thursday.

Pick 'n Pay (PIKJ.J: [Quote](#)) chairman Gareth Ackerman on Wednesday told a Global Consumer Goods Forum summit in London that debate in South Africa on the possible nationalisation of land was an example of growing uncertainty over land tenure in developing countries, the paper said.

"Ambiguity and uncertainty threaten food security and lack of clarity about land tenure will make it difficult for farmers to raise capital," the paper quoted Ackerman as saying.

The land reform programme in Africa's biggest economy has caused unease and slowed investment in the agricultural sector as white commercial farmers remain unsure of whether to reinvest in farms under claim by black farmers.

After the end of apartheid in 1994, South Africa's government set a target of handing over 30 percent of commercial farmland to blacks by 2014 as part of a plan to correct racial imbalances in land distribution caused by apartheid.

But the plan suffered a set back as government said it would not meet the 2014 target of transferring commercial farmland to black farmers due to lack of funds to purchase land. [ID:nLDE61P0L9]

Government published a strategic plan for 2010-2013 in which it proposed options to speed up land transfers to the black majority but farmers have said drastic land reform would undermine farmers' confidence and affect the security of food supplies. [ID:nLDE6581HV] (Reporting by Olivia Kumwenda)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/southAfricaNews/idAFLDE65N0A320100624>