Assessing Relationships Among Land Security, Food Security and Land Privatization in Burkina Faso, West Africa

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Research Problem

Two assumptions driving development approach to land tenure:

- Land security is food security for farmers across Global South
- Secure land is private land

How does privatization impact household land and food security?

What is the correlation, if any, between land and food security?
What is Privatization in Burkina?

- 2009 policy passed as part of G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition
- Guiche Unique: Means to officially and legally buy/sell communally governed land
- Buyers: Domestic Professionals and migrant farmer, not foreign investor
- Certificate/title for subsistence farmers with customary land “ownership”
Comparative Study of 3 Villages (A, B, C)

- Village selection
  - Similar socioeconomic, soil quality, agricultural
  - Different extents of privatization
- Documented buy/sell land process
- Food security
  - Women
  - Survey & Interview
- Land security
  - Men (make land-use decisions)
  - Survey & Interview
Land Security : Food Security
Main Insights

1. Land security alone is not a good indicator of food security
   - “What does a piece of paper do for me? Paper does not grow my food.”
   - Same food crops are family’s food source and income source. Plenty of food can be grown, but majority is sold to pay off debts, schools fees, funerals, healthcare.

2. In crisis, private land policy make possible to “sell land security”
   - Right to sell land is marker of land security, ownership
   - Farmers using land policies meant to secure their land, to instead sell their land. Short term gain, but long term loss
   - Sold at cost to cover problem (tuition, healthcare, funerals, debt), no profit
   - Sold to continue subsistence farming
Land Security : Food Security
Main Insights

3. Land Security can exist without land title, but it can have an expiration date

- “I am not afraid of losing my [borrowed/rented] land. I have an agreement with the chief. But I fear for my son’s because you do not know what will happen when the chief dies.”

- Through land-use and occupation, son’s “inherit” father’s borrowed land, few exceptions

4. Non-titled Land Security limits potential for improving Food Security

- Borrowed or rented land can be “secure enough” land, but farmer can not plant fruit trees

- Fruit trees can be significant source of income, to be invested back into food production
5. Approaches to FS/LS for farmers may not be agricultural or tenure

- Initiatives addressing expenses that force selling of land or food security:
  - school fees, timing of payment
  - Build non-agricultural employment realm to ease pressure on land inheritance
Land Security : Food Security
Final Thoughts

LAND SECURE

FOOD SECURE

NOT FOOD SECURE

(likely, but not causal)

Qualitative Data
Land Security: Food Security

Final Thoughts

- Land Security
- Financial means to farm land
- Food Security
- High Social Status or + Relations with Leaders
- Large Farm Or Other Income

QUALITATIVE DATA
Thank you for your attention!

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