

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

Elizabeth Gardiner

PhD Candidate in Anthropology, US Borlaug Fellow  
The Ohio State University

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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 loosing my [borrowed/rented] land. I have an 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



# Land Security : Food Security

## Main Insights

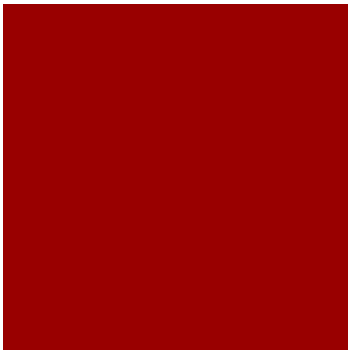
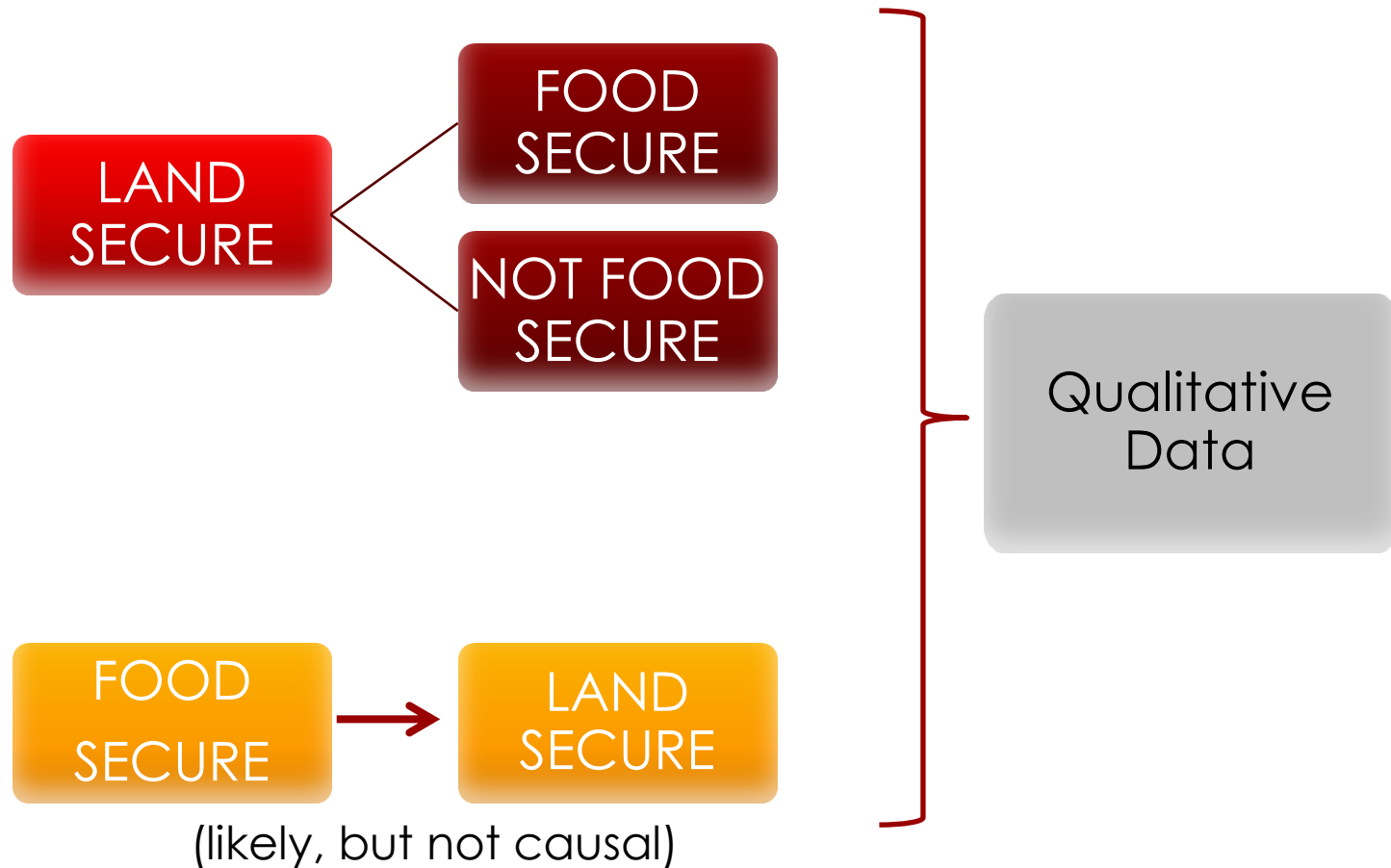
### 5. Approaches to FS/LS for farmers may not be agricultural or tenure

- 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

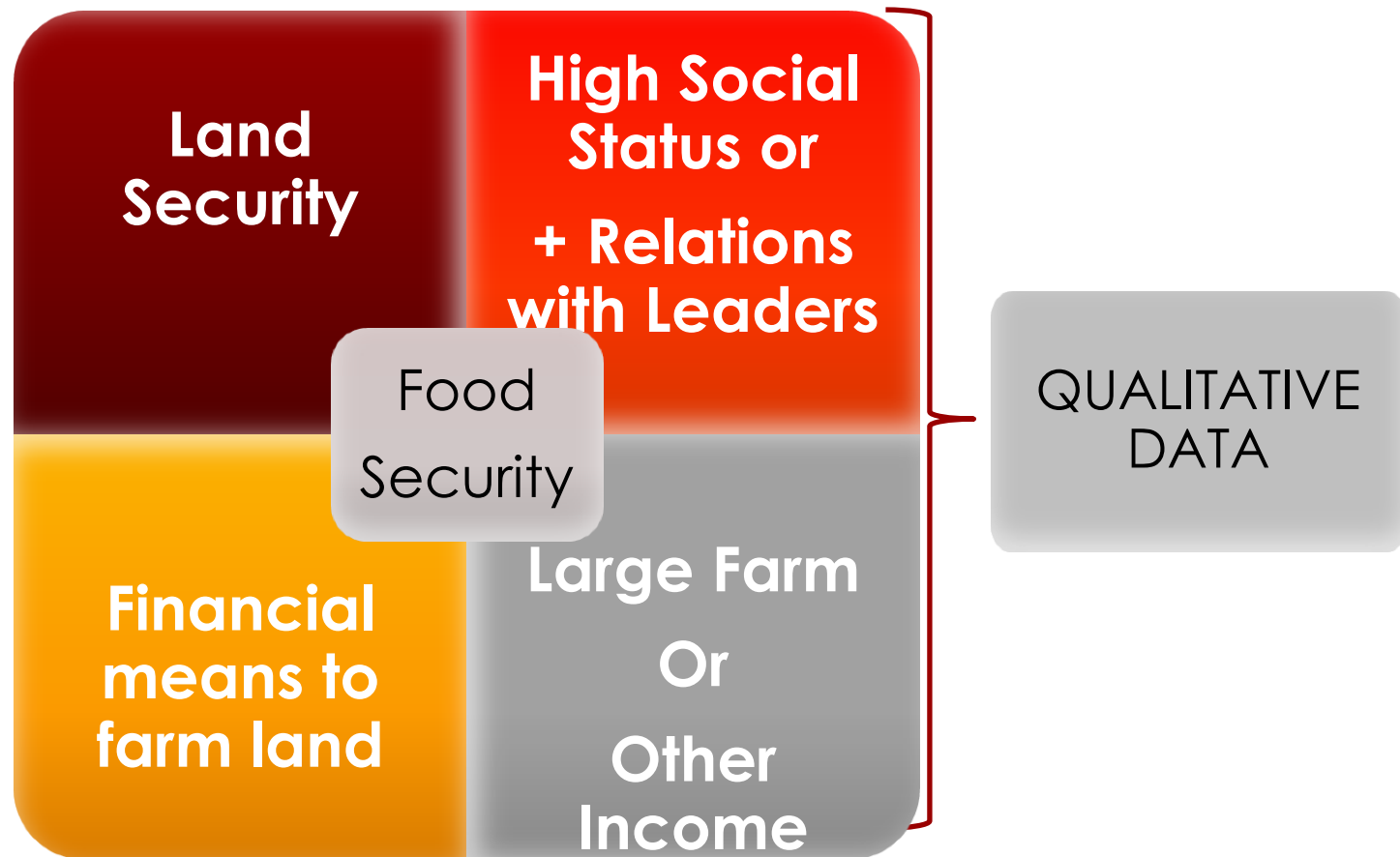
## Final Thoughts





# Land Security : Food Security

## Final Thoughts



# Thank you for your attention!



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