Governance of resources: Land reforms and their implications on food availability in uncertain climate condition

Edmond Totin
Amadou Sidibe
Mary Thompson-Hall

ASSAR
Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions
In most of African countries, land-tenure rules are characterized:
- legal pluralism (customary and statutory norms and practices)
- ambiguity about land holding status

Since 2006, the Land Act was reviewed by the GoMali from the top to “secure agricultural investments”
- ... makes provision for land registration
- ... classified unregistered customary lands as a public property
- ... creates confusion over land ownership for migrants

Study aims to understand the implications of the land reform on the dynamic of tenure arrangement and food security
Integrated collective farms are dominant in Koutiala:

- with extended families
- ... consists of collective plots controlled by the patriarchs
- decisions over resource-allocation and income pooling are *only* made by the patriarch
- members share labor between collective plots and their individual farms
- resulting production from collective plots are shared by everyone in the extended families
Dynamics of land tenure systems

Inheritance System  Sharecropping  Renting  Purchase

Koutiala (5km)  Koumbe (10km)  N’goloniasso (25km)  Sorobasso (25km)  N’togonasso (45km)  Konseguela (45km)  Kounianan (55km)  Bamana (55km)
Dynamics of land tenure systems

- Interviews show that the emergence of new tenure arrangement is:
  - ... not only related to urbanization
  - ... coping with the new reforms as reforms state “unregistered customary lands as state lands”
  - land business has increased during the last 10 years
  - A lot of pressure on collective farming around Koutiala
Dynamics of land tenure systems...

Land purchase

land businesses have accelerated during the last 10 years...
Many “migrants” farmers, settled in a more remote areas

“I was settled in Koutiala with my family since 1985. I got a piece of land to produce cotton, maize and groundnut. [...] I was forced to move to N'goloniasso, five years ago because my land was sold...”

**Implications for food system**

- Groundnut in rotation with maize
- Vegetable
- Sorghum

**Renting**

- Cotton

**Purchased**
Renting lands → no security for investment

- Produce crops with less investments (mainly in fertilizer)
- → Crop yields’ failure because of the insecurity in investments
- → Reluctant for adoption some innovations because of the limitations
  - Any technology that implies tree planting (*Gliricidia*) may not be welcome
Implications for livelihoods ...

Disconnect reform → urge implications on small scales’ farmers
Lessons learned

Tension over land status was not certainly what the government hope for with the reform

Insecurity of investments was not the intended role of the reform

Disconnect between the national land reform and the local tenure system is the risk for farmers being unable to secure investment in land for agriculture production
Lessons learned...

Our case-study shows that

- policy can hardly be enacted when it is disconnected from the local context.

- This calls for more integration of policy mechanism by considering as well social and institutional realities across scales to support effective development processes.
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