

Land Policy(LP), Urban-Rural Interaction and Land Administration (LA) Differentiation in Ethiopia

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Presentation Outline

1. Introduction
The Country and its resources (images)
2. Discussion of Issues
3. Conclusion and the Way Forward



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The Old and Ultra modern live side by side

The centuries old tradition of ploughing with two oxen remains unchallenged



The attempt to be part of the global community by way of a luxury collection



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The Ethiopian 'grand canyon' has its own use



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Water is not a problem in the country!!!



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The potential of the land is still enormous



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The land issue in Ethiopia

The "Big Picture": An impassioned and endless debate (of about 50 years!!!)

The Prime Minister: *The land issue is dead*

USAID Admin (Andrew S. Natsios, 1 Nov 2002): *Privatize*

OXFAM Director (Barbara Stocking, 14 Nov 2003): *New national debate*

Academia: *PRIVATIZE and maintain the status quo*

Opposition: *The Land Policy is responsible for everything that goes wrong in the country*



Some insight on the state of resources

The 2 most important assets of the country:

- people (labor) &
- land

Both are ailing and suffer from major disorders

People (labor):

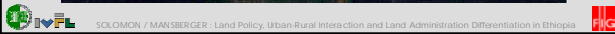
- Unemployment & underemployment
- HIV/AIDS

The land:

- Degradation
- Fragmentation
- Low productivity
- Scarcity



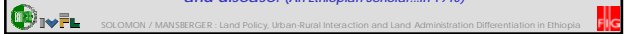
Initiatives in land husbandry: not sustained



The ugly face of land degradation

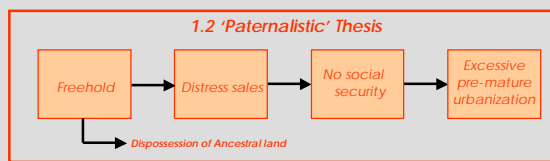
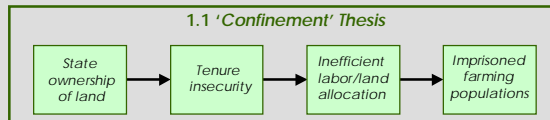


When numerous things are taken from the earth without anything in return, she punishes those who refuse to repay the debt with famine and disease. (An Ethiopian Scholar...in 1910)



Discussion of Issues: LP vis-à-vis urban rural interaction

1. Two major thoughts on LP impact characterization:



2. LA differentiations: *an inquiry into the so-called nation-wide, uniform & holistic systems*



The evidence - proxy indicators

The positive link b/n land related interventions & easy entry/exit of farm labor

Thailand: Increased tenure security (titling), urban economic boom and sizable transfer of rural population

Peru: Formalization increased labor supply by 50 %

What does the empirical evidence from Ethiopia show?

Land sales (opinion survey)

- 8500 HHs panel survey
- 93% won't sale
- Trend: no sale, no move

Land rental data

- Out of the 24 % rural HHs who rented their land 20 % remained in the rural areas -> both in the same location



The evidence ...cont'd

Migration comparison (by proxy)

- Urban pop grew from 4% to 12% in Ethiopia while from 14% to 45% in West Africa (1960 vs. 1997)
- 1% of rural out-migration generates
 - 6% to the urban growth (Level of Urbanisation: is 14%)
 - 1% to the urban growth (Level of Urbanisation: is 50%)

Land fragmentation

- Land labor ratio went down from 0.508 ha in 1960s to 0.252 in 1990s
- Per capita crop land 0.18 ha in Eth; 0.288 in SSA



The evidence cont'd.

Landlessness

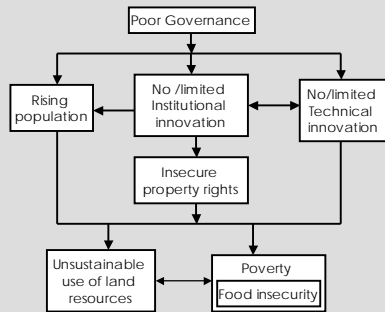
- Estimated between 11% & 37% rural HHs
- Localities with 140% increase

Off-farm income (econometrics data)

- Raises the probability of land loss between 10 & 15%



The Sustainable Development Scenario



Differentiation

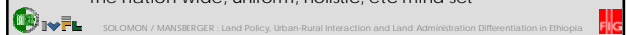
A way of thinking to recognize complex cultural, spatial socioeconomic, etc distinctions of LA service recipients

- would complement decentralization;
- may prevent its rigidity & dilution

A differentiation framework in LA could result in functional LA models and areas with decisive local input in institutional form & content

Why differentiation?

- The need for institutional learning: flexible and extensive experiment
- The need to do away with universal model that best fits the country;
- The nation-wide, uniform, holistic, etc mind set



Differentiation

Why the universal, nation-wide, etc model/myth?

- LA as panacea for land related problems
- The experience of some DCS
- The urge to do LA in one go

Issues that entail differentiations:

- LP (different land delivery mechanisms)
- Decentralization
- Resources
- Land value
- Distinctions in land use systems
- Ethnicity



Dimensions of differentiation

Rural vs. urban

Intra-rural

- Sedentary agric vs. pastoral areas
- High potential vs. low potential areas
- Cash crops vs. non-cash crop areas
- Small-holder vs. large scale commercial farming
- Remote vs. accessible areas

Intra-urban

- 1st, 2nd, etc order centers...urban hierarchy
- The capital (with primate status), city admin & fast growing centers, ...rural towns, etc.



Conclusions & the way forward

- The urban related impact of the LP: unintended; both good news and bad news
- LP has been restraining the rural-urban (thereby inter-sectoral) mobility of labor
- Review land policy; a compromise is possible & in the interest of policy consensus
- Spatial policy: population redistribution; voluntary resettlement;



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Some conclusions and the way forward

- More research and empirical evidence to bring about more informed policy making
- Uniform, holistic and nation-wide LA System
 - Could only be a strategic objective
 - Neither feasible nor desirable at the moment.
- LAs based on a well defined differentiation framework and tailored to local communities
- **Let the land users decide (participation)**



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That is all for the moment... ...Thanx



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