

WS3 - Causes and Consequences of Farm Size Distributions

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Work Stream 3 Policy Study

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Introduction

- Recent evidence suggests that changing structure of land ownership in sub-Saharan Africa
- The objective of this study:
 - Understand the rate of land expansion of medium- scale farms
 - Consider the policy implications of changes in farm structure and the concentration of food production and marketed output
 - Determine whether the pace of acquisition of agricultural land by medium-scale investors is foreclosing land access to smallholder farmers and rural youth who may be interested in farming
- Study countries: Nigeria, Tanzania, Ghana, Zimbabwe

Changes in farm structure in Tanzania (2008-2012)

Farm size	Number of farms (% of total)		% growth in number of farms between initial and latest year	% of total operated land on farms between 0-100 ha		
	2008	2012		2008	2012	
0 – 5 ha	5,454,961 (93%)	6,151,035 (91%)	12.8	62.4	56.3	- 6.1%
5 – 10 ha	300,511 (5%)	406,947 (6%)	35.4	15.9	18.0	
10 – 20 ha	77,668 (1%)	109,960 (2%)	41.6	7.9	9.7	+ 6.1%
20 – 100 ha	45,700 (1%)	64,588 (1%)	41.3	13.8	16.0	
Total	5,878,840 (100%)	6,732,530 (100%)	14.5	100.0	100.0	

Source: LSMS/National Panel Surveys

Changes in farm structure in Ghana (1992-2013)

Ghana	Number of farms		% growth in number of farms	% of total cultivated area	
	1992	2013		1992	2013
0-2 ha	1,458,540 [66%]	1,582,034 [52%]	8.5	25.1	14.2
2-5 ha	578,890 [26%]	998,651 [33%]	72.5	35.6	31.3
5-10 ha	116,800 [5%]	320,411 [10%]	174.3	17.2	22.8
10-20 ha	38,690 [2%]	117,722 [4%]	204.3	11.0	16.1
20-100 ha	18,980 [1%]	37,421 [1%]	97.2	11.1	12.2
>100 ha	--	1,740 [0%]	-	--	3.5
Total	2,211,900	3,057,978	38.3	100	100

Annotations: Green boxes highlight the percentage growth in number of farms and the percentage of total cultivated area for the 0-2 ha, 2-5 ha, 5-10 ha, and 10-20 ha categories. Arrows point from the 1992 values to the 2013 values for these categories. A bracket on the right indicates a 51.1% decrease in the percentage of total cultivated area for the 10-20 ha category.

Source: Ghana GLSS Surveys, 1992, 2013, Jayne et al., 2016, using data from Ghana GLSS Surveys I and IV.

Changes in farm structure in Zambia (2001-2012)

Farm size category	Number of farms		% growth in number of farms	% of total cultivated area	
	2001	2012		2001	2012
0 – 2 ha	638,118	748,771	17.3	34.1	16.2
2 – 5 ha	159,039	418,544	163.2	45	31.7
5 – 10 ha	20,832	165,129	692.6	14.3	25.0
10 – 20 ha	2,352	53,454	2272.7	6.6	15.0
20 – 100 ha	--	13,839	na	--	12.1
Total	820,341	1,399,737		100	100

52.1%

Source: Zambia MAL Crop Forecast Surveys, 2001 and 2012

Changes in farm size distributions: Summary

1. Number of small farms growing slowly
2. Share of area under small farms declining
3. Number of medium-scale farms growing rapidly
4. Share of area under medium-scale growing, and currently over 40% of farm holdings (> 25% of cultivated area)

Research hypotheses

- We can hypothesize that increased acquisitions of farmland by local investor farmers contribute to land scarcity and accelerate migration in densely populated rural areas
- The rise of commercialized medium-scale farms with greater surplus production may also attract new investment in grain markets that influence market access conditions for nearby smallholder farmers

Methodology

- Main data source is primary data collected from medium-scale farm households in the project countries
- Fieldwork conducted in two phases:
 - Phase I: Complete listing of all medium-scale farms
 - Phase II: Household survey of households sampled from the list
- Survey instrument captures information on how the medium-scale investors obtained land, and how the land is being used

Next Steps [I]

- **Tanzania:** primary data collection completed; data analysis ongoing: March-June, 2018
- **Nigeria:** primary data collection ongoing
 - Medium-scale farms listed
 - Household survey: March-April, 2018.
 - Data cleaning, analysis, and report: March-October, 2018
 - Policy outreach event in Abuja, Nigeria: November, 2018
- **Ghana:** Ghana GLSS Surveys data
- **Zimbabwe:** ??

Next Steps [II]

- One journal article and a policy brief:
 1. The rise of medium-scale farming in sub-Saharan Africa- cross country analysis

The Team

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