

Theme 4. Agricultural Land Policies and Land Use in Africa's Rural Transformation (Moderator: *Karen Brooks*)

This session will feature a summary presentation of the **FSP Synthesis Report 4** '*The Changing Face of African Agriculture in an Era of Rural Transformation: Dynamics in Land System and Tenure Policies*' and a panel discussion to identify the way forward.

DETAILED OUTLINE

A. Presentations

- The Changing Face of African Agriculture in an Era of Rural Transformation (T. S. Jayne, 15 minutes)
- Safeguarding Land Rights to Promote Inclusive Agricultural Transformation: Drivers and Consequences of Land Tenure Insecurity in Africa? (Hosaena Ghebru, 15 minutes)

B. Panelist remarks (5-6 minutes/each, total of 25 minutes)

- Klaus Deininger, World Bank
- Emily Weeks, BFS/USAID
- Ousmane Badiane, IFPRI
- Ruth Meinzen-Dick, IFPRI

C. Floor Discussion (40 minutes)

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PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

The Changing Face of African Agriculture in an Era of Rural Transformation ~ *Thom Jayne*
Authors: T. S. Jayne, Milu Muyanga, Hosaena Ghebru, Kwame Yeboah, Mercedes Stickler, Ward Anseem, Ayala Wineman, Antony Chapoto, Divan Vanderwesthuisen, Caleb Stevens

Mounting evidence points to profound rural transformation in sub-Saharan Africa since the early 2000s, though progress has been highly uneven across countries. Conventional views of African agriculture are in many respects becoming obsolete. Our presentation highlights the evidence of agricultural transformation in the region, identifies the key sources of dynamism in the sector, and proposes an updated typology of farms that reflects the evolving nature of African agriculture. The drivers of the region's rural transformations are diverse and include improved governance, strong agricultural growth in some countries which has contributed to employment expansion in rural off-farm activities and a decline in the share of the labor force engaged in farming, the rise of an entrepreneurial class of African commercialized medium-scale farmers, a period of high global commodity prices, and policy reforms undertaken in earlier decades. Agricultural growth, by expanding job opportunities in the non-farm sectors through multiplier effects, is likely to remain an important driver of continued transformation, though it will increasingly need to rely on productivity growth rather than area expansion.

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Key documents on this work:

- Jayne et al. (2016). Africa's changing farm size distribution patterns: the rise of medium-scale farms. *Agricultural Economics, Volume 47*(S1), 197-214.
- Jayne, T.S., Jordan Chamberlin, Derek D. Headey (2014). Land pressures, the evolution of farming systems, and development strategies in Africa: A synthesis. *Food Policy, 48*, 1-17

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Safeguarding Land Rights to Promote Inclusive Agricultural Transformation: Drivers and Consequences of Land Tenure insecurity in Africa

~ Ghebru Hosaena

With an attempt to scrutinize potential flaws in blanket solutions to issues of tenure insecurity, empirical research from Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Mozambique show that, overall, public tenure risk (expropriation or land eviction) are the real threat to women's tenure security while private tenure risks (ownership, inheritance, border dispute, etc.) are more of a threat to tenure security of male (men). However, a more gender-disaggregated analyses (not only comparing male versus female headed households but also with female as a spouse) show a reversal to the story of what drives tenure insecurity as the results show: (1) Females as a spouse (married women) fears more private tenure risks (signs of intra-household land grabbing); and (2) Female heads (single/unmarried women, widows, divorce/separated) mostly fears private tenure risks in areas with relative vibrant economy and developed land markets - sign of how increase in land scarcity and/or land values erode (adversely affect) women's sense of tenure security in contrast to their male counter parts as the former is usually consider to be the residual claimant in such a high stress areas under the customary tenure system. Results also show that land-related legal awareness seems to be more significant in dictating (positively) perceived tenure security of women as compared to their male counterparts. Such empirical evidences served as substantive input informing the discussions around identifying SDG indicators on land governance which now incorporates legal literacy on land matters as effective measures of enhancing tenure security, especially targeting women.

Key documents on this work:

- Ghebru, Hosaena; and Girmachew, Fikirte. 2019. Perceived tenure (in)security in the era of rural transformation: Gender-disaggregated analysis from Mozambique. [FSP Research Paper 125](#) and [IFPRI Discussion Paper 1799](#).
- Ghebru, Hosaena and Girmachew, Fikirte. 2017. Scrutinizing the status quo: Rural transformation and land tenure security in Nigeria. [FSP Research Paper 124](#) and [NSSP Working Paper 43](#).