

Summary

Essays on Impact Evaluations of Land Registration and Certification Program in East Africa

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Historically, land tenure security in Ethiopia was known for restricted land transactions in the form of land renting, selling, mortgage, and sharecropping. Specifically, the land was in the hands of few elites, feudal landlords, collective descendants, church, and high-ranking military officers before 1975. Following the governmental reform in 1975, land owned at hands of a few was redistributed frequently to farmers through local administration units. Even though there was a government change in 1991, the land was frequently redistributed by taking land from land-rich households and giving it to the landless due to increasing population size. This frequent land redistribution created land tenure insecurity which limits land transferability decreases long-term land investment and increases the risk of land expropriation. To increase land tenure security and increase

agricultural productivity the land administration and use proclamation was approved in 1997 at the federal level and regional states have taken the responsibility to implement the land registration and certification program. The land certification program was initiated after the approval of land proclamation from federal and regional states and the rolling out of the program was determined based on non-economic criteria. Within each village, a land use and administration committee (LAC) was appointed to be responsible for the administration and certification process.

This dissertation includes two main chapters. The first chapter, chapter 2, examines the impacts of the land certification program on migration using 10-year interval household panel data in Ethiopia using the difference-in-differences (DID) approach. On average, our estimation results indicate that the land certification program has not precisely estimated zero impacts on the participation of seasonal, non-seasonal migration, and rural wage earners. However, for households with the initial expectations of land redistribution prior to the program, the certificate has a negative effect on non-seasonal migration. This suggests the importance of complementary efforts to change people's perceptions of land tenure security when implementing a land registration and certification program. Furthermore, the land certification program was found to have a positive impact on per capita expenditure owing to enhanced agricultural income and cereal productivity by

increasing chemical fertilizer use.

The second main chapter of the dissertation, chapter 3, examines the effects of weather shocks on household consumption in Ethiopia and how the household responses to weather shocks differ depending on whether they receive land certification. Using the difference-in-differences (DID) approach, we find that weather shocks negatively affected household consumption expenditure. As expected, households are not able to protect themselves from weather shocks. However, land certification can help insure households against weather shocks. Households with land certification tend to smooth out their consumption expenditure by obtaining credit.