



the emergence of

Land Markets in Africa

Impacts on Poverty, Equity, and Efficiency

Stein T. Holden, Keijiro Otsuka, and Frank M. Place, editors

November 2008 / approx. 320pages

Cloth, ISBN 978-1-933115-69-6

US\$90.00 / Order Online at www.rffpress.org

"This book deals systematically and competently with the equity and efficiency implications of land markets in sub-Saharan Africa. The rigorous empirical analyses provide important insights to guide decisionmakers and development partners in formulating policies and investments to promote economic growth and poverty alleviation in Africa."

—Gershon Feder,

Research Manager for Rural Development in the Development Research Group,
the World Bank

THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF POVERTY and the need for increased agricultural productivity remain acute in rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa. Here, the lack of secure land rights and a growing scarcity of land relative to the population size are increasingly critical issues.

The Emergence of Land Markets in Africa

is the first systematic attempt to address emerging land markets and their implications for poverty, equity, and efficiency across a number of African countries. Land issues in the region are high on the international policy agenda, yet our knowledge about land tenure security and other rural factor markets (such as labor, oxen, manure, purchased inputs, and credit) is far from adequate to allow us to formulate sensible policies. This book presents case studies showing that, while land markets have been rapidly emerging in densely populated parts of Africa, and have generally been to the benefit of the poor, their functions remain imperfect. Applying rigorous quantitative analyses, the book provides a basis for taking into account

the role of land markets in national land policies.

The Emergence of Land Markets in Africa is a resource for teaching in developed and developing countries because it provides both comprehensive reviews of the literature and detailed case studies. It is intended to facilitate the dialogue between researchers and policymakers, as well as inspire researchers to go further in their investigations and build an even stronger basis for good policies.

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