“Youth Access to Agricultural Land in the Techiman Traditional Area in Ghana: Moving from Conceptual Construction to Field Investigation”

JOSEPH KWAKU KIDIDO
Department of Land Economy
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana
Presentation Outline

- BACKGROUND & PROBLEM DEFINITION
- OVERVIEW OF KEY CONCEPTS
- METHODOLOGY
- CONCEPTUAL MODEL OF THE STUDY
- CONCLUSION
BACKGROUND

- There is a growing problem of youth unemployment and underemployment.
  - Close to half of the world’s unemployed are youth (ILO, 2012; World Bank, 2014; 2006).

- 5.8% of the active labour force in Ghana are unemployed.
  - Approximately 80% are first time job seekers (GSS, 2012)

- Youth involvement in agriculture is vital to help quell the rising unemployment and also secure future food security.
  - Agriculture remains the world’s single biggest source of employment (World Bank, 2014; White, 2011; IFAD, 2010).
**PROBLEM DEFINITION**

- **Access to land** is key if youth are to take up agriculture-based employment opportunities.

- **Customary tenure system often excludes groups such as the youth and women from equitable and secure access to land** (Kwapong, 2009; CARE, 2004; Government of Ghana, 2002).

- Studies by Amanor (2010; 2008; 2006;) in Ghana have centred on changing inter-generational land relations, contestations, land commoditisation.

- Traditional land administration by the chiefs and confrontation with the local youth Boni (2008).
PROBLEM DEFINITION CONT.

- How the customary system allocates land rights to the youth for agricultural purpose, possible constraints and how statutory regulations shape youth land access and tenure security in Ghana are still unstudied.

- This research seeks to find answers to the ff. Questions:
  a) How do youth access agricultural land under customary system and what factors constraint their land access, if any, are the factors the same for both peri-urban and rural youth in the Techiman traditional area, Ghana?

b) What variations exist in youth access to agriculture land from gender perspective?

c) Do youth face conflicts in their landholding and how are these conflicts resolved?
d) To what extent are youth involved in agriculture and to what extent is land access being a barrier to their involvement in the Techiman traditional area?

e) To what extent do the existence of statutory regulations governing the customary land ownership and management affect youth access to agricultural land and are there any specific legal barriers to youth access to customary land?

f) To what extend do modern land documentation processes and tenure security arrangement apply to youth land access and holding in the Techiman traditional area in Ghana?
OVERVIEW OF KEY CONCEPTS

YOUTH

- Youth is socially constructed, its meaning and boundaries vary over time, between societies and within societies. (White, 2011).

- Definition of youth has generally revolved around the following concepts:
  - Age-based categorisation
  - Transition
  - Relational
This study defines ‘youth’ as “both male and female who fall within the active workforce of 15 up to 34 years”.

- Age-based definition is adopted guided by the Children’s Act 1998 (Act, 560) and available census data on youth.

- United Nations defines youth to be people between ages of 15 and 24 years.

- Ghana’s National Youth Policy 2010 defined youth “youth” as “persons who are within the age bracket of fifteen (15) and thirty-five (35)”. See also AU African Youth Charter, 2006.
KEY CONCEPTS CONT.

CUSTOMARY LAND TENURE

- *Customary land tenure* is a landholding in accordance with customary law (World Bank, 2010; Fisher 1993).

- *Customary law is a body of unwritten rules founding its legitimacy in traditions* (Cotula, 2006).

- “Customary land” in this study refers to all categories of interests and rights in land held under *the traditional systems and controlled by a chief, tendana, head of a clan or family* (adapted from; AUC-ECA-AfDB Consortium, 2011: 22).
KEY CONCEPTS CONT.

LANDHOLDING INSTITUTIONS

- Landholding institutions are authorities who make the rules and enforce them, allocate land rights and arbitrate land conflicts (Delville, 2007).

- The customary landholding institutions in this study relate to the chiefs, family and household heads who hold and allocate land rights within the social structure.

- Youth access to agricultural land is shaped by the customary landholding institutional arrangement and the prerogative or authority exercised at these institutional levels.
LEGAL PLURALISM

- Legal pluralism is “the coexistence and interaction of multiple legal orders within a social setting or domain of social life” (Meinzen-Dick and Pradhan, 2002: 4).

- Legal pluralism could be juristic or diffuse (Kameri-Mote 2005).

- The legal regime of Ghana takes the form of juristic legal pluralism - the state regulates customary laws.

- Land tenure in Ghana is administered in a plural legal environment (Bugri, 2013; Brako, 2012; Kwapong, 2009).
KEY CONCEPTS CONT.

INTERGENERATIONAL LAND TRANSFER

- Ownership of customary land is intergenerational (Kwapong, 2009).
  -“I conceive that land belongs to a vast majority of whom many are dead, a few are living and countless host are still unborn” (Ollennu, 1962: 4).

- The flow of movement is from the elderly who are normally in possession to the younger generation.

- It would be ascertained whether the younger members are dependent on their seniors lineage members to access land or they directly participate in the land market to access land.
METHODOLOGY

- The study is based on a case study sample survey
- Mixed research designed;
  - qualitative and
  - quantitative
METHODS CONT.

The Case Study Area


Conference on Land Policy in Africa, 11-14 November, Addis Ababa
METHODS CONT.

TARGET RESPONDENTS

- Youth;
- family/household heads;
- Chiefs;
- government agencies in charge of land administration, agriculture and youth issues.

-Multistage level of data collection (triangulation) is envisaged.

-Youth respondents at the first level, household heads second level and, chiefs and institutional heads at the third level.
### Communities selected for investigation in the Techiman area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Community</th>
<th>Youth Population (15-34 yrs)</th>
<th>Total Population of all Ages</th>
<th>Total Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peri-Urban</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hansua</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>4809</td>
<td>1152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nkwaeso</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>2604</td>
<td>563</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuobodom</td>
<td>5154</td>
<td>13761</td>
<td>3030</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuntunso</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>975</td>
<td>192</td>
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<td>Bamiri</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>1534</td>
<td>335</td>
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<tr>
<td>Krobo</td>
<td>1526</td>
<td>4359</td>
<td>1052</td>
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<td>Twimia-Nkwanta</td>
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<td>2500</td>
<td>517</td>
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<td>Aworowa</td>
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<td>6589</td>
<td>1656</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mesidan</td>
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<td>1406</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sansama</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>1502</td>
<td>245</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
<td><strong>14548</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rural</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tadieso</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>1211</td>
<td>218</td>
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<td>Tanoso</td>
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<td>Buoyem</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>24755</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, Sunyani, 2010 PHC
METHODS CONT.

SAMPLE SIZE

- A sample size of 382 for the youth respondents has been determined based on the following parameters:
  - Total Youth Population = 67,197,
  - Confidence Interval = 95%,
  - Confidence Level (Margin of Error) = 5%.

- 25% of the household heads of the youth respondents will be sampled for interview (114 household heads).

- The total sample size of youth and household heads will be about 500.
METHODS CONT.

DATA ANALYSIS

- A combination of descriptive and quantitative analytical approaches for qualitative and quantitative data respectively.

- ✓ Content analysis,
- ✓ Cross tabulations,
- ✓ Correlations,
- ✓ Percentages, and
- ✓ simple regressions to understand the variables and their influence on youth land access and involvement in agriculture using the SPSS.
Conceptual Model of Youth Access to Land and Involvement in Agriculture in the Techiman Area.

**Statutory Regulation:**
- Legislative Provisions
- Formal Land Management Systems & Institutions

**Customary Land Tenure:**
- Types & Scope of Interests and Rights
- Prevailing Customary Landholding rules & Arrangements

**Customary Landholding Institutions in Land Transfers**
- Chiefs, Tendanas, Household & Family Heads

**Determination of Land Transfer Requirements:**
- Transfer modes,
- Consideration of cost,
- Transfer obligations

**Land Transfer Decision-Making:**
- Recipients, land size, location, quality & timing
- Land dispute resolution

**Youth Land Access Dimensions:**
- Landless: Lack of landholdings
- Unimpeded Access: Secure holdings, Viable land units, Productive land units
- Limited Access: Insecure holdings, Unviable land units, Short term holdings

**Youth Involvement in Agriculture:**
- Food/vegetables/cash crops production
- Marketing

**Non-Land Access Factors:**
- Capital, inputs, skills, labour, food supply etc.

**Household Level Factors:**
- Land stock, age, size, occupation, community membership etc.

**External Factors:**
- Land demands: large acquisitions, population & urbanization pressures etc.

**Outcomes:**
- Youth employment
- Food security
- Supply of raw materials
- Social stability

**Functional Linkages**

**Statutory Regulations**

**Strong Involvement**

**Weak Involvement**

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CONCLUSION

- There is the need to make land more readily accessible to young people, free from costly and discriminatory control by a local customary authority.
- Action needs to be taken towards making land available to the young people in the rural communities to create new opportunities for the youth (IFAD, 2010: 220).
- Youth land access constraints under customary regime need to be thoroughly understood from empirical research perspective.
- The next stage of this research will provide empirical data relating to youth land access under the customary tenure system, associated constraints, involvement in agriculture in the Techiman area, Ghana.
- It will offer policy interventions needed to protect the land rights of youth to empower them as members of the social structure.
THANK YOU!