Large-scale Land Investments and (Un)Employment Questions in Africa: Quantitative and Qualitative Insights from Nigeria

Summary of Project

There has been a remarkable increase in Large-scale Land Investments (LLIs) across the world with most of them in developing countries, especially in Africa. The implications of these LLIs are numerous. Despite the implications of the rising concerns of LLIs in African countries, there still remains scarce empirical evidence to evaluate them on households in communities with LLIs. Therefore, this study provides new empirical insights on the implications of LLIs on households in the communities with LLIs in comparison with households living in communities without LLIs in Nigeria. This research makes an important contribution to literature, as extant studies that have considered similar issue have focused on the implications of LLIs based on one or two specific cases. The drawback of the above is that it does not present a general outlook of LLIs and their implications in the country. Nigeria is a significant case in point for studying LLIs as it is among the top 20 LLIs recipient countries globally, and among the top 10 in Africa.

The employment effects of LLIs are also an important outcome issue. This current study will categorise (un)employment across gender of the household, and the youth composition of the household. The educational category will also be considered to enrich the policy conclusion and implication of the study. The study uses two empirical strategies, namely: quantitative and qualitative techniques. The quantitative approach uses data from the Living Standards Measurement Study-Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS_ISA) conducted by the World Bank in collaboration with Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The LSMS_ISA data for Nigeria covers the 36 States of Nigeria plus the Federal Capital Territory-FCT, Abuja. The data is grouped into: community, households, and agriculture for the two segments (i.e. post-planting and post-harvest) of the survey. For the purpose of this study, the community and the household levels data is used, which will involve merging the two sets of data for the last two Waves, notably: Wave 2 (2012-2013) and Wave 3 (2015/2016). The data will be analysed using Difference-in-Difference (*DiD*) and Fixed Effects techniques. The quantitative technique is complemented with the qualitative analysis based on a fieldwork in the locations with LLIs in Nigeria. The case that will be used for the fieldwork is the Covenant Farms involved in cassava, maize and oil palm cultivation in Ogun State. The key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussions (FGDs) will be used for soliciting responses in the qualitative aspect of the study.