

Shackles of kinship bonds: Land registration and investment in agriculture in Ghana

Yuichi Kimura* and Martin Bosompem†

April 2017

Incomplete draft

Abstract

Ambiguous and contested land rights in Africa is theoretically hypothesized to cause disincentive against potentially productive investment in agriculture but evidence varies across studies. As a possible explanation to this, we assess such disincentive and find that it applies only to land with matrilineal origin but not to other acquisition modes that is becoming more popular.

Interventions in land tenure rearrangement and land registration system are found to significantly enhance long-term investment, and the former enhance also the productivity after investment (although the impacts drops for lands of matrilineal origin).

No gender bias is found for tree planting investment or productivity. However, the impact of land registration under female names is negative. Nominal use of female names in registration lead to significantly lower productivity.

*Oita University; ykimura@oita-u.ac.jp; 700 Dannoharu, Oita, Oita, Japan

†University of Cape Coast; Cape Coast, Ghana; mbosompem@ucc.edu.gh