

# Land Property Rights, Financial Frictions, and Resource Allocation in Developing Countries\*

Kristina Manysheva †

This version: October 18, 2021

[Please click here for the latest version]

## Abstract

What effect do land property rights have on productivity and the allocation of resources? How do land rights and financial frictions affect economic development, and how do they interact? I shed light on these questions by using detailed household survey data from Tanzania. I show that incomplete land and financial markets that generate resource misallocation. Motivated by these findings, I develop a heterogeneous-agent incomplete-markets dynamic general equilibrium model to quantify the impact of land and financial market imperfections, and to explore the underlying mechanism. I have three main findings from this. First, land and financial market frictions create a misallocation of inputs in production, and they distort household occupational choices. Second, an economy wide land reform leads to increases in agricultural and non-agricultural output by 7.4% and 8.2%, respectively, as well as a decline in agricultural employment by 8.6%. Third, land reform generates more participation in financial markets, especially among the poorest, as land market frictions amplify the effects of financial markets imperfections.

*Keywords:* Misallocation, productivity, agriculture, entrepreneurship, financial frictions, land, Africa

*JEL Classification:* O11, E02, Q12, O55.

---

\* Acknowledgements: I thank my advisors Matthias Doepke, Martí Mestieri, and Christopher Udry for a fantastic amount of help and support as part of my dissertation committee. I thank my colleagues Jane Olmstead-Rumsey, Ana Danieli, Bence Bardoczky, and Egor Kozlov, as well as all attendees of the IMF RESDM Divisional Seminar, Chicago Fed Macro Seminar, STEG Annual Conference, CSAE Conference, BREAD Conference on the economics of Africa, Young Economist Symposium, and NU Macro lunch for helpful comments and discussions. I thank IMF and Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago for their hospitality during part of this research. All errors are my own.

† Department of Economics, Northwestern University. Email: kristinamanyshewa2021@u.northwestern.edu

# 1 Introduction

Scholars and policy makers alike have long recognized the importance of both financial and land markets as key drivers of non-farm development and economic transformation of low income countries. Poor countries tend to have higher employment shares in agriculture, accompanied by slow growth of firms and entrepreneurship. A common explanation for these features – low level of financial development, which is characterized by lower access to financial services, such as savings accounts or bank loans, and smaller in magnitudes measures of external finance to GDP compared to advanced economies (King and Levine (1993), Banerjee and Duflo (2005)).

Moreover, productivity in agriculture is extremely low in poor countries with imperfect land markets and weak land property rights being emphasized as a major obstacle limiting agricultural productivity (Adamopoulos and Restuccia (2014)). More broadly, in economies transitioning from agriculture, economic activity is shaped by the characteristics of land property rights by affecting allocation of resources and economic development. Weak land property rights in poor countries are the result of, first, lack of land formalization. Up to 70 percent of land in some low-income countries had no formal or informal documentation (Figure A1). Second, land tenure system prescribed by customary law is present in many developing countries, in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa (Pande and Udry (2005)). Percent of communal land in Africa varies from 2 percent in Rwanda to 97 in Somalia. The statistically significant correlation between land security and level of traditional land suggests that countries with higher level of communal land feature lower land tenure security (Figure A3). A unifying feature of such tenure regimes is the principle of “use it or lose it” whereby rights to land can be claimed only through the use of land, and only for the duration of that use (Sjaastad and Bromley (1997)), which restricts the commercialization of land. Also, farmers are reluctant to rent out their land to tenants who, by virtue of working on it, can stake a claim to ownership. If expropriated, the user rights to the land are tacitly or explicitly reallocated by local authorities. In some countries, all land belongs to the state and the principles of customary land tenure apply formally (e.g. Ethiopia and Tanzania).<sup>1</sup>

Besley and Ghatak (2010) emphasize four main aspects of how property rights affect economic activity. First, presence of expropriation risk might prevent individuals to reap the dividends of their investments and efforts. Second, productive resources might be devoted to defend their property. Third, more secure property rights might facilitate trade and, hence, allocate resources to the most productive users. Finally, land property rights are linked to financial development through the land being a collateral asset which enhances financial development

---

<sup>1</sup>Beyond Sub-Saharan Africa, formal or informal rules can be found across other parts of the world, prominent examples being the ejidos in Mexico (de Janvry et al. (2015)) or public land in China (Jacoby et al. (2002)) and Vietnam (Do and Iyer (2008)).

by expanding market base for loans and reducing financial intermediation costs.

de Soto (2000) claims that much of the population in developing countries lacks access to credit not due to lack of assets, but due to absence of formally registered ownership of their property which prevents using property as collateral. Although one could expect some natural, almost deterministic, link between land property rights and access to credit, such relationship actually depends on the existence of land and credit markets. As opposed to studies that link either insecure land property rights or limited access to finance to economic development of low-income countries, interaction of these market imperfections has been relatively unexplored. My paper is an attempt to fill this gap by providing quantitative assessment of the potential impact of economy-wide land reform on welfare, distribution and financial inclusion. The quantitative framework I develop incorporates both financial and land market frictions, which are connected via collateral channel. To provide micro-foundation to the model, I explore household level panel data from Tanzania to show that land property rights and access to credit affect resource allocation and economic efficiency.

For my empirical analysis, I use detailed micro data from the Tanzania National Panel Survey, that has a special focus on agricultural production, and includes extensive data on farmer's inputs and output. I use dynamic panel approach to estimate agricultural production function and find that agriculture in Tanzania is still mostly labor and land intensive, and exhibits decreasing return to scale. I use these estimates to obtain farmer-level TFP measures and combining them with the variation in land property rights and access to credit both across households and across time, I test for efficiency of resource allocation. I find that the relationship between the size of land used by a farmer and his productivity differs for households with land under different land property rights. Difference in the relationship between land size and productivity also holds for households that use credit for agricultural purposes compared to those who do not. Such results suggest that land is not being allocated efficiently, and land misallocation is associated with insecure land property rights and limited access to credit. In addition, I find that households that have an official document for their land not only more likely to obtain a credit, but also the size of the loan is higher. Finally, there is a link between land property rights and occupational choice. Households with titled land are less likely to stay in agriculture and more likely to operate a business.

These empirical findings are used to discipline a heterogenous agent incomplete-markets model that incorporates endogenous saving decision, occupational choice and communal land evolution. Agents are heterogenous in their wealth, productivity level in agriculture and entrepreneurship, and land holdings, that can be either private or communal. The following land market imperfections are assumed: (*i*) communal land can not be rented out, (*ii*) communal land is subject to expropriation risk if it is not being used by a household, and (*iii*) commu-

nal land can not be used as collateral. On the financial side, borrowing is subject to a limit, which is a function of household's wealth, land holdings and land property rights. Specifically, presence of financial market frictions and inability to use communal land as collateral prevents households without legal land title that are poor in terms of assets to get access to credit, even if they are large land holders.

To quantify the effects of potential improvement in land property rights and access to credit, I calibrate the model to Tanzania and perform three sets of counterfactual exercises. First, I show that economy-wide land reform that eliminates communal land has a positive effects on agricultural and non-agricultural output, as well as total consumption. As a result of the reform, agricultural output increases by 7.4% driven mostly by higher land utilization and more efficient allocation of land across households. Non-agricultural output increases by 8.2% due to higher access to credit and more efficient allocation of households across occupations. Land reform leads to changes in composition of labor in favor of non-agricultural employment (entrepreneurs and workers) with agricultural employment declining by 8.6%. Moreover, it increases the level of financial inclusion, especially among the poorest households with limited assets but positive land holdings. Finally, I find that despite substantial welfare gains of land reform for the economy as whole, these gains are not evenly distributed. Welfare gains, measured by changes in consumption, are the highest for those belonging to communal part of the economy before the reform, and in particular for those with low level of assets, large land holdings and high level of entrepreneurial ability. On the other hand, large private land holders are the main losers of the reform, suggesting that political economy aspects might prevent or slow the progress of land reform in many poor countries, despite all benefits.

Second, I perform decomposition analysis of different channels of land reform, by looking at general equilibrium impact of removing only one land friction at a time. I find that increase in agricultural output is driven mainly by the ability of communal land holders to rent out their unused land, while increase in non-agricultural output is a result of expropriation risk elimination and ability to use land as collateral. While two latter channels decrease the share of farmers in the economy, the former increases it. In addition, three channels have heterogenous impact on equilibrium prices and average productivity in each sector. All channels lead to increase in total welfare, but the magnitude is small when only expropriation risk is eliminated.

Third, I perform a comparison of land reform impact on the economy and the impact of financial reform. To compute the effect of financial reform I relax financial constraint in the way, so that the loan to collateral value is equal to the level of advanced economy. Such comparison might be extremely important in the context of developing country, where policy space is often very limited. Qualitative impact of financial reform on economic outcomes is the same as the impact of collateral channel of land reform but differs from land reform as a whole. Moreover,

distributional impacts are quite different. In case of financial reform those who are marginal entrepreneurs and large assets owners do benefit the most, while those operating communal land do not benefit as much as in the case of land reform. Finally, land reform leads to lower level of consumption inequality compared to financial reform, as large share of welfare winners of land reform is among the poorest part of population before the reform.

I conclude my quantitative analysis by studying the transitional dynamic triggered by a sudden unexpected land reform that removes all land market frictions. I find that the majority of changes happens in the first ten years after the reform, with the substantial initial increase in both agricultural and non-agricultural output due to higher land utilization, and relaxation of financial constraint which leads to more capital used in the production.

This paper contributes to two main strands of literature, as I discuss below. First, I relate to the literature quantifying the importance of misallocation for aggregate outcomes (e.g. Restuccia and Rogerson (2008), Hsieh and Klenow (2009), Bartelsman et al. (2013), Restuccia and Rogerson (2013), Baqaee and Farhi (2020)), especially in the context of developing country (e.g. Guner et al. (2008), Banerjee and Moll (2010), Asker et al. (2011), Oberfield (2013), Kalemli-Ozcan and Sorensen (2012), Restuccia and Rogerson (2017)) and with a focus on productivity in agricultural sector (e.g. Chen (2017), Adamopoulos et al. (2017), Restuccia and Santaeulalia-Llopis (2017)). Second, it contributes to the literature in macroeconomics using micro data to study macro development issues such as Gollin et al. (2014), Buera et al. (2014), Bick et al. (2016), Santaeulàlia-Llopis and Zheng (2016), Adamopoulos and Restuccia (2020), Buera et al. (2021) among many others.

A large share of misallocation literature focuses on measuring the effect of all sources of misallocation on aggregate output by exploiting cross-sectional dispersion in marginal revenue products without identifying the underlying sources of the distortions. The contribution of my paper is that I not only show presence of misallocation, but also link it to specific market distortion – land market and financial frictions. I also measure misallocation under weaker assumptions than some earlier work. Specifically, I estimate the production function instead of assuming that the U.S. parameters can be applied to African country. Additionally, I show that my results are robust to alternative production function specification.

My findings are consistent with literature that links land property rights and various economic outcomes. Bromley (2010) provides evidence that land security boosts gains from allocation in several Sub-Saharan African countries. Macours et al. (2010) find that insecure land rights make owners to limit land rentals in case of Dominican Republic. de Brauw and Mueller (2012) finds that perception of higher land tenure security leads to higher rural-urban migration. de Janvry et al. (2015) document that formal land titling enabled a market-based reallocation through sales and rentals to more productive farmers. Field (2007) documents im-

portant labor effects of improved land property rights – a shift in labor supply away from work at home to work in the outside market, and substitution of adult for child labor. Similarly, Beg (2021) provide evidence that computerized rural land records in Pakistan result in landowning households to be more likely to rent out land and to shift into non-agricultural occupations. Consistent with quantitative results in my paper, Chari et al. (2017) find that land reform in rural China that allowed farmers to lease out their land resulted in a redistribution of land toward more productive farmers and increase in agricultural output by 8%.

My paper is most closely related to growing macro development literature that looks at the agricultural productivity gap as a consequence of land misallocation. Chen (2017), Adamopoulos et al. (2017), Restuccia and Santaularia-Llopis (2017) use micro data to back out farm-specific TFP and wedges in Ethiopia, China and Malawi, respectively. In all papers removing wedges to shift land to more productive farmers brings huge gains in aggregate agricultural productivity. Moreover, Adamopoulos et al. (2017) find that misallocation of land leads to misallocation of workers across different sectors. Gottlieb and Grobovsek (2019) measure the distortionary impact of land expropriation risk under communal land tenure using dynamic general equilibrium model calibrated to Ethiopia, and find that lifting communal land tenure increases GDP by 9%. Adamopoulos and Restuccia (2020) study land reform in Philippines and find that imposed ceiling on land holdings reduced agricultural productivity by 17 percent. I add to this literature in several ways. First, to my knowledge this paper is the first to include both financial and land market frictions in macroeconomic model of growth and development. I show that land market frictions amplify negative impact of limited access to finance, especially for the poorest part of population. Moreover, ability to use land as collateral for borrowing is often used as a main argument for land market reforms. Hence, when financial sector imperfections are not taken into account, all misallocation is attributed to land market frictions and the effect of land market reform might be overestimated.

At the same time, presence of financial market imperfections might limit benefits of land market reform. Indeed, there is mixed empirical evidence on the impact of land titling programs on access to formal credit (Deininger and Chamorro (2004), Galiani and Schargrodsy (2010), Zegarra et al. (2011), Piza and de Moura (2016), Agyei-Holmes et al. (2020)). Taken together, the findings of these studies suggest that efficiency of financial markets should be taken into account when the effects of improvements in land property rights are being quantified.

Second, my model also allows to study how land market property rights affect entrepreneurship. Majority of entrepreneurship literature that focuses on developing countries explores the effect of only financial frictions and does not take into account land markets (see Buera et al. (2015) for literature survey). I find that improvement in land property rights leads to higher entrepreneurial activity as lower risk of expropriation makes moving away from agriculture less

costly, while collateral channel provides access to finance to start or expand a business.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In the next section I describe important elements of the micro data and provide some empirical evidence of misallocation in agricultural sector. Section 3 introduces quantitative model of endogenous occupational choice that features incomplete financial and land markets. Section 4 provides solution of the model and the assessment of policy changes. Finally, Section 5 discusses model extensions and potential avenues for future work, while Section 6 provides the concluding remarks .

## 2 Empirical Analysis

In this section, I empirically revisit the evidence that insecure land property rights and limited access to finance directly link to resource misallocation, which in turn affects sectoral and aggregate TFP. I start by estimating farmer-level TFP measures for agricultural sector in East Africa – Tanzania. Then, for the case of Tanzania, I show that land market and credit market imperfections are important in explaining resource misallocation across and within sectors. These facts guide subsequent modeling choice and are used to inform a quantitative exercise.

### 2.1 Conceptual Framework

To fix ideas, consider an efficient static allocation in a simple model of farm size and input choice. There are  $n$  heterogenous farmers producing a single homogeneous good according to the following production function:

$$Y_i = e_i A L_i^{\alpha_L} \prod_k X_{k,i}^{\alpha_{X_k}}$$

where  $L_i$  is the amount of land used by farmer  $i$ , and  $X_{k,i}$  are other inputs like labor and capital used by this farmer. Individual total factor productivity is equal to  $e_i A$ , with  $A$  being a common productivity, like the level of rainfall, and  $e_i$  is an individual farming ability.

In the context of this framework, we can characterize efficient, the first best, allocation of land across farmers given fixed level of land supply. The efficient allocation maximizes aggregate output and solves the following social planner's problem:

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{\{L_i, X_{k,i}\}} \sum_i e_i A L_i^{\alpha_L} \prod_k X_{k,i}^{\alpha_{X_k}}, \\ & \text{subject to } \sum_i L_i = L, \quad \sum_i X_{k,i} = X_k \quad \forall k. \end{aligned}$$

The Pareto efficient allocation requires marginal product of land to be the same across farmers, and corresponds to the competitive market allocation, by the first welfare theorem. Then, the efficient land allocation of farmer  $i$  is proportional to the farmer's productivity  $e_i$ :

$$L_i^* = \frac{e_i^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha_L - \sum \alpha_{X_n}}}}{\sum e_i^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha_L - \sum \alpha_{X_n}}}} L$$

Hence,  $L_i^* \propto e_i^2$ , which implies that farmers that have higher farmer ability should operate a farm of larger size. This approach also suggests that factor intensity ratios should be identical across farmers. I use this conceptual framework to analyze micro data from Tanzania and motivate my empirical exercise that tries to identify resource misallocation in agricultural sector.

## 2.2 Data

In this paper I use data from the Tanzania National Panel Survey. The survey represents panel data gathered in waves from the same households. The first wave was surveyed in 2008-09, the second wave was gathered in 2010-11, and the last two waves – in 2012-13 and 2014-15. The fourth wave is using a new set of household together with subsample of households from previous waves. The data were collected with support from the World Bank, as part of the LSMS-ISA project. The survey has regionally representative data for all regions on mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, and covers both rural and urban areas (Figure A4). In addition to broad demographic and social characteristics of households, the survey also includes detailed information on both durable goods and financial assets; agricultural production, including land characteristics; and operations of non-farm household enterprises.

I focus on the agricultural production at the household level, so the unit of observation is a household  $i$  in period  $t$ . One farmer may operate one or several plots of land, therefore I aggregate information available at the plot level to the household level. The dataset contains a panel of about 4,000 households and approximately 3,500 households that were added in the last round of survey. The share of households involved in farming activity is around 65 percent.

**Output and Inputs** In my analysis I focus on a long rainy season. For each household I construct a measures of agricultural output in a given period of time. My baseline measure is real agricultural output aggregated at the household level using actual quantities of each crop harvested by the time of interview and proxies of prices in 2012-13 as weights. To construct proxies of prices, I obtain the median price of different units for each crop at the national level,

---

<sup>2</sup>Efficient allocation implies proportional relationship between logarithm of land and logarithm of productivity, which was simplified in the text for simpler notation.

conditional on crop being sold to someone outside the household in a given unit. The prevalence of intercropping, when several crops being cultivated at the same time on a given piece of land, makes it impossible to measure output in physical quantities. Moreover, households report harvest in different units even for the same type of crop, which requires making some unit-price conversion to make data comparable across farmers. Alternative measures of output include output measured at the proxies of current prices, output that also includes expected harvest, expected and damaged harvest.<sup>3</sup>

There are four inputs for which quantitative data are available – land, labor, capital and usage of chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides. All plot areas are reported in acres, and I refer to the farmer estimates for plots that were never measured by GPS. In terms of land input both the size of available land and the size of the land that was actually cultivated are available. The measure of labor inputs is the total number of person-days used by the household. The survey distinguishes between work done by household members and by hired workers. The measure of capital input includes both chemical inputs, such as fertilizers and pesticides, as well as farm implements and machinery, such as hand hoe and plough. All types of capital inputs are aggregated at the household level and weighted by the median price of each type of input at the national level in 2012-13. For computation of median price of chemical inputs I only use those purchased without voucher and/or subsidy. Moreover, some type of chemicals are reported in different units, and in this case unit-price conversion is used. Capital includes both owned and rented machinery.

**Other variables** The survey also provides information on different soil characteristics, which include different characteristics of soil type and soil quality. In addition, I have information on land improvements and investment that are made by household in the recent past. The survey asks farmers about their agricultural practices, such as the use of other water sources and additional organic inputs, number of trees on the plot, and whether certain tools are used at different stages of agricultural process. Finally, number of indicators on land tenure are available. I obtain indicators of the share of land for each household under different tenure regimes. Later, I use those indicators as measures of land property rights to assess the role of land market frictions in allocation of resources.

**Household characteristics** The survey data include detailed description of households and individuals. Data are available on household composition and the age, education, literacy and health characteristics of each household member; the relationship of each member to the house-

---

<sup>3</sup>Damaged harvest is measured as a percentage of actual harvest, hence, in the cases when damaged harvest is 100 percent (actual harvest is 0 units), determine the value of actual, expected and damaged output is not possible

hold head; occupational choice of adults within households. In addition, for each household there are data on different types of assets owned by a household – durable goods; live animals; agricultural tools and equipment; as well as outstanding amount of any loans both borrowed and/or lend within 1 year period from/to any source.

Table A1 presents summary statistics of the main variables used in the analysis. There are several observations worth to be mentioned. First, farmers operate small plots, with average cultivated area of 1.2 hectares. Second, farmers mostly rely on domestic labor – only half of households hire any workers and the average share of household labor is being more than 90 percent. Third, agricultural practices are labor intensive with almost no capital used and little chemical inputs (e.g. fertilizers, pesticides).

## 2.3 Measure of Productivity

To obtain the measure of household productivity, I first estimate agricultural production function. The main challenge in such estimation is the fact that input choices are not exogenous to productivity, which is unobserved. While there is an extensive literature that addresses this issue in the context of firms, application to agriculture is very limited.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, literature on firms production function estimation often makes assumptions that are not appropriate to use in agricultural setting, especially in low-income country, such as Tanzania. Many approaches require one or several inputs to be monotonic in productivity, which is not realistic assumption in developing country context due to presence of numerous frictions and extensive subsidization of inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, etc. Alternatively, imposing a fixed effect on the law of motion for productivity might lead to attenuation bias, especially in the context of small farmers where most of labor consist of household members. In this paper I am using dynamic panel approach as a preferred method to deal with endogeneity issues making assumptions that are more appropriate in the context of small farmers in developing country.

Consider the Cobb-Douglas production function

$$y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_l l_{it} + \beta_n n_{it} + \beta_k k_{it} + \omega_{it} + \varepsilon_{it},$$

where the unit of observation is household  $i$  involved in agricultural activity in period  $t$ .  $l$ ,  $n$ , and  $k$  stand for (log) land, labor and capital inputs, while  $y$  is (log) output. There are two terms,  $\omega_{it}$  and  $\varepsilon_{it}$ , that are unobserved to econometrician. However,  $\omega_{it}$  is known by the farmer when he makes his inputs choices and, therefore, inputs are a function of  $\omega_{it}$ . Estimating the above equation via OLS leads to biased estimates, since more productive farms will use more

---

<sup>4</sup>Firm level production function estimation literature includes Olley and Pakes (1996), Levinsohn and Petrin (2000), De Loecker (2011), Ackerberg et al. (2015), among others

inputs given that marginal product of input is increasing in productivity.

I employ two approaches in production function estimation. First, I use household fixed effects to account for unobserved productivity that is constant over time. Such measure can be thought as an agricultural ability of a household. This approach relies on a quite strong assumption, that productivity is constant over time, i.e.

$$\omega_{it} = \omega_{i,t-1} = \omega_i$$

Moreover, in practice, this approach often results in attenuation in inputs like land that does not change much from year to year. To address the above concern I use dynamic panel approach as my second and preferred method. This approach relies on the timing of input choices with the law of motion for productivity to estimate coefficients.

Assume  $\varepsilon_{it}$  is i.i.d. over time and uncorrelated with information set at time  $t$ ,  $\mathcal{I}_{it}$ , and  $\omega_{it}$  is following AR(1) process:

$$\omega_{it} = \rho\omega_{it-1} + \xi_{it}$$

Given the law of motion for productivity, we can quasi-difference production function equation to get estimating equation:

$$y_{it} - \rho u_{it-1} = (1 - \rho)\beta_0 + \beta_l(l_{it} - \rho l_{it-1}) + \beta_n(n_{it} - \rho n_{it-1}) + \beta_k(k_{it} - \rho k_{it-1}) + \xi_{it} + \nu_{it},$$

where  $\nu_{it} \equiv \varepsilon_{it} - \rho\varepsilon_{it-1}$ . Assuming  $\xi_{it}$  is uncorrelated with  $\mathcal{I}_{it-1}$ , estimate the model using the moment conditions:

$$\mathbb{E}[\xi_{it} + \nu_{it} | \mathcal{I}_{it-1}] = \mathbb{E}\left[(\xi_{it} + \nu_{it}) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} l_{it-1} \\ n_{it-1} \\ k_{it-1} \end{pmatrix}\right] = 0$$

There are two main issues with dynamic panel approach mentioned in the literature. First, the estimation relies on the assumption that changes in land, labor, and capital are correlated with their lagged levels. This assumption might fail in the world with perfect markets and without adjustment costs. Second, it assumes that farmers have the same information set when they choose each input. Under perfect markets this implies perfect collinearity between the level of each factor of production. In the context of low-income country like Tanzania, various market imperfections allows to solve both problems. For example, limited land market might not allow farmer to increase land input in case of positive productivity shock. At the same time, presence of such market imperfections rule out a class of structural methods that are often used in literature in the context of advanced economies .

Table 1: Production function estimates

	(OLS)	(OLS FE)	(DP)
log(Land)	0.347 (0.018)	0.266 (0.027)	0.280 (0.042)
log(Labor)	0.411 (0.027)	0.348 (0.030)	0.446 (0.081)
log(Capital)	0.111 (0.008)	0.048 (0.010)	0.036 (0.020)
$\beta_l$			0.268
$\beta_n$			0.421
$\beta_k$			0.049
$\rho$			0.371
Return to scale	0.87	0.66	0.74
Test on common factor restrictions			0.832
# obs.	8,949	6,073	3,641

*Notes:* Robust standard errors are in parentheses two-way clustered at the district and household level. Regressions include year FE, OLS regressions - district-year FE.

Table 1 presents estimates of the Cobb-Douglas production function at the household level. I show estimates using simple OLS, OLS with household fixed effects and dynamic panel estimation. In the latter case I use minimal distance procedure to estimate restricted coefficients.

In all three specification I find decreasing return to scale. This is plausible as farming in low-income countries is still labor-intensive and large farm and workforce is harder to manage compared to a small one. The main difference between OLS with fixed effects and DP results is higher coefficient on labor in dynamic panel case. It is not surprising that estimates for labor would be different, as it is the factor for which strict exogeneity fails. Since most of labor consists of household members, making adjustment in accordance with productivity should not be hard.

## 2.4 Market Distortions and Resource Allocation

Around 70 percent of land in Tanzania is under customary land and 80 percent of population who live in rural areas depend on subsistence farming. Land plays a major role in economy in Tanzania. One of the weakness of customary rights is the fact that they are not formally documented. Only small share of all land in Tanzania has a title or a certificate, which results in higher risk of land expropriation and inability to sell the land and use it as collateral. Moreover, historically the overriding principle in many communities is that the land belonged to the tiller.

In other words, land is subject to the principle “use it or lose it”.<sup>5</sup>

First, limited land market results in around 15 percent of all plots not being fully utilized with part or the entire plot being left fallow. Although leaving land fallow occasionally is required in order not to exhaust soil and keep it fertile, most household are not able to cultivate the entire plot due to lack of other inputs rather than due to soil considerations. It is not possible to distinguish whether lack of inputs is the result of frictions on those markets or binding financial constraint, but if there exist well-functioning land market those plots would be sold or rented out.

Second, various indicators suggest that land property rights in Tanzania are at least not strong. As a proxy of land property rights I test four different measures related to existence of formal proof of ownership, perception of expropriation risk in case land is unused, ability to sell the land and/or use it as collateral, and whether the land was used/obtained free of charge. Figures 1 display distribution of each measure in the sample. While all measures are positively correlated, they reflect different aspects of land tenure system and, hence, complimentary in the analysis. I use all four measures to test presence of incomplete markets and resource misallocation.

As discussed in Section 2.1, in efficient allocation, the amount of land used by the farmer should be positively correlated with productivity of this farmer. Moreover, the relationship between these two variables should be the same for all farmers in the economy with no frictions. However, in case when land market is limited under customary tenure system, additional constraint might be present, for example,<sup>6</sup>

$$L_i \leq \bar{L}.$$

In this case some households will be constrained with  $L^* = \bar{L}$ , which is independent from productivity level. Hence, on average relationship between land and productivity would be different for farmers operating under different property rights regimes. It is straightforward to show that the relationship is not the same for financially constrained and unconstrained households.

To test presence of resource misallocation, that is associated with insecure land property rights and limited access to credit, I use the following baseline regression specification:

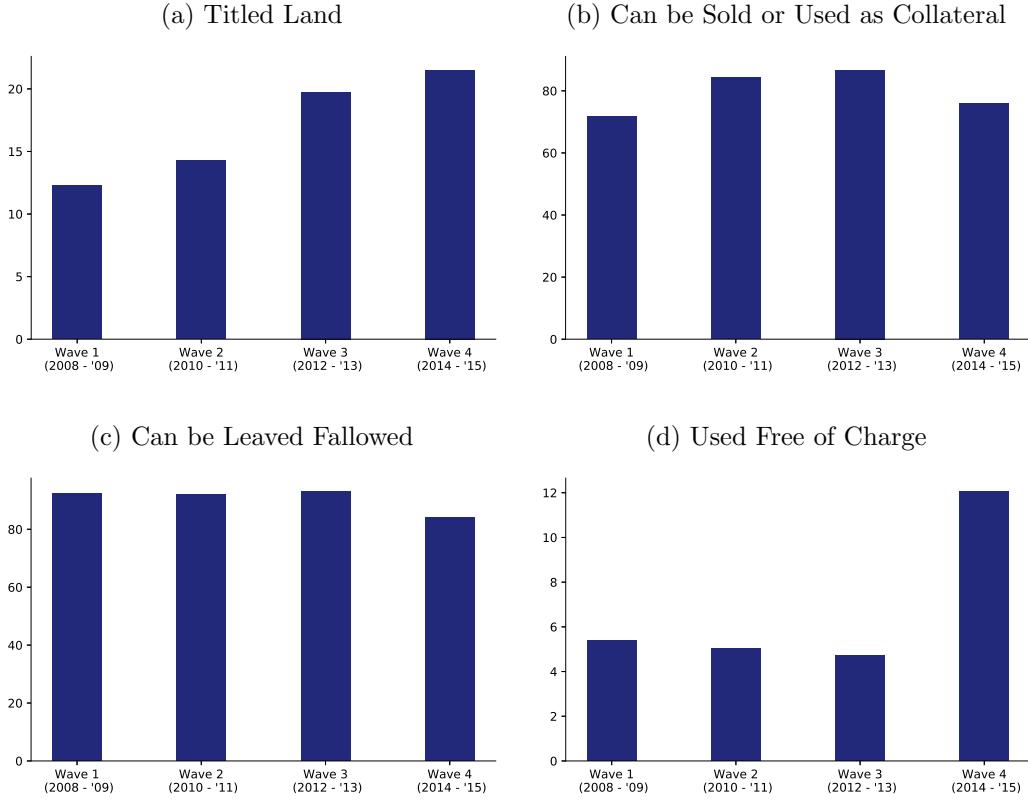
$$l_{it} = \phi_0 \ln e_{it} + \phi_1 (\ln e_{it} \times Land\_rights_{it}) + \phi_2 (\ln e_{it} \times Credit_{it}) + \delta_{st} + \epsilon_{it},$$

---

<sup>5</sup>More details on land tenure system in Tanzania can be found in the Appendix B.

<sup>6</sup>I use the simplest mechanism that reflects principles of customary tenure system for illustrative purposes, more complex setting is used in quantitative model

Figure 1: Measures of Land Property Rights



*Notes:* Each plot depicts the share of land that is owned and/or used by a household and (a) the household has legal document for this land, (b) the owner of this land has the right to sell it or use as collateral, (c) the household feels comfortable leaving this land fallow without worried of losing it, (d) this land is used/obtained free of charge

where  $l_{it}$  is log of the amount of land used by the farmer  $i$  in agricultural production in year  $t$ ,  $\ln e_{it}$  is log of farmer's productivity obtained by computing residual using estimated parameters of the production function,  $\delta_{st}$  denotes district-year fixed effects to control for things like common weather shock, and  $\epsilon_{it}$  denotes the error term. Interaction term includes a measure of land property rights,  $Land\_rights_{it}$ , which is computed as a share of land belonging to a specified category (e.g. has title) to the total amount of household's land in a given period of time. Additionally, I include interaction term of productivity and a dummy variable  $Credit_{it}$ , which is an indicator of whether the household borrowed for agricultural purposes in the past 12 months from any sources.

Table 2 displays the results. The main observation is that there is positive relationship between size of land used and productivity, and this relationship is different for farmers depending on whether cultivated land has strong property rights. Similarly, the relationship is different for farmers that borrowed some resources for agricultural purposes compared to those who did

not.

Table 2: Land Misallocation

	ln(land)								
	leave fallow			right sell		title		obtain free	
HH productivity	0.121 (0.016)	0.087 (0.017)	0.081 (0.017)	0.083 (0.016)	0.078 (0.016)	0.116 (0.016)	0.111 (0.016)	0.128 (0.015)	0.123 (0.015)
HH productivity × land_rights		0.043 (0.005)	0.043 (0.005)	0.056 (0.004)	0.055 (0.004)	0.023 (0.005)	0.023 (0.005)	-0.059 (0.006)	-0.059 (0.006)
HH productivity × credit			0.045 (0.011)		0.042 (0.010)		0.044 (0.009)		0.043 (0.011)
# obs.	8,939	8,939	8,939	8,939	8,939	8,939	8,939	8,939	8,939
# households	5,095	5,095	5,095	5,095	5,095	5,095	5,095	5,095	5,095
Wave#District FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R <sup>2</sup>	0.296	0.308	0.310	0.326	0.328	0.299	0.301	0.312	0.314

*Notes:* Robust standard errors are in parentheses two-way clustered at the district and household level. The second row indicates which measure of land property rights was used in the regression analysis.

Moreover, in case of complete markets variation across farmers in factor ratios would reflect misallocation.<sup>7</sup> Tables A2 and A3 present evidence of different ratios of inputs, first, for households that being subject to different property rights regimes, and, second, for those households that were able and/or willing to obtain a loan for agricultural purposes compared to those that were not. This suggests that at least markets are not complete, and frictions are linked to land property rights and access to credit.

## 2.5 Robustness and Other Findings

In this section I test some of the assumption that could affect the results on resource misallocation. In addition, to provide micro-foundation for the model I explore relationship between land property rights and different household characteristics.

**CES production function** A possible explanation for the observed misallocation could be the fact that the unity substitution in the Cobb-Douglas production function is invalid. Although the assumption of Cobb-Douglas production function is standard in the literature on

---

<sup>7</sup>This statement is general to any homothetic production function

misallocation, I show that using CES production function also leads to conclusion that there exist market incompleteness associated with land property rights and access to credit.

Suppose

$$Y_i = e_i [\alpha L_i^{-\rho} + \beta N_i^{-\rho} + (1 - \alpha - \beta) K_i^{-\rho}]^{-\frac{\sigma}{\rho}}$$

where  $\sigma$  denotes the return to scale and  $\epsilon = \frac{1}{1-\rho}$  is the elasticity of substitution between factors. I assume that  $e_i$  is the product of household productivity, and time and region fixed effects. Table A4 reports the results of estimating the equation with nonlinear least squares. The ideal estimator is the nonlinear equivalent of dynamic panel which applies GMM to the first-difference equation using lagged factors as instruments. Unfortunately, this estimator does not converge.

In a static efficient allocation marginal product of land should be equalized across farmers. I examine whether land property rights and access to credit is a source of variation in MPL across farmers to test whether there exists market incompleteness related to these factors. As evidenced from Table 3, marginal product of land is higher for farmers that are subject to insecure land property rights and lower for those who did not have a loan. The relationship between marginal product of land and land property rights can reflect the fact, that in the areas with relative weak property rights both rental and final markets for land are almost not present. At the same time credit for agricultural purposes is used to buy capital and inputs like fertilizers, and, hence, we observe positive relationship between credit and MPL.

Table 3: Marginal product of land and market frictions

	ln(MPL)			
	leave fallow	right sell	title	obtain free
land_rights	-0.196 (0.035)	-0.184 (0.029)	-0.034 (0.045)	0.216 (0.042)
credit	0.403 (0.093)	0.414 (0.092)	0.404 (0.093)	0.410 (0.092)
# obs.	8,925	8,925	8,925	8,925
Wave#District FE	✓	✓	✓	✓

Notes: Robust standard errors are in parentheses two-way clustered at the district and household levels.

**Productivity and unanticipated shocks** Unanticipated productivity shocks might change farmer's marginal products after they choose their factors and make the allocation look inefficient even when markets are perfect. To account for possible misspecification, I include indicators for illness, death in the family, flooding, problems with crop-eating pests, poor rainfall, and low/high prices for agricultural inputs/outputs in the year of farming activity.

The results of production function estimation (Table A5) are almost identical to the benchmark specification, suggesting that indeed included shocks were not anticipated. However, inclusion of these shocks allows to obtain a measure of productivity that is known to the farmer when he makes decision, which is especially important in the developing country where insurance market is not complete. Repeating the exercise on misallocation reveals even stronger results for land property rights (Table A6). For some measures of land property rights there exists positive and statistically significant relationship between land size and productivity only in the case of strong land property rights. The results for access to credit is similar to the ones obtained before.

**Variation across time** In my main analysis, I explore efficiency of resource allocation using variation of land property rights both across time and space. By adding household fixed effects to my baseline specification, I exploit whether positive relationship between land and productivity is present in the data for the transitory part of productivity. In other words, I test whether households adjust the amount of land used in agricultural production when they experience transitory productivity shock, and whether there exists any difference in this adjustment depending on the strength of land property rights (access to credit).

Table A7 displays the results. I find positive relationship between productivity and land usage only for those household who operate more secure land in terms of property rights. This results are consistent with the prediction, that inability to rent out or sell the land that is not formally registered or subject to expropriation risk, prevents households to make adjustment in the amount of land inputs when they experience bad or good productivity shock.

**Land property rights and other household characteristics** To further motivate my modeling choice in the next section, I examine whether there exist any association between land property rights and different household characteristics. Table 4 reports the results of this exercise. I find that households with titled land are more likely to rent out the land potentially due to lower expropriation risk.

Those households that have an official document for their land were not only more likely to obtain a credit in the last 12 months, but also the size of the loan was higher. Since in every regression I include household fixed effects, such relationship can be explained by the collateral

channel. Suggestive evidence that supports this theory is the fact that in the year 2014/2015 around 49.2 billion shillings had been issued as loans by various financial institutions, using Certificates of Customary Rights as collateral ([URT \(2016\)](#)). Finally, there is a link between land property rights and occupational choice. Households with titled land are less likely to stay in agriculture (as an occupation of the head and as a share of household labor) and more likely to operate a business.

Table 4: Land property rights and other household characteristics

	Dependent variable				
	rent out land	head of HH in agriculture	obtained credit	size of a loan	operate a business
land_rights	0.015 (0.006)	-0.037 (0.014)	0.028 (0.013)	0.574 (0.199)	0.023 (0.015)
# obs.	7,874	11,752	11,752	448	11,752
Household FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Notes:* Robust standard errors are in parentheses two-way clustered at the household and district levels. Regressions with dependent variable on occupation or presence of business also include dummy variable indicating whether HH owns a plot.

### 3 Model

In this section I suggest a model that could link access to finance, occupational choice and land ownership. It's a standard occupational choice model with financial frictions but enriched with additional feature – land ownership, either private or communal. These features are not only important reflection of low income countries' characteristics, but also allow to have new insights about economic development in less advanced parts of the world.

Time is discrete in the economy. The economy is populated by a continuum of infinitely lived households of measure one indexed by  $i \in [0, 1]$ . In each time period, household's state consist of five elements: (i) productive skill in the agricultural sector,  $z_a > 0$ ; (ii) productive skill in entrepreneurship,  $z_e > 0$  (iii) endowment of land,  $l \geq 0$  (iv) property rights regime,  $pr = c, p$ , either communal or private (v) level of assets,  $a \geq 0$ . Skills are exogenous, independent from each other, and evolution process is known to a household. Specifically, logarithm of skills for each sector  $s \in \{a, e\}$  follows a first-order autoregressive process

$$z_{s,t} = \rho z_{s,t-1} + \varepsilon_{s,t},$$

where  $|\rho| < 1$  and  $\varepsilon_{s,t}$  is a white noise process with variance  $\sigma_{\varepsilon,s}^2$ . Assets evolve endogenously by forward-looking saving behavior.

The economy's aggregate endowment of land is  $L$ , with a fraction  $\lambda_l \in [0, 1]$  being communal, while the rest is private. The total and individual levels of private land are fixed and can be used for agricultural production, or for rent, and also can be used as collateral. Total amount of communal land is fixed, however individual communal land holdings evolve endogenously due to presence of expropriation risk, and communal land neither is allowed to be rented out nor used as collateral.

### 3.1 Preferences

Individual preferences are described by the following expected utility function over sequences of consumption,  $c_t$ :

$$U(c) = \mathbb{E}_t \left[ \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t u(c_t) \right], \text{ where } u(c_t) = \frac{c_t^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma}$$

and  $\beta$  is the discount factor and  $\sigma$  is the coefficient of relative risk aversion.

### 3.2 Occupational Choice

At the beginning of each period, a household chooses whether to operate his own business, become a worker, or cultivate a farm. A single final good is produced by firms and agricultural sector. Each firm is run by one entrepreneur, who produces the good using as inputs his entrepreneurial ability, labor and capital. Each farm is run by one farmer, who produces the good using as inputs his productivity in agricultural sector, land and capital.<sup>8</sup> I make the following assumptions of occupational choices.

**Assumption 1.** All occupational choices are mutually exclusive within a period  $t$ .

**Assumption 2.** There is no cost of switching across and within periods between occupational choices.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup>I abstract from hired labor input, and assume that labor input is embedded in agricultural household productivity,  $z_a$ . This is not a strong assumption given that the majority of agricultural hours in Tanzania are supplied by household members. High monitoring costs are typically thought to be the reason why farms rarely expand their labor.

<sup>9</sup>This assumption allows to avoid carrying additional state variable and is common in literature on entrepreneurship and development (For summary see Buera et al. (2015))

### 3.3 Incomplete Markets

The only asset in the economy is capital, which is equivalent to assuming that capital can be freely transformed into consumption good. Agents have access to financial intermediary. Perfectly competitive financial intermediary receives deposits from all households and make loans to farmers and entrepreneurs. The deposit rate  $r_t$  is determined endogenously by the capital market clearing condition at period  $t$ . Households use loans to finance capital. Competitive financial intermediary implies that loan contracts are paid at the gross interest rate,  $r_t^k = r_t + \delta$ , where  $\delta$  denotes the depreciation rate of capital. Also, there is a competitive intermediary that collects all land and then rents it out to those who wants to use it at rate  $r_t^l$ .

Financial markets are incomplete in several dimensions. First, no state-contingent bonds can be purchased. Hence, there is no opportunity to insure against productivity risk.

Second, I do not allow borrowing for consumption smoothing across periods by imposing  $a_t \geq 0$ , therefore only entrepreneurs and farmers can borrow to finance production.

Third, similar to Jermann and Quadrini (2012) and Mendoza (2010), I assume that there is a cash flow mismatch, such that the amount of capital that exceeds current level of assets owned by the household must be financed in advance of production. Thus, households need to borrow intraperiod loans to finance capital. The total amount of borrowing, however, is limited by a collateral constraint due to limited enforceability of debt contracts. The novel ingredient in my model is that in addition to assets, land can also be used as part of a collateral.

Considering a household with wealth  $a_t$  and land holding  $l_t$  that is asking for a loan  $x_t$  from a financial intermediary at rate  $r_t^k$ . Once loan is obtained, household transforms it costlessly together with assets (but not land, which is used as an input in farmer's production) into capital  $k_t = a_t + x_t$ . Together with land holdings, capital then is used as collateral to secure the loan  $x_t$ . The household is free to default and walk away with his income and wealth at any time. In this case collateral will be seized. I assume that the liquidation value of capital is uncertain at the time of contracting similar to Jermann and Quadrini (2012). With probability  $(1 - \frac{1}{\lambda_k})$ , where  $\lambda_k \geq 1$ , intermediary recovers the full value of collateral,  $k_t + q_t^l l_t$ , however it recovers nothing with probability  $\frac{1}{\lambda_k}$ . Hence, the amount of loan  $x_t$  that intermediary is willing to provide is limited to  $x_t \leq (1 - \frac{1}{\lambda_k})(k_t + q_t^l l_t)$ .<sup>10</sup> It is easy to derive the household's capital constraint in terms of his wealth and land holdings:

$$k_t \leq \lambda_k(a_t + q_t^l l_t) - q_t^l l_t$$

The parameter  $\lambda_k$  measures the degree of credit frictions, with  $\lambda_{k,l} = +\infty$  corresponding to

---

<sup>10</sup>  $q_t^l$  is the shadow price of land in consumption units, and is defined as the present value of its expected future income flows in terms of the consumption numeraire. This means that there is endogenous general equilibrium effect on the tightness of collateral constraint, as  $q_t^l$  is directly linked to rental rate of land,  $r_t^l$ .

perfect credit market and  $\lambda_k = 1$  to financial autarky where all capital is self-financed. This captures the common prediction from the models with limited contract enforcement: credit is limited by individual's wealth.

Land market is incomplete for the part of economy with weak property rights. Land under customary tenure regime can not be rented out and used as collateral. Land market imperfection amplifies financial market frictions by making collateral constraint tighter:

$$k_t \leq \lambda_k(a_t + q_t^l l_{t,\mathbb{I}\{\text{land=private}\}}) - q_t^l l_{t,\mathbb{I}\{\text{land=private}\}}$$

**Evolution of communal land** I assume that the part of communal land that belongs to the household if not used (or partially not used) brings zero value. Moreover, the part of the communal land that is not used in current period is subject to expropriation risk next period. Expropriation is stochastic and endogenous, since the probability depends on the amount of land used in the current period. The function that defines expropriation probability  $\pi_E$  is the following:

$$\pi_E = \begin{cases} f_E \left( \frac{l_{\mathbb{I}\{\text{land=communal}\}} - l^d}{l_{\mathbb{I}\{\text{land=communal}\}}} \right) & \text{if } l_{\mathbb{I}\{\text{land=communal}\}} - l^d \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Expropriated communal land is reallocated to farmers via a lump-sum transfer  $\eta$ , which is endogenous. Formally, the reallocation probability  $\pi_R$  is

$$\pi_R = \begin{cases} f_R(l_{\mathbb{I}\{\text{land=communal}\}}, \eta) & \text{if occupation = farmer} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

I assume that only current-period farmers are eligible to receive transfer, but reallocation is stochastic to capture the fact that households are treated differently by local authorities responsible for land allocation.

### 3.4 Household Problem

The state space is characterized by level of wealth, amount of land owned, property rights regime, entrepreneurial ability, and agricultural productivity,  $s_{it} \equiv (a_{it}, l_{it}, z_{it}^a, z_{it}^e, pr_i)$ .

I proceed in two steps to characterize the household problem. First, I write the household value function as the maximum across the value function conditional on occupational choice,

$$V_t(s_{it}) = \max \left\{ V_t^{Worker}(s_{it}), V_t^{Entrepreneur}(s_{it}), V_t^{Farm}(s_{it}) \right\}$$

second, I will look at the value function for different occupational choices, conditional on

property rights regime.

**Households under private property rights regime** Let  $x_{it} \equiv (a_{it}, l_i, z_{it}^a, z_{it}^e)$ ,<sup>11</sup> then the problem of households is the following

$$\max_{c_{it}, a_{it+1}, k_{it}^{o \in \{E, F\}}, n_{it}^{o \in \{E\}}, l_{it,d}^{o \in \{F\}}} V_t(x_{it}) = \frac{c_{it}^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} + \beta \mathbb{E}_t[V_{t+1}(x_{it+1}|x_{it})]$$

subject to

$$c_{it} + a_{it+1} \leq y_{it}^o + r_t^l l_i + (1 + r_t) a_{it}$$

within period capital borrowing constraint (collateral)

$$k_{it} \leq \lambda_k a_{it} + (\lambda_k - 1) q_t^l l_i, \quad o \in \{\text{Entrep, Farmer}\}$$

across periods borrowing constraint

$$a_{it+1} \geq 0$$

And  $y_{it}$  for each occupational choice

$$\begin{aligned} y_{it}^{\text{Entrep}} &= z_{it}^e k_{it}^{\alpha_e} n_{it}^{\gamma_e} - w_t n_{it} - r_t^k k_{it} \\ y_{it}^{\text{Worker}} &= w_t \\ y_{it}^{\text{Farmer}} &= z_{it}^a k_{it}^{\alpha_a} (l_{it}^d)^{\gamma_a} - r_t^k k_{it} - r_t^l l_{it}^d \end{aligned}$$

**Farmer under communal land property rights regime** For households living in the communal part of the economy, the amount of land endogenously evolves across periods.

Letting  $x'_{it} \equiv (a_{it}, l_{it}, z_{it}^a, z_{it}^e)$

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{c_{it}, a_{it+1}, k_{it}, l_{it}^d} V_t(x'_{it}) &= \frac{c_{it}^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} + \\ &+ \beta \left\{ \pi_R \mathbb{E}_t[V_{t+1}(x'_{it+1}, l_{it+1} = (l_{it} + \eta) | x'_{it})] + (1 - \pi_R) \mathbb{E}_t[V_{t+1}(x'_{it+1}, l_{it+1} = l_{it} | x'_{it})] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

subject to

$$c_{it} + a_{it+1} \leq y_{it} + (1 + r_t) a_{it}$$

---

<sup>11</sup>It's important to note that the amount of private land that household owns is fixed across time. In the model I focus on rental market as sale and purchase of land remain rare in Tanzania, with most land being inherited or allocated by local authorities.

within period capital borrowing constraint (collateral)

$$k_{it} \leq \lambda_k a_{it}$$

across periods borrowing constraint

$$a_{it+1} \geq 0$$

where  $y_{it}$  for the farmer is:

$$y_{it} = z_{it}^a k_{it}^{\alpha_a} (l_{it}^d)^{\gamma_a} - r_t^k k_{it} - r_t^l (l_{it}^d - l_{it}) \mathbb{I}_{\{l_{it}^d \geq l_{it}\}}$$

### Entrepreneur and worker under communal land property rights regime

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{c_{it}, a_{it+1}, k_{it}^{o \in E}, n_{it}^{o \in E}} V_t(x'_{it}) &= \frac{c_{it}^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} + \\ &+ \beta \left\{ \pi_E \mathbb{E}_t[V_{t+1}(x'_{it+1}, l_{it+1} = 0 | x'_{it})] + (1 - \pi_E) \mathbb{E}_t[V_{t+1}(x'_{it+1}, l_{it+1} = l_{it} | x'_{it})] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

subject to

$$c_{it} + a_{it+1} \leq y_{it} + (1 + r_t) a_{it}$$

within period capital borrowing constraint (collateral)

$$k_{it} \leq \lambda_k a_{it} \quad o \in \{Entrepreneur\}$$

$$a_{it+1} \geq 0$$

And  $y_{it}$  for each occupational choice

$$\begin{aligned} y_{it}^{Entrep} &= z_{it}^e k_{it}^{\alpha_e} n_{it}^{\gamma_e} - w_t n_{it} - r_t^k k_{it} \\ y_{it}^{Worker} &= w_t \end{aligned}$$

### 3.5 Market Clearing

All markets clear. Let  $\mathcal{F}_t(a, l, z^a, z^e, pr)$  denote the joint distribution of wealth, land ownership, property rights regime, and both agricultural and entrepreneurial productivity at time  $t$  over all households.

### Labor market clearing

$$\int_{e=entrepreneur} n_t d\mathcal{F}_t(a, l, z^a, z^e, pr) = \int \mathbb{I}\{e = worker\} d\mathcal{F}_t(a, l, z^a, z^e, pr)$$

or, labor demand by entrepreneurs should be equal to labor supply of workers to a wage job.

### Land market clearing

$$\int l \mathbb{I}\{land=rent\_out\} d\mathcal{F}_t(a, l, z^a, z^e, pr = private) = \int_{e=farmer} l \mathbb{I}\{land=rent\_in\} d\mathcal{F}_t(a, l, z^a, z^e, pr)$$

Total amount of private land that is rented out should be equal to the amount of land rented in by farmers.

And the amount of communal land that is reallocated should be equal to the amount of land that is expropriated:

$$\int l d\mathcal{F}_t(a, l, z^a, z^e, pr = communal) = \lambda_l L$$

### Capital market clearing

$$\int a_t d\mathcal{F}_t(a, l, z^a, z^e) = \int_{e=entrepreneur,farmer} k_t d\mathcal{F}_t(a, l, z^a, z^e)$$

Total supply of assets should be equal to the capital demand by entrepreneurs and farmers.

## 3.6 Competitive Equilibrium

Given an initial distribution of state variables  $\mathcal{F}_t(a, l, z^a, z^e, pr)$  and a sequence of wages, interest rate of capital and land, and communal land reallocation  $\{w_t, r_t^k, r_t^l, \eta_t\}_{t=0}^\infty$ , a competitive equilibrium is given by a sequence of allocations  $\{c_t(s), a_t(s), k_t(s), n_t(s), l_t^d(s)\}_{t=0}^\infty$  and occupational choices  $\{e_t(s) = \{Worker, Entrepreneur, Farmer\}\}_{t=0}^\infty$  such that (i) households maximize utility by solving value function maximization problem subject to budget constraint, within and across periods borrowing constraints, (ii) the financial intermediary sector makes zero profits,  $r_t^k = r_t + \delta$  and (iii) there is market clearing in the labor market, capital market, and land market.

**Stationary competitive equilibrium** In addition, a stationary competitive equilibrium requires that the joint distribution of state space is a fixed point of the equilibrium mapping

and that prices are constant over time.

$$\mathcal{F}(a, l, z^a, z^e, pr) = \mathcal{F}_t(a, l, z^a, z^e, pr) = \mathcal{F}_{t+1}(a, l, z^a, z^e, pr)$$

and

$$w_t = w, \quad r_t^k = r^k, \quad r_t^l = r^l, \quad \eta_t = \eta$$

I focus on a stationary competitive equilibrium when performing counterfactual exercises.

## 4 Model Results

In this section I present results from a numerical exercises with the model. I start my analysis with model calibration to the economy of Tanzania. Then, I show how household's wealth, land ownership and productivity determine their occupational choices and also land usage decisions under different property rights regimes. This helps to illustrate how land property rights affect different people in different ways.

I use calibrated model to conduct experiments to assess the effect of improvement in land property rights by moving from the economy with positive share of land being under customary tenure system to the economy with only modern private land property rights. I first document the impact of such policy on a number of aggregate variables, like productivity and prices. Then, I decompose the effect of full-fledged land reform on various channel by removing only one land market friction at a time and exploring general equilibrium impact of such experiment. In my third exercise, I use the model to compare the aggregate impact of financial reform relative to land reform by setting the parameter that governs the degree of financial friction to the level of advanced economy. Finally, to analyse the short-run implication of land reform, I look at the transition path of the model economy from the initial steady state to a steady state after land reform took place.

### 4.1 Calibration and Validation

I use Tanzanian data, first, to provide additional insights about land and financial market functioning to validate the model choice and, second, to discipline model parameters. Overall, the model has 15 parameters for which I need to specify values. Some of the parameters are standard in the literature, other recovered from the analysis of the data available for Tanzania. The remaining set of parameters is calibrated to jointly match aggregate moments. In addition to Household Panel Survey, I use the World Bank's Enterprise Survey and World Development Indicators to discipline financial part of the model. All the data are for the period 2012-13.

**Access to finance** The use of bank financing by firms in Tanzania is still limited by international standards. According to the World Bank’s enterprise survey only 18% of firms used banks to finance investment, and around 17% of firms had a loan or a line of credit from a bank. From a list of fifteen items proposed in the same survey, respondents were asked to rank the biggest obstacle faced by the firm for its day-to-day operations. 38% of firms reported access to finance to be the biggest obstacle.

Excessive reliance on internal funds is a sign of potentially inefficient financial intermediation. Such inefficiencies often reflected in high value of collateral needed for a loan relative to a value of the loan. In Tanzania the level of this parameter is almost 250%, which is higher than the average value in Low Income countries and Sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, 96.2 percent of loans do require collateral. Such high collateral value accompanied by low level of assets among households results in a very limited access to finance. According to the model, holders of a private land still can get access to credit even when their other assets are low by using land as collateral. Such model feature is supported by the data on land titling program in Tanzania. Based on incomplete information on the results of one of the largest titling projects, Mkurabita, at least US\$2.2 mln had been loaned to some of the 110,000 villagers who obtained occupancy certificates under Mkurabita. Data from another pilot project also suggests that households used their documented land to obtain credit.

**Productivity** Productive skills of household are exogenous, independent from each other, and evolution process is known to a household. Specifically, logarithm of productive skills for each sector  $s \in \{a, e\}$  follows a first-order autoregressive process

$$z_{s,t} = \rho z_{s,t-1} + \varepsilon_{s,t},$$

where  $|\rho| < 1$  is the persistence in productivity and  $\varepsilon_{s,t}$  is a white noise process with variance  $\sigma_{\varepsilon,s}^2$ , which represents idiosyncratic risk component.

**Technology** Entrepreneurs produce with a relatively standard production function that combines entrepreneurial productive skill  $z^e$ , capital and labor. The production function is increasing in all the arguments, strictly concave in capital and labor, and decreasing return to scale. In particular,

$$f(z^e, k, n)^e = \exp(z^e)(k^{\alpha_e} n^{1-\alpha_e})^{1-\nu}$$

where  $0 < 1 - \nu < 1$  is the span of control as in Lucas (1978). Similarly, agricultural production function is decreasing return to scale and combines agricultural productivity skill  $z^a$ , capital and

land with coefficient  $\alpha_a$  and  $\gamma_a$  obtained from the agricultural production function estimated.<sup>12</sup>

**Communal Land Evolution** I use the most simple functional forms for  $\pi_R$  and  $\pi_E$ .  $\pi_E \in (0, 1)$  if the amount of land used by the household is smaller than land holdings,<sup>13</sup> and zero otherwise.  $\pi_R \in (0, 1)$  if household decides to stay in agriculture in current period and his land holding is smaller than maximum in the economy,<sup>14</sup> and zero otherwise.

**Ex-ante parameters invariant over time and across economies** The model is calibrated to a period of 1 year. I set the risk-aversion parameter  $\sigma = 1.5$  and the aggregate income share of capital for entrepreneur  $\alpha_e$  is set to 0.33 following the standard practice. The one-year depreciation rate  $\delta$  is set to 0.06.

**Ex-ante parameters derived from the data** Following assumption made in agricultural production function estimation, agricultural productivity is following AR(1) process in logs with persistence  $\rho_a$  and normal innovations with variance  $\sigma_a^2$ . Autocorrelation coefficient,  $\rho_a$  is estimated to be 0.533 for the model with non-anticipated shocks. I made similar assumption about productivity process for entrepreneurs, which is independent from agricultural productivity process. To measure autocorrelation coefficient,  $\rho_e = 0.262$ , I use values for net average monthly profit during the months when non-farm enterprise is operating from the Household Panel Survey.

I set the share of communal land to be  $\lambda_l = 80.7$  percent out of total land, which is the share of household's land that does not have any official document that can prove ownership in years 2012-2013. I assume that probability of land expropriation is constant for those households that decide to leave their land uncultivated. The share of land under weak property rights that can not be left fallow without risk of expropriation identifies parameter  $\pi_E = 9\%$ .

**Parameters calibrated by matching moments** I have 6 remaining parameters, which are calibrated to match relevant moments shown in Table 5: the annual real interest rate; the share of hired workers, farmers and entrepreneurs; and the distribution of land across households.

---

<sup>12</sup>Labor input is not explicitly modeled, but rather embedded in  $z^a$  as almost all agricultural labor is coming within the household in the data. Production function is described by

$$f(z^a, k, l)^a = \exp(z^a) k^{\alpha_a} l^{\gamma_a}$$

<sup>13</sup>Ultimately, this means that only households that choose to be workers or entrepreneurs are subject to positive expropriation risk of land as those who are farmers would never decide to use less land than land holdings in equilibrium (production function is increasing in land; communal land can not be rented out).

<sup>14</sup>The latter assumption is made for computational reasons.

The key parameter, that captures financial friction,  $\lambda_k = 1.416$  is calibrated to match the average value of collateral needed for a loan as a percent of the loan amount, which is equal to 240.2% in Tanzania. Based on the data from Enterprise Survey, 96.2% of loans do require collateral, which is consistent with the model that assumes that every loan requires a collateral.

Table 5: Calibration

Target Moment	Data	Model	Parameter	Description
Real interest rate (%)	3.8%	3.75%	$\beta = 0.813$	Discount factor
Share of hired workers (% of empl.)	20.5%	20.5%	$\nu = 0.535$	Span of control
Share of farmers (% of empl.)	61.0%	61.1%	$\sigma_a = 0.09$	S.d. of prod. shock (agriculture)
Share of entrepreneurs (% of empl.)	18.5%	18.4%	$\sigma_e = 0.75$	S.d. of prod. shock (entrepreneurship)
Land distribution	Figure A5		$\pi_R = 0.13$	Probability of reallocation
Collateral/loan value	240.2%	240.4%	$\lambda_k = 1.416$	Tightness of collateral constraint

**Untargeted Moments** Given that distributional consequences of land reform are used as an argument against it, I also look whether the model match well non-targeted measure of consumption inequality. Although, consumption inequality in the model is slightly lower compared to the data, overall pattern is similar (Figure A6). In addition, model matches well level of land utilization, which is 88% in the data and in the model it is 92%.

## 4.2 Discussion on the Mechanics of the Model

Using baseline calibrated model, I compare household choices for the part of the economy that operates under customary land property rights with the part that operates under modern property rights regime. Specifically, I describe how customary land tenure affects economy through two channels: land misallocation and distortions in occupational choice. There are three main differences between two property rights regimes: (i) customary land is subject to expropriation risk in case it is not used by household, (ii) customary land can not be rent out, and (iii) customary land is not allowed to be used as collateral to finance capital.

**Land property rights and land misallocation** Efficient allocation requires that amount of land that is used by the farmer is proportional to his productivity. However, presence of land and financial markets frictions leads to misallocation of inputs of production. First, presence of financial frictions results in inefficient land usage for farmers both under modern and customary land tenure for those farmers that are financially constraint as they are not able to obtain efficient amount of capital and, hence, use efficient amount of land.

Second, presence of land market frictions leads to either "over-usage" or "under-usage" of land by farmers subject to these frictions. Figure 2 documents the ratio of farmer's operational

land in part of the economy without land frictions and part of the economy with frictions given different households characteristics. "Under-usage" of land is driven by inability to use land as collateral to finance optimal amount of capital, which leads to lower amount of both capital and land used by the farmer. Such effect is the most pronounced for households with high agricultural productivity, low level of assets and the amount of land holding that is positive but smaller than the efficient amount of land. More formally,

**Proposition 1.** *Denote optimal choices of land used by farmers who owns land under communal and private property right regimes as  $l_c^*$  and  $l_p^*$ , respectively. Then, if optimal land usage is larger than household land holding,  $l_p^* > l_p$ , and farmers' initial conditions in private and communal part of the economy are the same (i.e. same amount of land, skills and assets):*

$$l_c^* \leq l_p^*,$$

and for assets holdings  $a_{small} < a_{large}$ , given everything else the same, the following true

$$l_p^*(a_{small}) - l_c^*(a_{small}) \geq l_p^*(a_{large}) - l_c^*(a_{large}),$$

and for the levels of agricultural productivity  $z_{small} < z_{large}$ , given everything else the same

$$l_p^*(z_{small}) - l_c^*(z_{small}) \leq l_p^*(z_{large}) - l_c^*(z_{large}),$$

and for the levels of land holdings  $l_{small} < l_{large}$ , given everything else the same, we get

$$l_p^*(l_{small}) - l_c^*(l_{small}) \leq l_p^*(l_{large}) - l_c^*(l_{large}).$$

*Proof* See Appendix D.

While "under-usage" is mostly driven by inability to use land as collateral, "over-usage" is a result of inability to rent out land under customary tenure. Given that households that operate customary land do not receive any income if they decide not to use the land and agricultural production function is increasing in land, they always prefer to operate the entire land holding. The effect will be the most pronounced for households with low agricultural productivity and those with large land holdings.

**Proposition 2.** *Denote optimal choices of land used by farmers who owns land under communal and private property right regimes as  $l_c^*$  and  $l_p^*$ , respectively. Then, if optimal land usage is lower than household land holding,  $l_p^* < l_p$ , and farmers' initial conditions in private and*

communal part of the economy are the same (i.e. same amount of land, skills and assets):

$$l_c^* \geq l_p^*$$

and for the levels of agricultural productivity  $z_{small} < z_{large}$ , given everything else the same

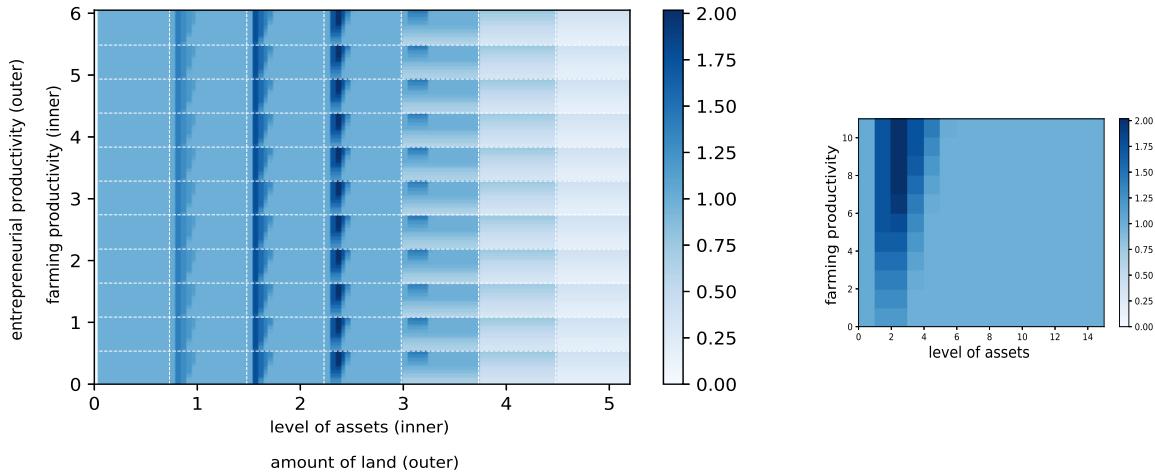
$$l_c^*(z_{small}) - l_p^*(z_{small}) \geq l_c^*(z_{large}) - l_p^*(z_{large})$$

and for the levels of land holdings  $l_{small} < l_{large}$ , given everything else the same, we get

$$l_c^*(l_{small}) - l_p^*(l_{small}) \leq l_c^*(l_{large}) - l_p^*(l_{large})$$

*Proof* See Appendix D.

Figure 2: Land Misallocation: Ratio of Land Usage in Private Part to Communal



Notes: the right panel is a zoomed in inner cell on the left (cells are separated by white dashed lines).

**Land property rights and occupational choice** Figure 3 documents occupational choices in parts of the economy under different land property rights regimes. In frictionless world households will choose their occupation based on the level of productivity in each sector. Similarly to land misallocation, presence of financial frictions distorts occupational choices for those households that are financially constrained irrespective of their land property rights regime. When capital financing is limited by the level of assets, those with high agricultural productivity might choose to become workers and those with high entrepreneurial productivity might either stay in farming, which is less capital intensive, or become workers.

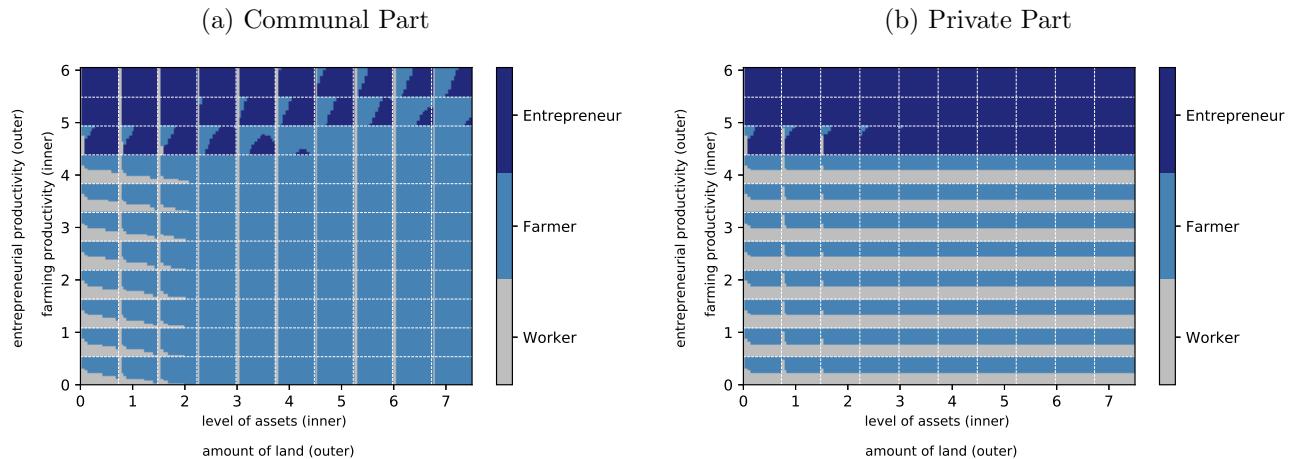
Land market imperfections would also lead to distortions in occupational choice in favor of farming, mainly through collateral and exportation risk channels. Presence of expropriation

risk prevents households to move from farming to other sectors of the economy. Threshold of agricultural productivity when household decides to move from farming to another occupation is much lower for those living under customary tenure relative to private tenure for all levels of assets and land. Risk of loosening land in the next period, as well as probability of receiving lump-sum land transfer, incentivize households with relatively low agricultural productivity to remain in farming. Moreover, agricultural productivity threshold goes down as the size of owned land is increasing and, hence, potential land loss in case of expropriation. In the modern part of the economy, agricultural productivity threshold is independent of the size of land owned by the household when their financial constraint does not bind.

Moving from worker or farmer to entrepreneur is limited by the collateral channel. Households with low level of assets, but sizable land holdings can finance their capital using land as collateral if their land is under modern tenure system. This allows them to start their own business and switch to entrepreneurship. This option is not available for households whose land is under customary system, so they are forced to stay in agriculture or become a worker.

Finally, inability to rent out your land leads to lower non-occupational income compared to modern property rights regime, making non-agricultural occupations less attractive.

Figure 3: Occupational Choices



### 4.3 Counterfactual Experiments

I now present a quantitative exploration of the aggregate and distributional impact of improvements in land property rights by moving from the economy with different tenure regimes, customary and modern, to the economy with hundred percent private land. In the model customary land differs from private land in three different ways: (i) it can not be rented out, (ii) it can not be used as collateral, and (iii) it is subject to expropriation risk. To better understand

the impact of each channel on the economy, I conduct a set of experiments, where I remove only one type of friction at a time and explore general equilibrium effects of such experiments. Third, I compare the effects of land reform and financial reform in the environment with limited policy space. Finally, I look at the transition path of the model economy from the initial steady state to a steady state after land reform took place.

**General equilibrium impact of Land Reform** Figure 4 presents the long-run general equilibrium effect of land reform that transforms all communal land to private land. Four panels compare economic outcomes of the baseline calibrated economy with the 80 percent of communal land and the economy after land reform. In sum, in general equilibrium, the impact of land reform is positive for both agricultural and non-agricultural output, as well as welfare, measured by real consumption. Moreover, it leads to smaller share of labor remaining in agriculture and larger share of entrepreneurs.

The left top panel documents changes in prices. Increase in real interest rate is due to increased demand for capital as budget constraint is relaxed for land owners that were under customary tenure before the reform. At the same time, ability to rent out land results in higher land utilization and drop in rental rate of land. Finally, increase in wage is driven by increased demand for labor from entrepreneurs due to higher amount of capital used and due to higher levels of entrepreneurship. At the same time, as well both farming and entrepreneurship become more attractive putting pressure on supply of workers and, hence, pressure on wages.

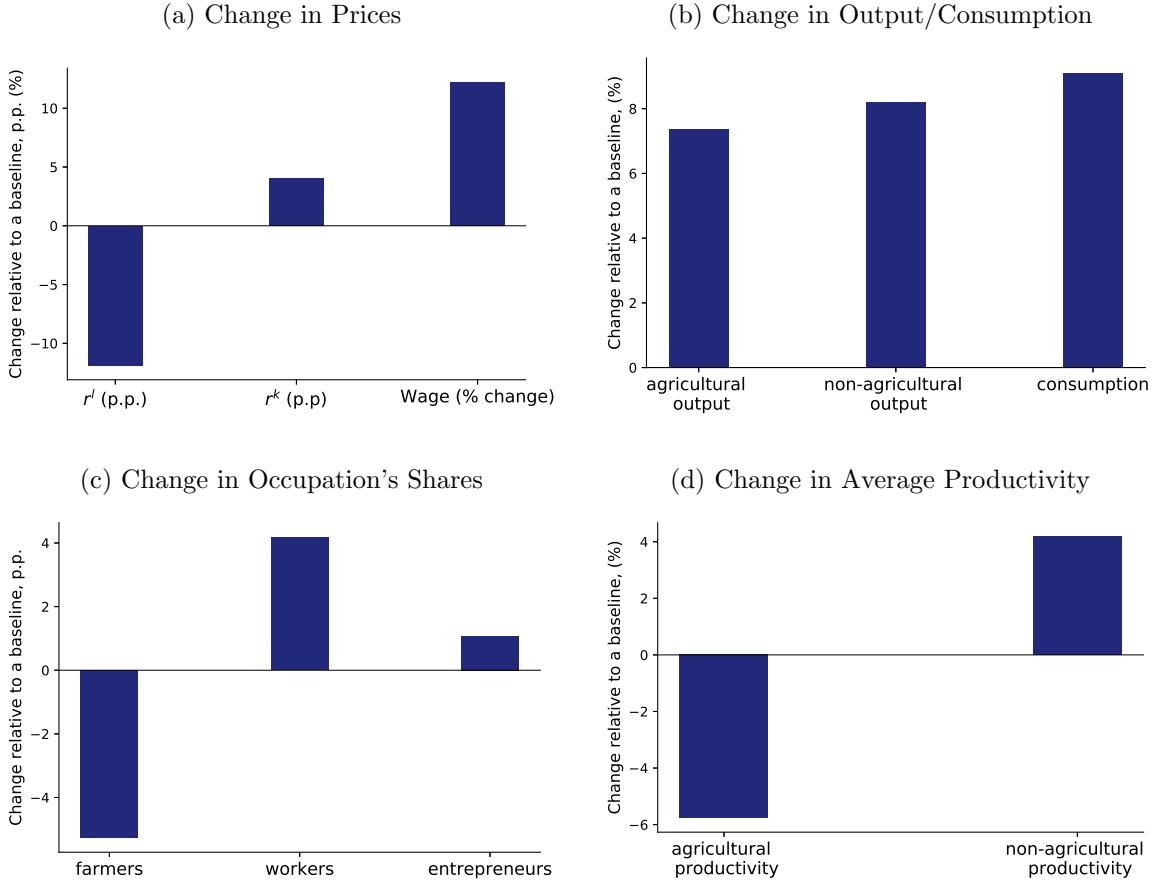
The left bottom panel presents the impact of land reform on labor shares for each occupation. Despite lower input price of land and, hence, attractiveness of agriculture, the share of farmers in the economy decreases by 8.6%. Substantial increase in wage and absence of expropriation risk lead to increase in the share of workers, while more relaxed budget constraint increases entrepreneurship by 5.8%.

Output, both agricultural and non-agricultural, increases, as well as consumption. Increase in agricultural output by 7.4% is driven by higher land utilization and more efficient land allocation across farmers. Although average agricultural skill of a farmer decreases, aggregate agricultural productivity measured by output per farmer increases by 17.5%.<sup>15</sup> Non-agricultural output increases by 8.2% due to both higher levels of inputs, labor and capital, and level of average entrepreneurial skill. Moreover, consumption increase is larger than increase in total output due to lower level of households' savings as a result of higher level of financial inclusion driven by ability to use land as collateral.

---

<sup>15</sup> Average agricultural skill of farmers decreases as households with both high agricultural and non-agricultural skills living in communal part of the economy, move from farming to entrepreneurship (and average entrepreneurial skill increases).

Figure 4: The Effects of Land Reform



Notes: Plot (d) depicts change in average productivity of employed farmers and entrepreneurs

**Decomposition of Land Reform** Given that there are three main differences between customary and modern land tenure regimes, I explore the effects of each channel separately. I perform decomposition analysis of different channels of land reform, by looking at general equilibrium impact of removing only one friction at a time. Such decomposition is extremely important in the context of low income countries as reform implementation often face numerous challenges due to presence of imperfections on other markets.<sup>16</sup> Three channels that are studied: (i) expropriation risk, (ii) inability to use land as collateral, and (iii) inability to rent out land.

Figure 5 presents general equilibrium effect of each channel of land reform on economic outcomes. Lower expropriation risk pushes household from agriculture to other occupations, which leads to higher capital rate and lower wages. Increase in demand for workers, driven by households joining entrepreneurship, is smaller than increase in supply of labor driven by higher

<sup>16</sup>For example, collateral channel might not work because banks would not be willing to accept land as collateral due to limited land market. I address some of these issues in the section 5.

attractiveness to be a worker. Decrease in the amount of farmers and lower average agricultural skill of farmers lead to decrease in agricultural output. Increase in average entrepreneurial productivity, and decrease in agricultural productivity, are driven by marginal entrepreneurs which has both relatively high agricultural and entrepreneurial productivity, but remain in farming due to expropriation risk.

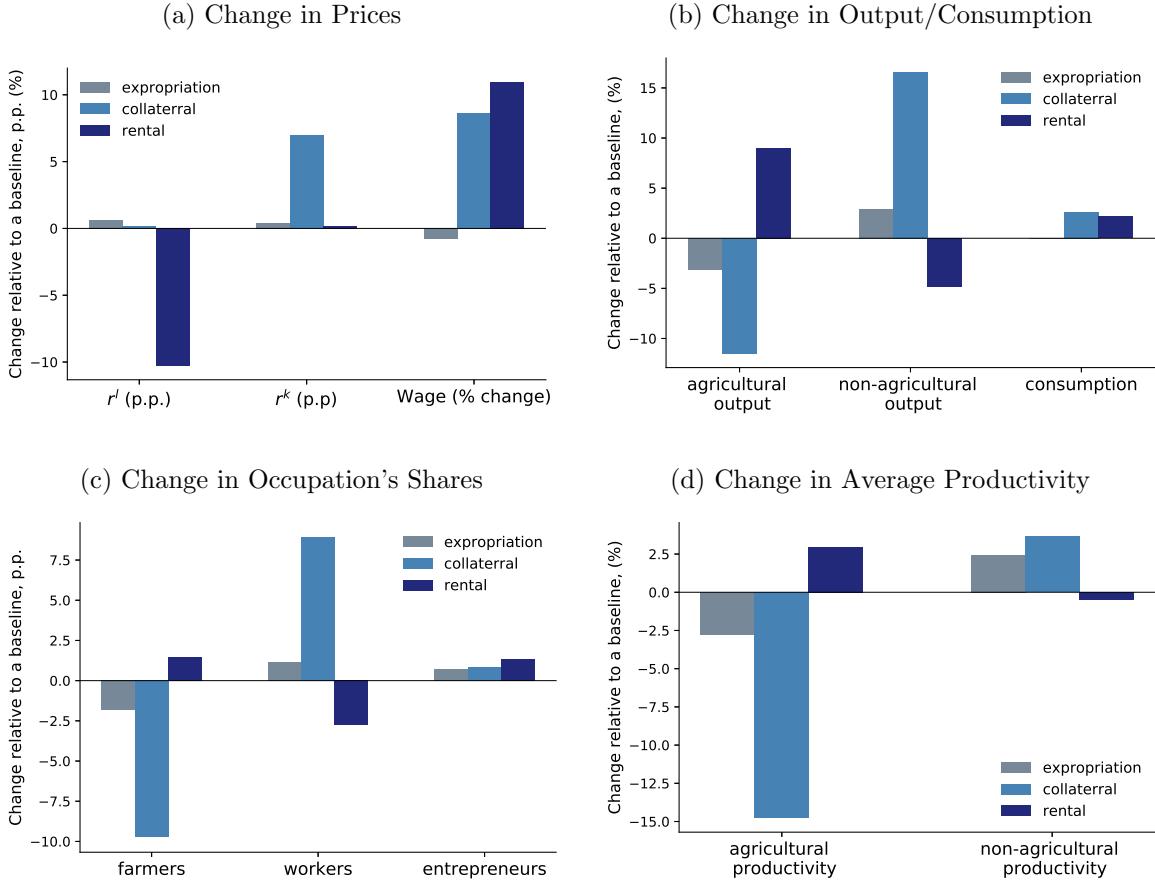
Ability to use land as collateral creates demand for capital from farmers and entrepreneurs. As a result, rental rate of capital increases, which pushes away some people from agriculture and business. Therefore, the supply of workers increases, but by smaller amount than the demand for workers driven by larger capital inputs of entrepreneurs. To clear labor market, wage increases. The effects on output and average productive skills are similar to expropriation channel, but larger in magnitude as collateral channel has bigger effect on capital and labor inputs.

Allowing households under customary tenure to rent out land leads to increase in land supply and land utilization. As a result of larger supply, rental rate of land drops, which attracts more households to agriculture. Higher land utilization also creates demand for capital, and rental rate of capital slightly increases. To prevent outflow of workers, wage increases. Average productive skill of farmers increases as land being reallocated from less productive to more productive households. Higher inputs and average productivity results in increase of agricultural output.

**Distributional impact** While land reform leads to higher level of consumption and welfare, these gains are not evenly distributed. Figure 6 shows the distribution of welfare gains and losses across households that were under customary and private land property rights before the reform. The gains are measured in equivalent consumption units. The figure shows that majority of households that under communal tenure system gains from land reform. There is empirical evidence, that large fraction of households do realize economic gains of titled land. According to the last wave of Household Survey, majority of households that do not have any land certificate said that they would like to obtain one and are willing to pay for it (90.3% and 75.1%, respectively).

In the communal part of the economy, the gains are the largest for those with large land holdings as now they are able to use land as collateral, receive rental income from unused land and move to the occupation, where they are the most productive. Moreover, those gains are increasing in the level of entrepreneurial productivity and decreasing in the level of assets. Those with low level of assets gain relatively more as they face a tighter financial constraint than high assets households. Those with relatively large land holdings and high entrepreneurial productivity gain more than low productivity entrepreneurs, as now they switch from farming

Figure 5: Decomposition of Land Reform

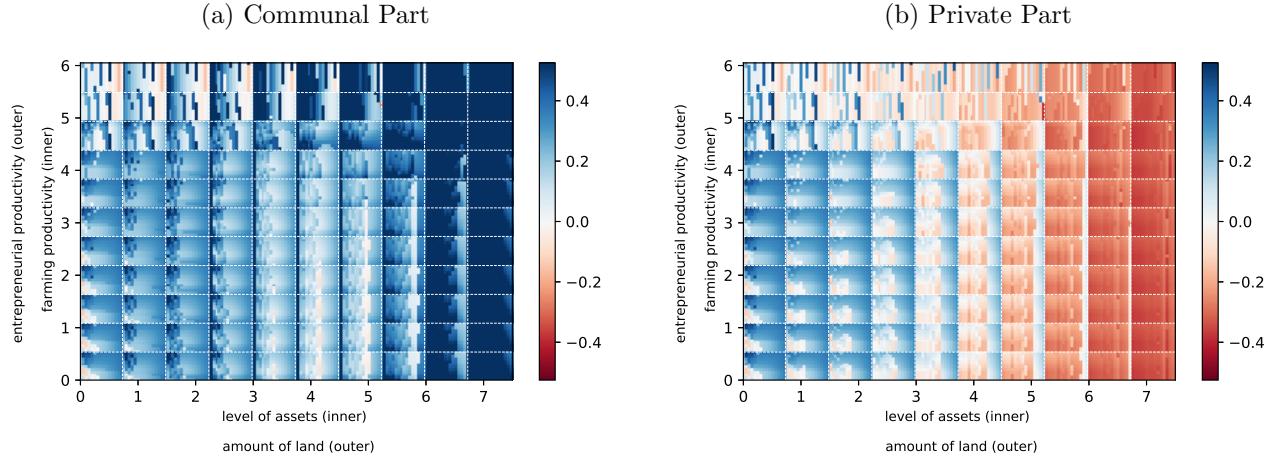


to entrepreneurship, occupation with the highest income, due to absence of expropriation risk.

Exactly the opposite situation is for initially private part of the economy – those with large land holdings experience welfare losses due to drop in rental rate of land. In the initially private part of the economy the most gains are observed for households with relatively low level of their own land who stay in farming and need to rent in some land due to decrease in rental rate for land. The gain is higher for those with higher agricultural productivity.

In sum, I find substantial welfare gains, especially for those in communal part of the economy with low level of assets. In addition, those with high level of assets benefit from higher rental rate of capital, while those with large holdings of private land experience losses. Moreover, consumption increases for many household due to higher levels of financial inclusion, and, hence, lower level of savings. Given that welfare gains are the largest among households initially belonging to communal part of the economy, and consumption changes are positive for the poorest households in terms of assets and land holdings, overall consumption inequality slightly decreases, with Gini index declining from 30.9 to 29.6 for consumption.

Figure 6: Changes in Welfare Distribution



**Land Reform vs Financial Reform** One of the channels through which land reform affects economy is by allowing using private land as collateral. As a result, land reform also facilitates financial inclusion among poor households who own some land. Given interaction between land property rights and financial sector, I perform a comparison of land reform impact on the economy with the impact of financial reform. Performing such comparison is important in the context of low income countries, as policy space in developing world is often limited, and implementation of multiple reforms is not feasible. To compute the effect of financial reform I relax financial constraint in the way, so that the loan to collateral value is equal to the level of advanced economy – Sweden (83.9%)<sup>17</sup>.

Figure A7 compares general equilibrium effect of land reform with financial reform. Given that it is not possible to perform two numerically equivalent reforms in different sectors, I can not compare magnitudes of changes in economic outcomes. But it is still worth exploring the direction of changes. In terms of prices, financial reform has very minor effect on rental rate of land as land supply does not change. The small drop in  $r^l$  is driven by lower demand for land as some households move from agriculture to other sectors. Both consumption and non-agricultural output increase in case of both reforms as households move from farming towards entrepreneurship and use more capital due to more relaxed financial constraint. However, financial reform leads to lower agricultural output as lower share of households remains in agriculture and average productivity in this sector decreases.

To sum up, qualitative impact of financial reform on economic outcomes is the same as the impact of collateral channel of land reform, but differs from land reform as a whole. Moreover,

---

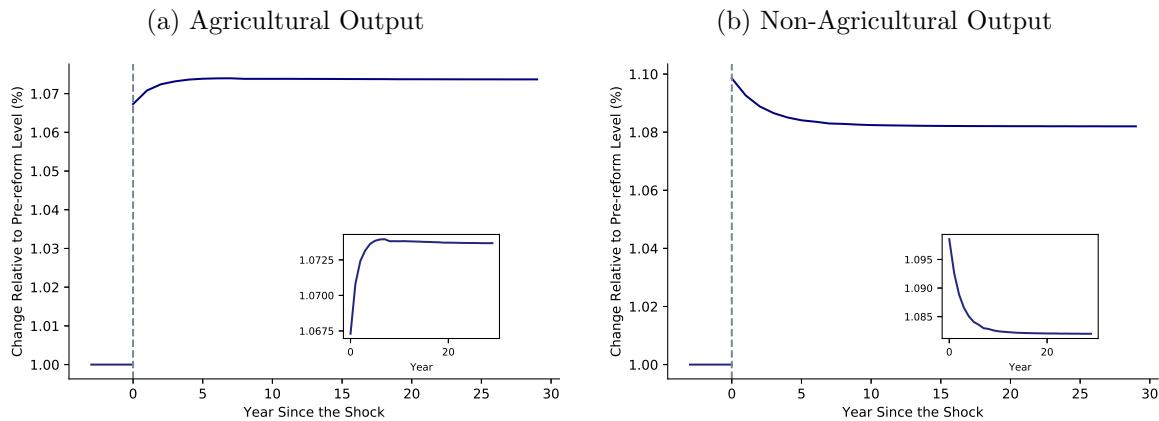
<sup>17</sup>I use Sweden to be consistent with the parameter I use for  $\lambda_k$  in the baseline model, given that Sweden is the only advanced country that is present in the World Bank's enterprise survey

distributional impacts are quite different (Figure A8). In case of financial reform, those who are marginal entrepreneurs and existing entrepreneurs with positive assets that are financially constraint do benefit the most, while those operating communal land do not benefit significantly more than those operating private land as we observe in case of land reform.

**Postreform Transition Dynamics** In this exercise, I study the transitional dynamics triggered by a sudden unexpected land reform that removes all land market frictions. I assume that financial friction remains the same throughout the transition period. The dynamics following the reform are wholly endogenous and provide a theory of transitional dynamics built on resource allocation. However, this exercise simplifies actual reform episodes experienced by other countries, which tended to be more gradual.

Figure 7 shows evolution of agricultural and non-agricultural output along the transition to the new postreform steady state. The economy moves into the neighborhood of the new steady state in 20-25 years, however, majority of changes happens in the first ten years after the reform. We observe substantial initial increase in both agricultural and non-agricultural output due to higher land utilization and relaxation of financial constraint which leads to more capital used in the production. While agricultural output continue to increase in the following years, non-agricultural output experience some decline compared to initial jump. Such dynamics is explained by removal of land market frictions, that move labor from agriculture to other occupations, accompanied by slow increase in prices of production for non-agricultural sector, wage and capital interest rate (Figure A9).

Figure 7: Postreform Transition Dynamics for Output



*Notes:* The output series are normalized by their respective prereform values.

## 5 Discussion and Model Extension WIP

In this section, I extend my model to allow for i) different agricultural production functions under different land property rights regime, ii) rentals of untitled land, which are subject to expropriation risk, iii) additional financial market imperfections, arising due to high cost of seizing small parcels of land in case of default. Recall that in the baseline experiment land reform that transforms all communal land into private, leads to increase in agricultural and non-agricultural output by 7.4% and 8.2%, respectively. Together with the decrease in share of farmers in the economy by 8.6%, agricultural productivity increases by 17.5%. In this section I re-consider baseline experiment with these model extensions. *I find that the benefits of land reform under these extensions are similar to those of the baseline experiment.* I also discuss the relevance of other extension and mechanisms.

### 5.1 Property Right and Level of Mechanization

Agricultural activity in many developing countries is labor intensive and is characterized by extremely low level of mechanization compared to advanced economies. As it is evidenced by Tanzanian data, households with land under stronger land property rights also are more likely to obtain a credit for agricultural purposes, and conditional on having the loan, the size is larger. Hence, households under more secure land tenure system might also have higher level of mechanization through higher access to credit and, as a result, larger amount of capital used in agriculture. To account for this in the model, I introduce different production functions for those operating under different property right regime,

$$\alpha_{private}^a > \alpha_{communal}^a$$

To calibrate the model with different agricultural production functions, I estimate separately production function for farmers in Tanzania operating under different property rights regime (*Include regression results*).

In the model, as a result of such change, collateral channel would play a more important role when land reform takes places, as land reform would also lead to higher demand for capital from farmers. *Model is still in progress.*

### 5.2 Property Size and Access to Credit

In their recent work, Agyei-Holmes et al. (2020) find that land registration does not translate into increased credit taking. At the same time, despite an evidence that many households in Tanzania have used land with Certificate Rights of Occupancy as collateral (URT (2016)),

there is evidence that banks often impose additional conditions to the loans. Sanga (2009) conducted face-to-face interviews in 9 villages in Mbozi district in Tanzania, and the study reveals that farmers apply for loans using land as collateral and banks are willing to provide them. However, additional conditions often apply, and the main reason for rejection is the low value of land. To account for this in the model, I change collateral constraint such that the land even in private part of the economy can be used as collateral only if it is large enough:

$$k_t \leq \lambda_k a_t + (\lambda_k - 1) q_t^l l_{t, \{land=private\} \{l \geq l\}}$$

As a result, of this model extension, collateral channel would play less important role, and impact on financial inclusion would be less pronounced, especially, for the poorest with small land holdings. *Model is still in progress.*

### 5.3 Rental Market and Expropriation Risk

In this extension, I am allowing communal land to be rented out to account for the fact that household may participate in informal arrangements to facilitate communal land reallocation. However, in practice, such informal rental arrangements may lead to land expropriation. I extend my model to incorporate informal rentals, providing households an opportunity to rent out their communal land under expropriation risk. For computational simplicity, farmer can choose between not renting at all (optimal with no rental ability) and rent out the optimal amount under no expropriation risk. Moreover, I assume that only the part of land that is rented out is subject to expropriation risk.<sup>18</sup> *Model is still in progress.*

### 5.4 Other consideration

**Free movement of labor** One of the big assumption is free movement in labor across space. Definitely, not true. Probably, leads to more optimistic view on the efficiency improvement. Adding spatial component into model.

**Investment** Quite robust empirical findings that better land property rights lead to higher investment. Can be thought as increase in agricultural productivity. Higher increase in agricultural output.

---

<sup>18</sup>Workers and entrepreneurs always choose to rent out their land, as the entire land holding is subject to expropriation risk unconditionally of rental decision. Farmer might choose not to rent out in case of probability of loosening part of the land next period outweighs additional rental income this period.

**Subsistence Consumption** Adding some non-homotheticity to account for presence of subsistence consumption. Would complicate model quite a lot adding new price, i.e. agricultural vs non-agricultural good. Might not be so important, if we think about small open economy, so prices are given.

## 6 Concluding Remarks

The prevalence of communal land tenure system in low-income countries is a first-order importance for macroeconomic development of these countries. Such system leads to both misallocation of factors of production and to distortions in household's occupational choices. Moreover, since communal land could not be used as collateral, such tenure system amplifies financial market frictions, that are widespread in developing countries. In this paper I study what effect do land property rights have on productivity and allocation of resources, and the role of both financial and land market imperfections on economic development of low-income countries.

I use detailed panel household data from Tanzania to estimate agricultural production function and show that presence of insecure land property rights is associated with resource misallocation and market incompleteness. To assess the aggregate and distributional impacts of economy-wide land reform which eliminates customary tenure system, I develop general equilibrium model that features both land and financial markets frictions. I find that land reform has a positive effects on agricultural and non-agricultural output. Moreover, land reform increases the level of financial inclusion, especially among the poorest households with limited assets but positive land holdings. While this collateral channel of land reform has similar qualitative impact to financial reform, distributional effects are quite different.

To sum up, this paper points to the large potential gains from land reform. Not only stronger land property rights lead to higher welfare and more efficient allocation of resources, but also help to create more financially inclusive society. Such broad positive effect of land reform should be taken into account, especially in the country where policy space and resources are limited.

## References

- ACKERBERG, D., K. CAVES, AND G. FRAZER (2015): “Identification Properties of Recent Production Function Estimators,” *Econometrica*, 83, 2411–2451.
- ADAMOPOULOS, T., L. BRANDT, J. LEIGHT, AND D. RESTUCCIA (2017): “Misallocation, Selection and Productivity: A Quantitative Analysis with Panel Data from China,” Working papers, University of Toronto, Department of Economics.
- ADAMOPOULOS, T. AND D. RESTUCCIA (2014): “The Size Distribution of Farms and International Productivity Differences,” *American Economic Review*, 104, 1667–97.
- (2020): “Land Reform and Productivity: A Quantitative Analysis with Micro Data,” *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 12, 1–39.
- AGYEI-HOLMES, A., N. BUEHREN, M. P. GOLDSTEIN, R. D. OSEI, I. OSEI-AKOTO, AND C. UDRY (2020): “The Effects of Land Title Registration on Tenure Security, Investment and the Allocation of Productive Resources: Evidence from Ghana,” Policy Research Working Paper Series 9376, The World Bank.
- ASKER, J., A. COLLARD-WEXLER, AND J. DE LOECKER (2011): “Productivity volatility and the misallocation of resources in developing economies,” CEPR Discussion Papers 8469, C.E.P.R. Discussion Papers.
- BANERJEE, A. AND B. MOLL (2010): “Why Does Misallocation Persist?” *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 2, 189–206.
- BANERJEE, A. V. AND E. DUFLO (2005): “Growth Theory through the Lens of Development Economics,” in *Handbook of Economic Growth*, ed. by P. Aghion and S. Durlauf, Elsevier, vol. 1, Part A, chap. 07, 473–552, 1 ed.
- BAQAEE, D. AND E. FARHI (2020): “Productivity and Misallocation in General Equilibrium\*,” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 135, 105–163.
- BARTELSMAN, E., J. HALTIWANGER, AND S. SCARPETTA (2013): “Cross-Country Differences in Productivity: The Role of Allocation and Selection,” *American Economic Review*, 103, 305–34.
- BEG, S. (2021): “Digitization and Development: Formalizing Property Rights and its Impact on Land and Labor Allocation,” Mpra paper, University Library of Munich, Germany.

- BESLEY, T. AND M. GHATAK (2010): “Property Rights and Economic Development,” Elsevier, vol. 5, chap. Chapter 68, 4525–4595.
- BICK, A., F.-S. NICOLA, AND D. LAGAKOS (2016): “How do Average Hours Worked Vary with Development? Cross-Country Evidence and Implications,” CEPR Discussion Papers 11092, C.E.P.R. Discussion Papers.
- BROMLEY, D. (2010): “The Emergence of Land Markets in Africa: Impacts on Poverty, Equity, and Efficiency, edited by Stein T. Holden, Keijiro Otsuka, and Frank M. Place,” *Journal of Regional Science*, 50, 1006–1008.
- BUERA, F., J. KABOSKI, AND Y. SHIN (2014): “Macro-perspective on Asset Grants Programs: Occupational and Wealth Mobility,” *American Economic Review*, 104, 159–64.
- BUERA, F., J. KABOSKI, AND R. TOWNSEND (2021): “From Micro to Macro Development,” NBER Working Papers 28423, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc.
- BUERA, F. J., J. KABOSKI, AND Y. SHIN (2015): “Entrepreneurship and Financial Frictions: A Macrodevelopment Perspective,” *Annual Review of Economics*, 7, 409–436.
- CHARI, A., E. LIU, S.-Y. WANG, AND Y. WANG (2017): “Property Rights, Land Misallocation and Agricultural Efficiency in China,” NBER Working Papers 24099, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc.
- CHEN, C. (2017): “Untitled Land, Occupational Choice, and Agricultural Productivity,” *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 9, 91–121.
- DE BRAUW, A. AND V. MUELLER (2012): “Do Limitations in Land Rights Transferability Influence Mobility Rates in Ethiopia?” *Journal of African Economies*, 21, 548–579.
- DE JANVRY, A., K. EMERICK, M. GONZALEZ-NAVARRO, AND E. SADOULET (2015): “Delinking Land Rights from Land Use: Certification and Migration in Mexico,” *American Economic Review*, 105, 3125–49.
- DE LOECKER, J. (2011): “Product Differentiation, Multiproduct Firms, and Estimating the Impact of Trade Liberalization on Productivity,” *Econometrica*, 79, 1407–1451.
- DE SOTO (2000): “The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else. By Hernando de Soto. New York: Basic Books, 2000. Pp. 276. 27.50, cloth; 14.00, paper,” *The Journal of Economic History*, 61, 1166–1168.

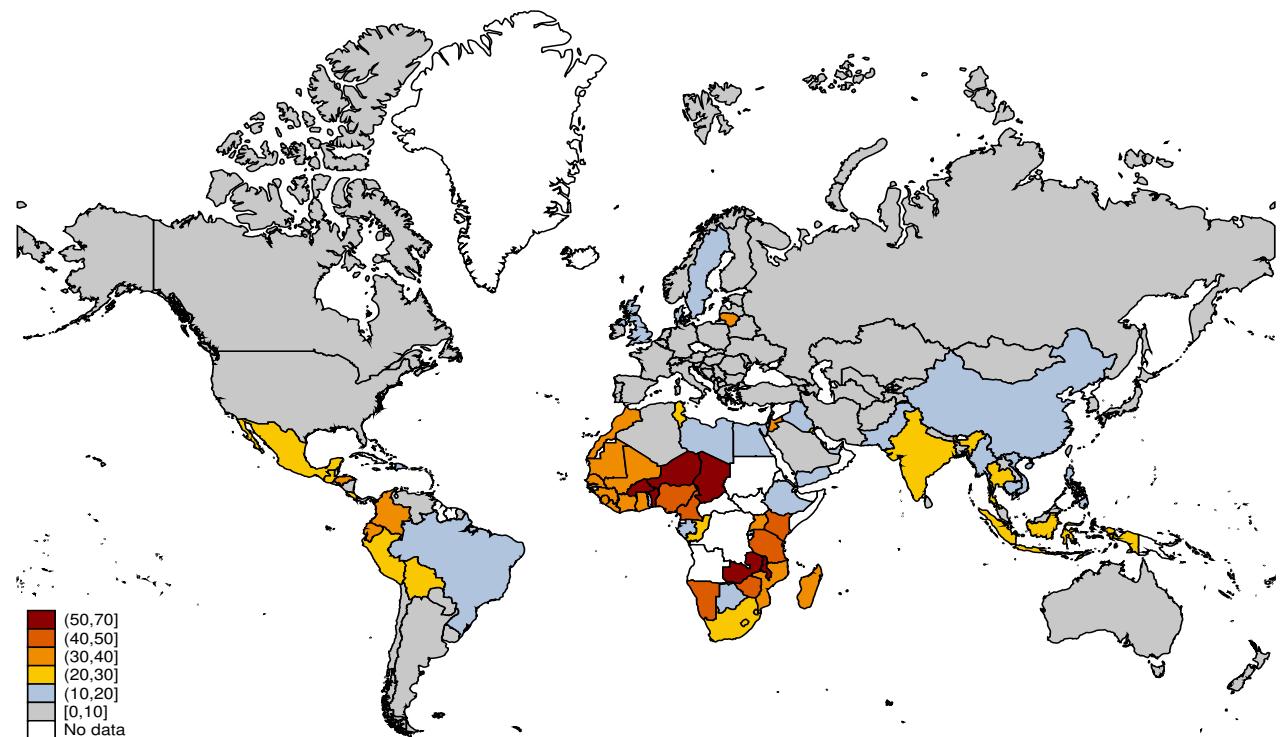
- DEININGER, K. AND J. S. CHAMORRO (2004): “Investment and equity effects of land regularisation: the case of Nicaragua,” *Agricultural Economics*, 30, 101–116.
- DO, Q.-T. AND L. IYER (2008): “Land Titling and Rural Transition in Vietnam,” *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 56, 531–579.
- FIELD, E. (2007): “Entitled to Work: Urban Property Rights and Labor Supply in Peru,” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122, 1561–1602.
- GALIANI, S. AND E. SCHARGRODSKY (2010): “Property rights for the poor: Effects of land titling,” *Journal of Public Economics*, 94, 700–729.
- GOLLIN, D., D. LAGAKOS, AND M. WAUGH (2014): “Agricultural Productivity Differences across Countries,” *American Economic Review*, 104, 165–70.
- GOTTLIEB, C. AND J. GROBOVSEK (2019): “Communal land and agricultural productivity,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 138, 135–152.
- GUNER, N., G. VENTURA, AND Y. XU (2008): “Macroeconomic Implications of Size-Dependent Policies,” *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 11, 721–744.
- HSIEH, C.-T. AND P. KLENOW (2009): “Misallocation and Manufacturing TFP in China and India,” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 124, 1403–1448.
- JACOBY, H., G. LI, AND S. ROZELLE (2002): “Hazards of Expropriation: Tenure Insecurity and Investment in Rural China,” *American Economic Review*, 92, 1420–1447.
- JERMANN, U. AND V. QUADRINI (2012): “Macroeconomic Effects of Financial Shocks,” *American Economic Review*, 102, 238–71.
- KALEMLI-OZCAN, S. AND B. SORENSEN (2012): “Misallocation, Property Rights, and Access to Finance: Evidence from Within and Across Africa,” NBER Working Papers 18030, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc.
- KING, R. AND R. LEVINE (1993): “Finance, entrepreneurship and growth: Theory and evidence,” *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 32, 513–542.
- LEVINSOHN, J. AND A. PETRIN (2000): “Estimating Production Functions Using Inputs to Control for Unobservables,” NBER Working Papers 7819, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc.
- MACOURS, K., A. DE JANVRY, AND E. SADOULET (2010): “Insecurity of property rights and social matching in the tenancy market,” *European Economic Review*, 54, 880–899.

- MENDOZA, E. (2010): “Sudden Stops, Financial Crises, and Leverage,” *American Economic Review*, 100, 1941–66.
- OBERFIELD, E. (2013): “Productivity and Misallocation During a Crisis: Evidence from the Chilean Crisis of 1982,” *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 16, 100–119.
- OLLEY, G. S. AND A. PAKES (1996): “The Dynamics of Productivity in the Telecommunications Equipment Industry,” *Econometrica*, 64, 1263–97.
- PANDE, R. AND C. UDRY (2005): “Institutions and Development:A View from Below,” Working papers, Economic Growth Center, Yale University.
- PIZA, C. AND M. J. S. B. DE MOURA (2016): “The effect of a land titling programme on households’ access to credit,” *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 8, 129–155.
- RESTUCCIA, D. AND R. ROGERSON (2008): “Policy Distortions and Aggregate Productivity with Heterogeneous Plants,” *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 11, 707–720.
- (2013): “Misallocation and productivity,” *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 16, 1–10.
- (2017): “The Causes and Costs of Misallocation,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 31, 151–74.
- RESTUCCIA, D. AND R. SANTAEULALIA-LLOPIS (2017): “Land Misallocation and Productivity,” NBER Working Papers 23128, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc.
- SANGA, R. T. (2009): “Assessing the Impact of Customary Land Rights Registration on Credit Access by Farmers in Tanzania: a Case Study in Mbozi District,” mimeo, International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation, Enschede, the Netherlands.
- SANTAEULÀLIA-LLOPIS, R. AND Y. ZHENG (2016): “The Price of Growth: Consumption Insurance in China 1989-2009,” Economics Working Papers ECO2016/13, European University Institute.
- SJAASTAD, E. AND D. BROMLEY (1997): “Indigenous land rights in sub-Saharan Africa: Appropriation, security and investment demand,” *World Development*, 25, 549–562.
- URT (2016): “Draft National Land Policy 2016,” *United Republic of Tanzania, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Dar es Salaam*.
- ZEGARRA, E., J. ESCOBAL, AND U. ALDANA (2011): “Titling, Credit Constraints and Rental Markets in Rural Peru: Exploring Channels and Conditioned Impacts,” IDB Publications (Working Papers) 3707, Inter-American Development Bank.

# Online Appendix

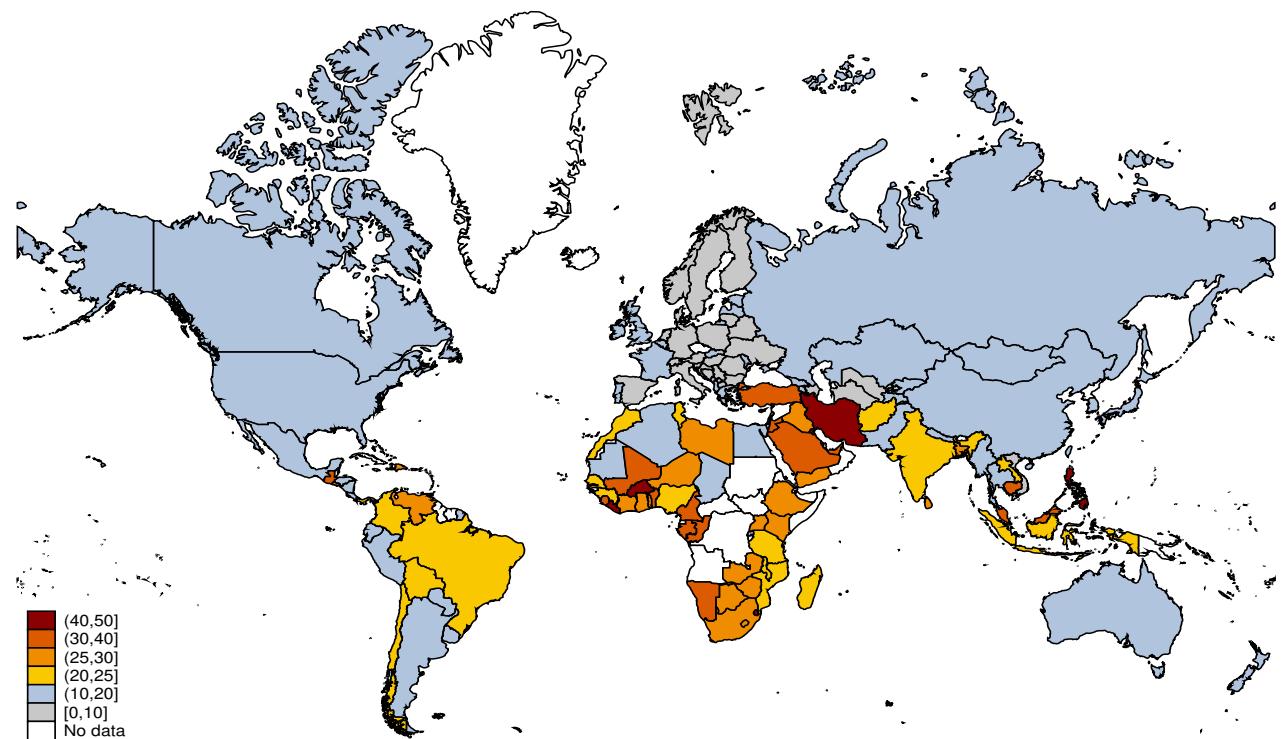
## A Additional Tables and Figures

Figure A1: Share of Land with No Official or Unofficial Document (2020)



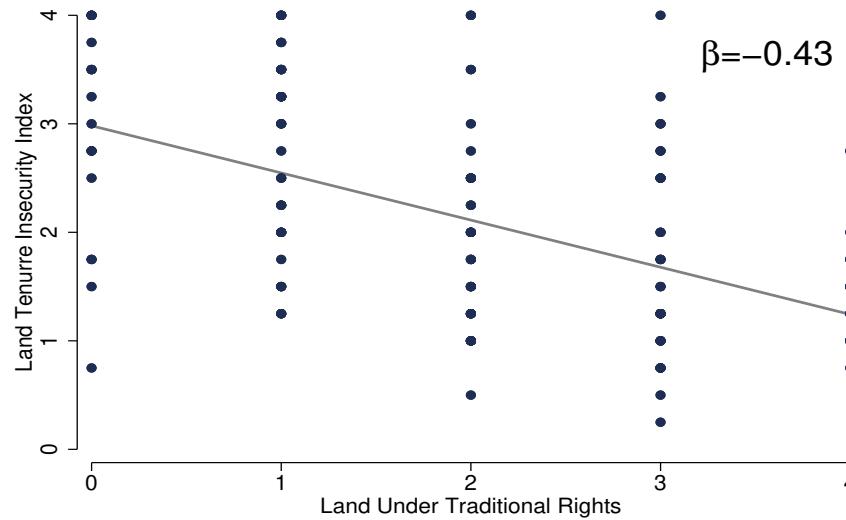
*Data Source:* Prindex

Figure A2: Share of Adults that Feel Insecure about Their Property (2020)



*Data Source:* Prindex

Figure A3: Share of Traditional Land and Land Tenure Insecurity



*Notes:* The land tenure insecurity index ranges from 0 to 4, with 0 being the highest level of land insecurity. Land under traditional system measures the share of rural land under the traditional rights system, and ranges from 0 to 4, with 0 indicating that there is no land under traditional system. Both indicators are obtained from The Institutional Profiles Database (IPD) of the Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations (CEPII), and are a composite measures of several factors.

Figure A4: Sample coverage

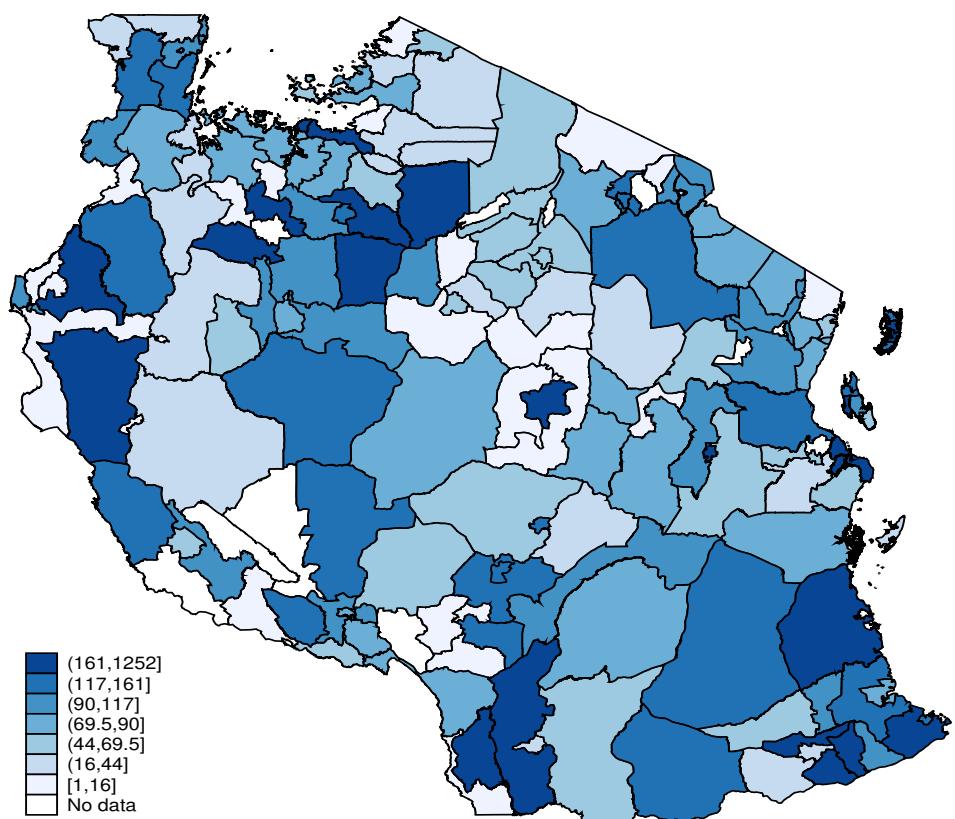


Table A1: Summary statistics (TPNS 2008-2015)

Variable	Mean	Median	Std. Dev.
Total harvest (ths TZS)	722.9	164.4	25,460
Yield (ths TZS/acre)	163.3	62.5	2,288
Land cultivated (acres)	5.5	2.8	12.3
Land available (acres)	6.2	3.0	14.9
Total labor (per-day)	172.9	116.0	185.7
HH labor (per-day)	158.6	104.0	178.2
Hired labor (per-day)	14.3	0	37.9
Daily wage (ths TZS)	3.8	2.5	4.7
Capital (ths TZS)	1,887.9	13.5	7,850.4
Chemicals (ths TZS)	2.5	0	7.6
Variable	% of obs		
HH own/cultivate plot	65.4	-	-
Plots cultivated	85.0	-	-
Land utilization	85.2	-	-
Hire workers	43.1	-	-
Use chemicals	35.5	-	-
Can leave plot	86.5	-	-
Right sell/coll	68.4	-	-
Title/certificate	12.5	-	-
Took loan (1 yr)	10.5	-	-
Took loan (ag) (1 yr)	1.3	-	-
Took loan (bus) (1 yr)	2.7	-	-

*Notes:* Average exchange rate in 2013 was  $\approx$  1,600 TZS per 1 USD.

Table A2: Factor ratios: Capital

	ln(land)				
	leave fallow	right sell	title	obtain free	
ln(Capital)	0.177 (0.007)	0.147 (0.007)	0.145 (0.007)	0.173 (0.007)	0.181 (0.007)
ln(Capital) × land_rights		0.033 (0.003)	0.043 (0.002)	0.022 (0.004)	-0.048 (0.003)
ln(Capital) × credit		0.034 (0.007)	0.032 (0.007)	0.033 (0.007)	0.033 (0.007)
# obs.	10,047	10,047	10,047	10,047	10,047
# households	5,513	5,513	5,513	5,513	5,513
Wave#District FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Notes: Robust standard errors are in parentheses two-way clustered at the district and household levels.

Table A3: Factor ratios: Labor

	ln(land)				
	leave fallow	right sell	title	obtain free	
ln(Labor)	0.586 (0.013)	0.528 (0.015)	0.515 (0.015)	0.576 (0.013)	0.583 (0.013)
ln(Labor) × land_rights		0.055 (0.006)	0.072 (0.005)	0.042 (0.008)	-0.076 (0.007)
ln(Labor) × credit		0.054 (0.014)	0.050 (0.014)	0.050 (0.014)	0.051 (0.014)
# obs.	10,054	10,054	10,054	10,054	10,054
# households	5,515	5,515	5,515	5,515	5,515
Wave#District FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Notes: Robust standard errors are in parentheses two-way clustered at the district and household levels.

Table A4: CES Production Function Estimates

$\epsilon$	1.186 (0.041)
$\sigma$	0.851 (0.015)
$\alpha$	0.602 (0.039)
$\beta$	0.364 (0.030)
# obs.	8,959

*Notes:* Estimated using fixed-effects nonlinear least-squares.  
 Robust standard errors are in parentheses two-way clustered  
 at the district and household levels.

Table A5: Production Function Estimates with Unanticipated Shocks

	(OLS)	(OLS FE)	(DP)
log(Land)	0.343 (0.015)	0.264 (0.026)	0.299 (0.071)
log(Labor)	0.404 (0.017)	0.366 (0.025)	0.368 (0.161)
log(Capital)	0.111 (0.006)	0.051 (0.009)	0.035 (0.025)
$\beta_l$			0.294
$\beta_n$			0.412
$\beta_k$			0.050
$\rho$			0.533
Return to scale	0.85	0.68	0.76
Test on common factor restrictions			0.835
# obs.	8,949	6,073	3,641
Unexpected shocks	✓	✓	✓

*Notes:* Robust standard errors are in parentheses two-way clustered at the district and household levels.  
 Regressions include year FE, OLS regressions - district-year FE.

Table A6: Land Misallocation with Unanticipated Shocks

	ln(land)								
	leave fallow		right sell		title		obtain free		
HH productivity	0.050 (0.013)	0.014 (0.009)	0.011 (0.009)	0.014 (0.008)	0.011 (0.008)	0.047 (0.008)	0.044 (0.008)	0.057 (0.008)	0.056 (0.008)
HH productivity × land_rights		0.044 (0.004)	0.044 (0.004)	0.056 (0.003)	0.056 (0.003)	0.023 (0.005)	0.023 (0.005)	-0.060 (0.005)	-0.059 (0.005)
HH productivity × credit			0.052 (0.009)		0.050 (0.009)		0.051 (0.010)		0.050 (0.010)
# obs.	8,939	8,939	8,939	8,939	8,939	8,939	8,939	8,939	8,939
# households	5,095	5,095	5,095	5,095	5,095	5,095	5,095	5,095	5,095
Wave#District FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R <sup>2</sup>	0.290	0.301	0.304	0.319	0.322	0.292	0.295	0.305	0.307

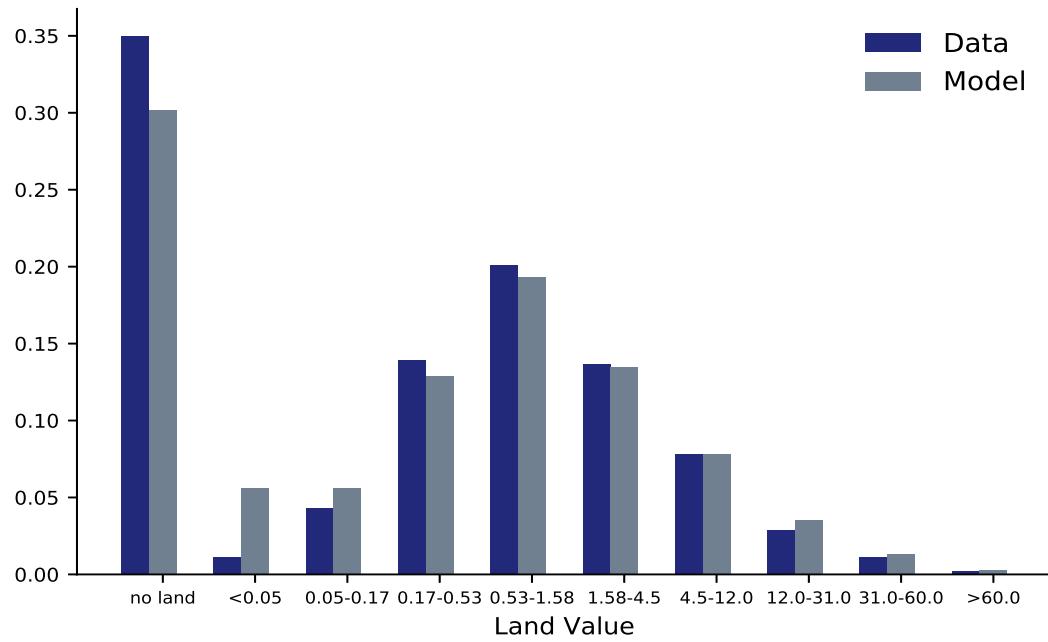
Notes: Robust standard errors are in parentheses two-way clustered at the district and household levels.

Table A7: Land Misallocation: Across Time Variation

	ln(land)			
	leave fallow	right sell	title	obtain free
HH productivity	-0.012 (0.014)	-0.016 (0.014)	-0.012 (0.014)	-0.008 (0.013)
HH productivity × land_rights	0.001 (0.005)	0.008 (0.004)	0.009 (0.004)	-0.024 (0.008)
HH productivity × credit	0.021 (0.010)	0.021 (0.010)	0.021 (0.009)	0.022 (0.010)
# obs.	6,043	6,043	6,043	6,043
# households	2,218	2,218	2,218	2,218
Wave#District FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
HH FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
R <sup>2</sup>	0.833	0.833	0.833	0.833

Notes: Robust standard errors are in parentheses two-way clustered at the district and household levels.

Figure A5: Distribution of Land: Model and Data



*Notes:* the distribution is based on price of land in mln TZS such that it is equispaced on a log scale.

Figure A6: Lorenz Curve for Consumption

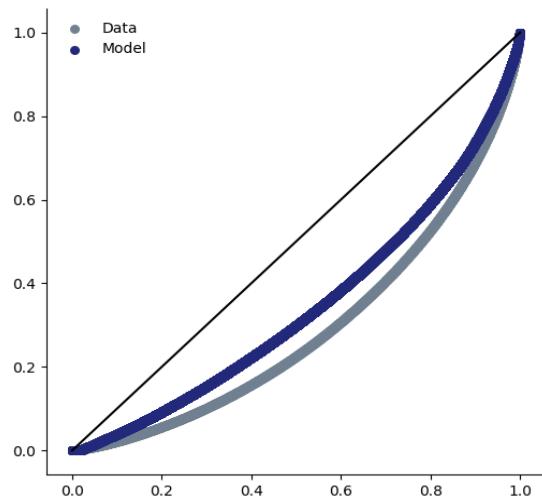


Figure A7: The Effects of Land and Financial Reforms

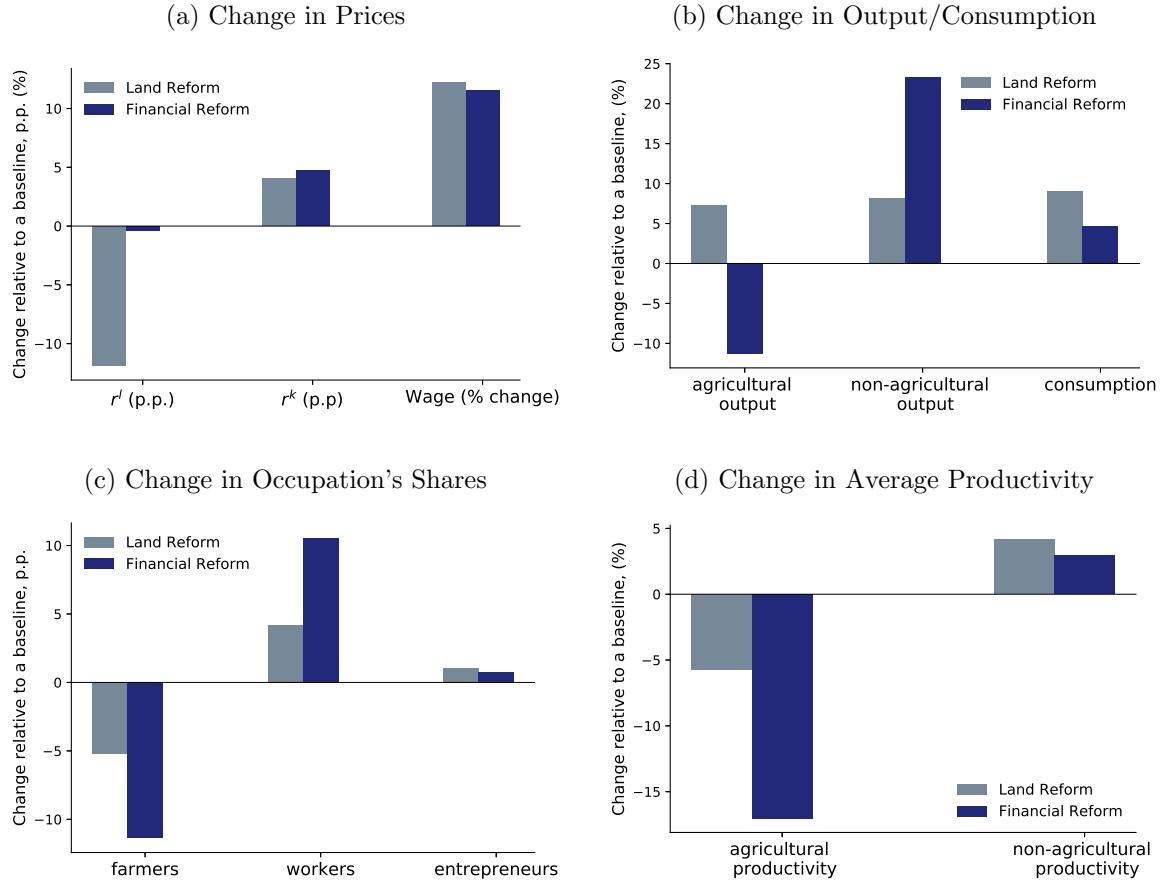


Figure A8: Changes in Welfare Distribution: Financial Reform

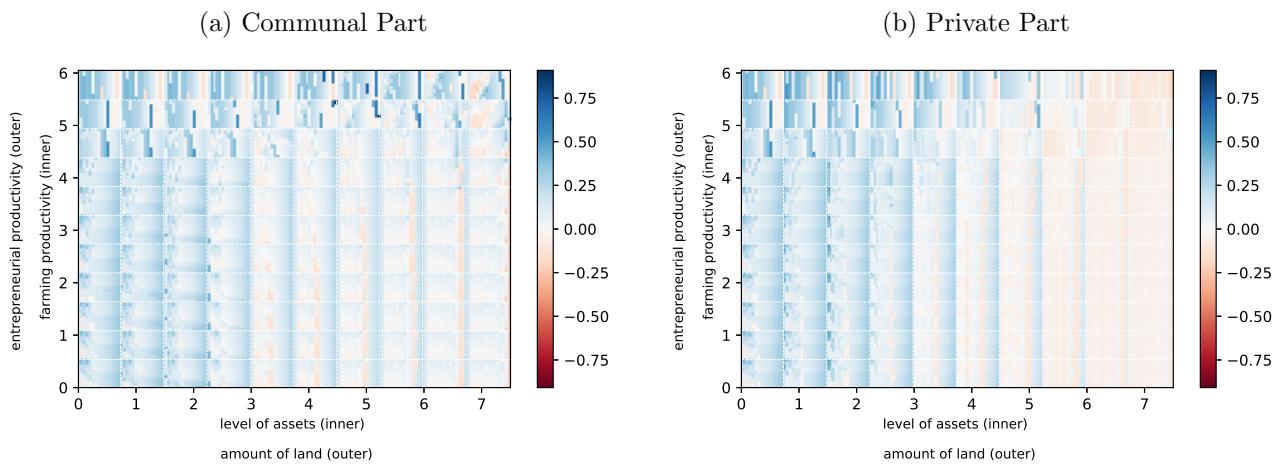
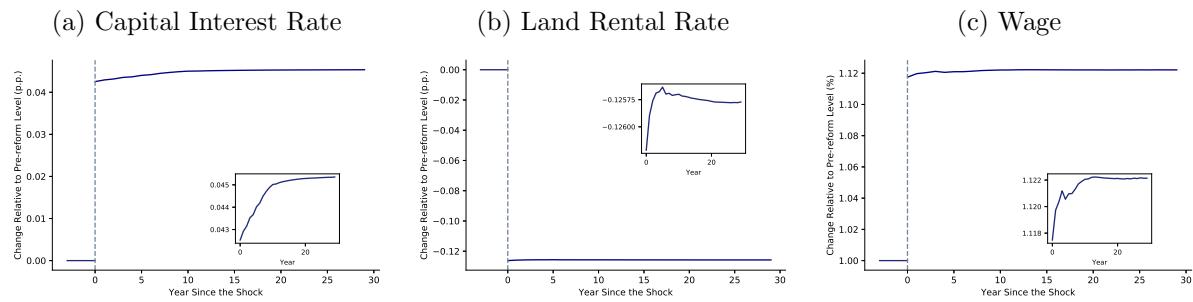


Figure A9: Postreform Transition Dynamics for Prices



## **B Land Tenure System in Tanzania**

The current land tenure and administration system in Tanzania has evolved from the Germans and British colonial rules and incorporates the features of pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial tenures.

### **B.1 Brief Historical Context**

Prior to colonial era all land belonged to different tribes and the general characteristics of land holdings were based on the culture of each tribe. The common principal of most tribes was that land belongs to its user, which means that when the family is no longer using the land, it is reallocated to another family.

Colonial period can be split into two sub-periods – the German Era (1884-1917) and the British Era (1918-1961). The Germans imposed a declaration in 1895 that all land in German East Africa to be unowned Crown Land vested in the German Empire. The only exception was land where proof of ownership could be shown either through documentations, or through effective occupation. The main types of tenures established during the German era were: i) Freeholds granted mainly to European Settlers ii) Leaseholds iii) Crown Land – unowned land determined by the commissions, and iv) Customary Land Tenure for the land occupied by the natives.

Under the British rule, the first land tenure statute was the Land Ordinance of 1923, which declared all land, but freeholds acquired before, as being public land. Under 1928 extension, anyone holding land under customary tenure was declared a legitimate holder of the land. The main types of tenures established during the British era were: i) Freeholds ii) Granted Rights of occupancy (long-term for 33, 66 or 99 years; short term for less than 6 years; and from year to year) iii) Deemed rights of occupancy (in urban areas and rural areas, which was mostly held by native communities) iv) Public land.

### **B.2 Land Tenure in the Post-Independence Era**

The Land Ordinance 1923 continued to be the principal document on land tenure till 1999. In 1995 a National Land Policy was published and two pieces of legislation were introduced in 1999: Village Land Act No 5, which covered rural land, and Land Act No 4, which covered general land, including urban land.

Around 70 percent of land in the Mainland of Tanzania is considered to be Village Land (80 percent of population), 28 percent is Reserved land (i.e. national parks), and 2 percent is general land (mainly urban, 20 percent of the population).

Village land is regulated by the Village Land Act, and divides land into three categories: communal land, occupied land and future (or reserved) land. The Village Land Act empowers village councils to maintain a register of village land. The Acts recognize two forms of tenure: i) the granted right of occupancy, and ii) customary right of occupancy.

As for now, and for the period of study in this paper, Tanzania presents a dynamic land tenure context. All land in Tanzania is owned by the state and held in trust by the president, but individuals residing on or using designated Village Land have the right to obtain formal documentation of their use rights in the form of a Certificate of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCRO). However, insufficient capacity of district land offices that issue CCROs, a lack of funds to pay associated fees, unfamiliarity with formal land laws and other factors have resulted in few villagers obtaining formal documentation for their plots. Furthermore, many villages have not yet completed the village land use management plans that are a prerequisite for CCRO issuance.

The Government of Tanzania and the donor community recognize that improving the security of land rights is essential to protecting the rights of smallholders, reducing disputes and tensions and maximizing the economic potential of the region. The Government, through various programs, often sponsored by the donor community, has made efforts to speed up village land demarcation, village land use planning and village land certification.

**Land Tenure Programs** A pilot Village Certification project was implemented in Mbozi District from 1999 as an effort to implement Village Land Act. By 2007 village boundaries of all 175 villages in Mbozi had been surveyed and 158 had been issued with Certificates of Village Land, and total of 1,117 CCROs have been issued. This experience was replicated in 10 Districts: Iringa (40 villages); Handeni (6 villages); Kilindi (10 villages); Babati (5 villages); Monduli (49 villages); Kiteto (6 villages); Kilolo (9 villages); Namtumbo; Ngorongoro (1 village); Muleba (2 villages). Countrywide, by 2016, around 400,000 CCROs have been issued in various villages and in the years 2014-15 around 49.2 billion shillings had been issued as loans by financial institutions, using CCROs as collateral [URT \(2016\)](#).

Another example of program that aims to improve situation with land property rights in Tanzania, is Feed the Future Tanzania Land Tenure Assistance (LTA) project. The U.S. Agency for International Development project works with 41 communities in central Tanzania to register land and issue Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy to individual landholders, with a focus on increasing women's inclusion in property ownership. LTA has worked with villages to demarcate and digitally map and record almost 63,000 parcels. These previously undocumented parcels are now registered in the country's official land registry system, providing secure property tenure to 21,000 Tanzanians. The project is also working with local banks to

encourage the acceptance of certificates as collateral and with villages to raise awareness of the new loan opportunities. Farmers have already begun using their land-backed loans to purchase fertilizer, high-quality seeds, tractors, and other agricultural inputs to raise their productivity and their incomes.

## C Computational Algorithm

**Steady State** The solution algorithm starts with guessing steady state level of prices,  $w$ ,  $r^k$ ,  $r^l$ ,  $\eta$ . Given the prices, solve the value function for each set of state variables using value function iteration. The process yields the optimal occupational choice and policy functions for level of assets, consumption, capital, labor and land inputs. Obtain the stationary distribution of households by finding fixed point using backward iteration. Given the distribution and policy functions, obtain aggregate variables and use them to check whether market clearing conditions for the labor market, capital market, and land market are satisfied. Update the guess for prices and repeat until all market clears.

**Transition** First, compute the initial and final steady states. Then, choose a length  $T$  for the transition, and guess a path for prices  $\{w, r^k, r^l\}_{t=1}^T$ . Solve the household problem along the transition path using backward induction: (a) taking value function in the final steady state,  $V_{ssf}$ , the market clearing prices as given, solve for household value functions and optimal occupational choice and policy functions for level of assets, consumption, capital, labor and land inputs; (b) repeat this process until solving back to the first period. Given the distribution and policy functions, obtain aggregate variables and use them to check whether market clearing conditions for the labor market, capital market, and land market are satisfied for each period along the transition path. Update the guess for prices and repeat until all market clears for all periods. Check whether  $T$  is large enough by trying a larger  $T$  and see if the equilibrium path is robust.

## D Proofs of Propositions

**Proposition 1.** Denote optimal choices of land used by farmers who owns land under communal and private property right regimes as  $l_c^*$  and  $l_p^*$ , respectively. Then, if optimal land usage is larger than household land holding,  $l_p^* > l_p$ , and farmers' initial conditions in private and communal part of the economy are the same (i.e. same amount of land, skills and assets), we get:

$$l_c^* \leq l_p^*$$

*Proof:* Let households living under communal and private property rights regime have the same amount of land holdings, have the same productive skills in each sector, and amount of assets. Conditional on farming, also assume that optimal land usage for household in private part of the economy be larger than household land holding,  $l_p^* > l_p$ . Let  $\mu$  be the Lagrange multiplier on collateral constraint (with  $\mu_c$  and  $\mu_p$  for communal and private part of the economy, respectively). Then, optimal amount of capital used by the farmer is

$$k^* = \left( \exp(z_a) \left( \frac{\gamma_a}{r^l} \right)^{\gamma_a} \left( \frac{\alpha}{r^k + \mu} \right)^{1-\gamma_a} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha_a - \gamma_a}}$$

and

$$l^* = \left( \frac{\gamma_a \exp(z_a) k^{*\alpha_a}}{r^l} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_a}}$$

then if  $\mu_c = \mu_p = 0$ , then  $k_p^* = k_c^*$  and  $l_p^* = l_c^*$ .

If,  $\mu_c > 0$  and  $\mu_p > 0$ , then  $k_p^* \geq k_c^*$  and  $l_p^* \geq l_c^*$  as  $(\lambda_k - 1)q^l l \geq 0$ . Moreover, for positive values of land holdings there would occur situation, when  $\mu_c > 0$  and  $\mu_p = 0$ .

and for assets holdings  $a_{small} < a_{large}$ , given everything else the same, the following true

$$l_p^*(a_{small}) - l_p^*(a_{large}) \geq l_c^*(a_{large}) - l_c^*(a_{small}),$$

*Proof:* Fix  $a_{small}$  and  $a_{large}$ , and let households with  $a_{small}$  and  $a_{large}$  differ only in the amount of assets while all other state variables being the same. Also, let  $a_c^*$  and  $a_p^*$  denote minimum levels of assets when collateral constraint binds, i.e.  $\mu_c > 0$  and  $\mu_p > 0$ , in case of communal and private land holders, respectively. Then,  $a_p^* \leq a_c^*$  as  $(\lambda_k - 1)q^l l \geq 0$ , and following cases are possible:

i) If  $a_{small} \leq a_{large} \leq a_p^* \leq a_c^*$ , then both when assets small or large collateral constraint binds. Therefore,

$$l_c^* = \left( \frac{\gamma_a \exp(z_a) (\lambda_k a)^{\alpha_a}}{r^l} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_a}}$$

and

$$l_p^* = \left( \frac{\gamma_a \exp(z_a) (\lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1) q^l l_p)^{\alpha_a}}{r^l} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_a}}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} l_p^*(a_{small}) - l_c^*(a_{small}) &\geq l_p^*(a_{large}) - l_c^*(a_{large}) \Leftrightarrow \\ (\lambda_k a_{small} + (\lambda_k - 1) q^l l_p)^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} - (\lambda_k a_{small})^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} &\geq (\lambda_k a_{large} + (\lambda_k - 1) q^l l_p)^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} - (\lambda_k a_{large})^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} \end{aligned}$$

The inequality is true, given that function  $f(x) = x^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}}$  is concave downward (as  $f''(x) = \frac{\alpha_a(\alpha_a+\gamma_a-1)}{(1-\gamma_a)^2} x^{\frac{\alpha_a+2\gamma_a-2}{1-\gamma_a}} < 0$  for production function with decreasing return of scale), and  $(\lambda_k - 1) q^l l \geq 0$

ii) If  $a_{small} \leq a_p^* \leq a_{large} \leq a_c^*$ , then both when assets small or large collateral constraint binds for household living in communal part, while for private part collateral constraint binds only for households with  $a_{small}$ . Then, the optimal level of capital for households with  $a_{large}$  is

$$k_p^*(a) \leq \lambda_k a_{large} + (\lambda_k - 1) l_p$$

and, hence,

$$l_p^*(a_{small}) - l_c^*(a_{small}) \geq l_p^*(a_{large}) - l_c^*(a_{large}) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda_k a_{small} + (\lambda_k - 1) q^l l_p)^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} - (\lambda_k a_{small})^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} &\geq \\ \geq (\lambda_k a_{large} + (\lambda_k - 1) q^l l_p)^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} - (\lambda_k a_{large})^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} &\geq \\ \geq (k_p^*(a))^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} - (\lambda_k a_{large})^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} & \end{aligned}$$

iii) If  $a_{small} \leq a_p^* \leq a_c^* \leq a_{large}$  then when assets are small collateral constraint binds for all household, while for  $a_{large}$  households using the optimal level of capital and land both in communal and private parts of the economy. Hence,  $l_p^*(a_{large}) - l_c^*(a_{large}) = 0$  and we have that

$$(\lambda_k a_{small} + (\lambda_k - 1) q^l l_p)^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} - (\lambda_k a_{small})^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} \geq 0$$

- iv) If  $a_p^* \leq a_{small} \leq a_c^* \leq a_{large}$  is equivalent to iii) with  $l_p^*(a_{large}) - l_c^*(a_{large}) = 0$ .
- v) If  $a_p^* \leq a_{small} \leq a_{large} \leq a_c^*$  then households living in private part of the economy use the same amount of land – efficient, and, therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} l_p^*(a_{small}) - l_c^*(a_{small}) &\geq l_p^*(a_{large}) - l_c^*(a_{large}) \Leftrightarrow \\ -(\lambda_k a_{small})^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} &\geq -(\lambda_k a_{large})^{\frac{\alpha_a}{1-\gamma_a}} \Leftrightarrow \end{aligned}$$

$$a_{small} \leq a_{large}$$

vi) Finally, if  $a_p^* \leq a_c^* \leq a_{small} \leq a_{large}$  none collateral constraint binding and all households use the same efficient amount of land, and

$$l_p^*(a_{small}) - l_c^*(a_{small}) = 0 \geq l_p^*(a_{large}) - l_c^*(a_{large}) = 0$$

and for the levels of agricultural productivity  $z_{small} < z_{large}$ , given everything else the same

$$l_p^*(z_{small}) - l_c^*(z_{small}) \leq l_p^*(z_{large}) - l_c^*(z_{large}),$$

*Proof:* Fix  $z_{small}$  and  $z_{large}$ , and let households with  $z_{small}$  and  $z_{large}$  differ only in the level of their agricultural productivity while all other state variables being the same. Also, let  $k_c^*$  and  $k_p^*$  denote minimum levels of capital when collateral constraint binds, i.e.  $\mu_c > 0$  and  $\mu_p > 0$ , in case of communal and private land holders, respectively. Also, denote  $k_{small}^*$  and  $k_{large}^*$  to be optimal level of capital used by households with agricultural productivity  $z_{small}$  and  $z_{large}$ , respectively. Then, following the same six cases, but with level of capital as in previous part, analogous steps provide proof of proposition.

and for the levels of land holdings  $l_{small} < l_{large}$ , given everything else the same, we get

$$l_p^*(l_{small}) - l_c^*(l_{small}) \leq l_p^*(l_{large}) - l_c^*(l_{large}).$$

*Proof:* Fix  $l_{small}$  and  $l_{large}$ , and let households with  $l_{small}$  and  $l_{large}$  differ only in the level of their land holding while all other state variables being the same. Given that households only differ in the level of land holdings, then optimal levels of capital and land would be same for all households,  $k^*$  and  $l^*$ :

$$k^* = \left( \exp(z_a) \left( \frac{\gamma_a}{r^l} \right)^{\gamma_a} \left( \frac{\alpha}{r^k + \mu} \right)^{1-\gamma_a} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha_a-\gamma_a}}$$

and

$$l^* = \left( \frac{\gamma_a \exp(z_a) k^{*\alpha_a}}{r^l} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_a}}$$

Hence, household would deviate from optimal levels only when collateral constraint for some of them binds. This leads to the following cases:

- i) If no constraints binds, then  $l_p^*(l_{small}) - l_c^*(l_{small}) = 0 \leq l_p^*(l_{large}) - l_c^*(l_{large}) = 0$
- ii) If collateral constraint binds only for those in the communal part of the economy, then

$l_c^*(l_{small}) = l_c^*(l_{large}) = \lambda_k a$  and  $l_p^*(l_{small}) = l_p^*(l_{large}) = l^*$ , hence

$$l_p^*(l_{small}) - l_c^*(l_{small}) \leq l_p^*(l_{large}) - l_c^*(l_{large}) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$l_c^*(l_{large}) - l_c^*(l_{small}) \leq l_p^*(l_{large}) - l_p^*(l_{small}) \Leftrightarrow 0 = 0$$

iii) If collateral constraint binds for households living in private part with  $l_{small}$  and not  $l_{large}$ ,<sup>19</sup> then it also binds for all households in communal part as  $k^* \geq \lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{small} \geq \lambda_k a$ . Then,

$$l_p^*(l_{small}) - l_c^*(l_{small}) \leq l_p^*(l_{large}) - l_c^*(l_{large}) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$l_c^*(l_{large}) - l_c^*(l_{small}) \leq l_p^*(l_{large}) - l_p^*(l_{small})$$

with  $l_c^*(l_{small}) = l_c^*(l_{large}) = \lambda_k a$  we get

$$l_p^*(l_{large}) - l_p^*(l_{small}) = l_p^*(k^*) - l_p^*(k = \lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{small}) \geq 0$$

as  $k^* > \lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{small}$  and land is strictly increasing in capital.

iv) If all constraints bind, then again  $l_c^*(l_{small}) = l_c^*(l_{large}) = \lambda_k a$ , and,

$$l_p^*(l_{large}) - l_p^*(l_{small}) = l_p^*(\lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{large}) - l_p^*(k = \lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{small}) \geq 0.$$

as  $\lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{large} > \lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{small}$  and land is strictly increasing in capital.

**Proposition 2.** Denote optimal choices of land used by farmers who owns land under communal and private property right regimes as  $l_c^*$  and  $l_p^*$ , respectively. Then, if optimal land usage is lower than household land holding,  $l_p^* < l_p$ , and farmers' initial conditions in private and communal part of the economy are the same (i.e. same amount of land, skills and assets):

$$l_c^* \geq l_p^*$$

*Proof:* Let households living under communal and private property rights regime have the same amount of land holdings, have the same productive skills in each sector, and amount of assets. Conditional on farming, also assume that optimal land usage for household in private part of the economy be smaller than household land holding,  $l_p^* < l_p$ . Then, given that households in communal part of the economy could not rent out their land and agricultural production

---

<sup>19</sup>The opposite could not be true as  $k^* \geq \lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{large}$  implies that  $k^* \geq \lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{small}$

function is increasing in land, households in communal part would use all their land for farming,  $l_c^* = l_c$ . Hence,

$$l_c^* = l_c = l_p > l_p^* \Leftrightarrow l_c^* \geq l_p^*$$

and for the levels of agricultural productivity  $z_{small} < z_{large}$ , given everything else the same

$$l_c^*(z_{small}) - l_p^*(z_{small}) \geq l_c^*(z_{large}) - l_p^*(z_{large})$$

*Proof:* Again, given that households in communal part are going to use all land holding,  $l_c^*(z_{small}) = l_c^*(z_{large}) = l_c$ , hence,

$$l_c^*(z_{small}) - l_p^*(z_{small}) \geq l_c^*(z_{large}) - l_p^*(z_{large}) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$l_p^*(z_{small}) \leq l_p^*(z_{large})$$

which holds, as  $l^*$  is increasing in both  $z_a$  and  $k^*$ , that is also is increasing in  $z_a$ .

and for the levels of land holdings  $l_{small} < l_{large}$ , given everything else the same, we get

$$l_c^*(l_{small}) - l_p^*(l_{small}) \leq l_c^*(l_{large}) - l_p^*(l_{large})$$

*Proof:* Following the above,

$$l_c^*(l_{small}) - l_p^*(l_{small}) \leq l_c^*(l_{large}) - l_p^*(l_{large}) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$l_p^*(l_{small}) \leq l_p^*(l_{large})$$

With  $l^*$  increasing in  $k^*$ , when

- i) collateral constraints not binding in neither cases,  $l_p^*(l_{small}) = l_p^*(l_{large}) = l^*$ .
- ii) collateral constraint binding for  $l_{small}$  and not for  $l_{large}$ ,<sup>20</sup> we have

$$l_p^*(l_{large}) - l_p^*(l_{small}) = l_p^*(k^*) - l_p^*(k = \lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{small}) \geq 0.$$

as  $k^* > \lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{small}$  and land is strictly increasing in capital.

iii) collateral constraint binds for both  $l_{large}$  and  $l_{small}$ , then again  $l_c^*(l_{small}) = l_c^*(l_{large}) = l^*$ , and,

$$l_p^*(l_{large}) - l_p^*(l_{small}) = l_p^*(\lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{large}) - l_p^*(k = \lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{small}) \geq 0.$$

as  $\lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{large} > \lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{small}$  and land is strictly increasing in capital.

---

<sup>20</sup>The opposite could not be true as  $k^* \geq \lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{large}$  implies that  $k^* \geq \lambda_k a + (\lambda_k - 1)l_{small}$