

Agrarian Reform and Poverty Reduction

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Overview

- Agrarian Reform – changing relationships to factors of production
- Changes in land ownership to feed into the industrial sector
- Limited land reform a result of outright revolution
- Not much scope for agrarian reform once capitalism entrenched

Land Reform in Southern Africa

- Three Countries: Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa
- Similarities at time of independence
 - Specifically: well entrenched commercial and large scale agriculture sector with associated support institutions
 - White control of commercial agricultural sector
 - Export focused
 - Negotiated independence and LR programmes
 - Relatively industrialised – agricultural products source of food, raw materials, foreign exchange
 - Essentially modernist/neo-liberal perspectives have driven the reform process
 - Willing-Seller, Willing-buyer: At least initially

Namibia (1)

- White settlers owned livestock ranches in semi-arid central and southern areas
- Communal areas in north more arable
- LR focus on central and southern areas
- Government has first right of purchase of any available free-hold land
- Post independence focus on veterans, displaced people, farmworkers, poor
- Some group schemes for poor and farmworkers in communal areas – short-lived

Namibia (2)

- FURS – state purchase freehold land and subdivides according to commercial criteria
 - 99 year lease < 150 head of cattle
- AALS – with subsidised loans through Agribank
 - > 150 head of cattle (or cash equivalent) to purchase freehold
- 2005: FURS 163; AALS 625

Namibia (3)

- 99 year lease technically prevents use of land as collateral
- Subdivided farms – lack of infrastructure
- Post-settlement technical and infrastructural support lacking
- Cattle ranching one of many livelihoods and external income used to support ranching – FURS
- New owners civil servants and those with external income – lower middle income
- Economically viable cattle ranching model predominates policy and commercial sector
- Not a step out of poverty for the poor

Zimbabwe (1)

- White settlers predominate suitable agro-ecological zones (51%) –
- 75% of arable land – commercial - Diverse crops and livestock – Irrigation infrastructure
- Export focus
- 75% of communal lands in poor agroecological zones – poverty
- LR Focus on commercial land
- Post independence focus on veterans, displaced people, farmworkers, poor

Zimbabwe (2)

- Four resettlement models
- Model A predominated – Village model – planned land use – altered economic and social relations
- Full-time farmers (external employment prohibited) – heavy state support in early 1980s
- SAP opened new markets and commercial sector boomed
- LR lost impetus and most models fell away – Model A remained – pro-poor focus dropped away
- But by 1990s “Master” farmers were targeted for demonstration effect of “good/proper” farmers

Zimbabwe (3)

- Indigenization of commercial sector
- Long-term leases offered to well connected -business, politicians, security force, Master Farmer
- 1992 Land Act – compulsory purchase of commercial land - identified in 1997
- 1998 – Phase 2 introduced – speed up process: A1(village), A2 (small-scale farm) models and irrigation scheme model
- But in 1999 land invasions start

Zimbabwe (4)

- FTLRP emerges to officialise and regulate – A1 and A2
- But a mixture prevails in terms of sizes and land use
- Service Delivery very weak due to lack of planning and finances
- Infrastructure often damaged during land invasions
- However, populist, different land uses and relationships seen as optimistic for future
- But off-farm income important to many and not always sole source of livelihood
- Very limited research on outcomes to date – national economy obstructs analysis

South Africa (1)

- White settlers own most of agricultural land (86%) – Diverse crops and livestock – Irrigation infrastructure
- Communal areas overpopulated and agriculture most often to support migrant wages - some commercial but “competed” with “external” imports
- Land Reform: Restitution, Redistribution and Tenure Security
- Redistribution and Tenure security initially focus on the poor after 1994
- Restitution – dispossessed with a provable claim

South Africa (2)

- Redistribution
- Purchase existing farms
- No subdivision
- Follow pre-existing land use models
- Subsidised grants
- SLAG – income means test – questionable if the poorest actually benefitted
 - Groups had to pool grants
 - Post-settlement support a problem
- Group and other problems arose – suspended and reviewed
- LRAD replaces SLAG in 2001
 - Focus on those with resources – sliding scale of grant but requires own contribution

South Africa (3)

- Large scale commercial model predominates
- Post- settlement support scant - PDA
- CASP introduced in 2004 but infrastructure focus prevails
- Better resourced benefit and not the poor – acquisition and employment
- ABP seriously considered as a strategy
- PLAS – state to purchase and lease land to beneficiaries

South Africa (4)

- Contributions to Development Pathways:
 - Household Food Security
 - Employment
 - Agro-food Markets
 - Institutional arrangements
 - Service Delivery (infrastructure and education)

Commonalities

- Money is an issue – support, redistribution, subdivision
- External off-farm income and assets vital
- Effects sustainability of land use as well as pace of redistribution
- Commercial production is policy emphasis but not viable for the poor
- Pre-existing land use models prevail
- Not component of multiple livelihoods
- Little focus on poor after initial implementation – very poor do not seem to benefit

Thank You

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