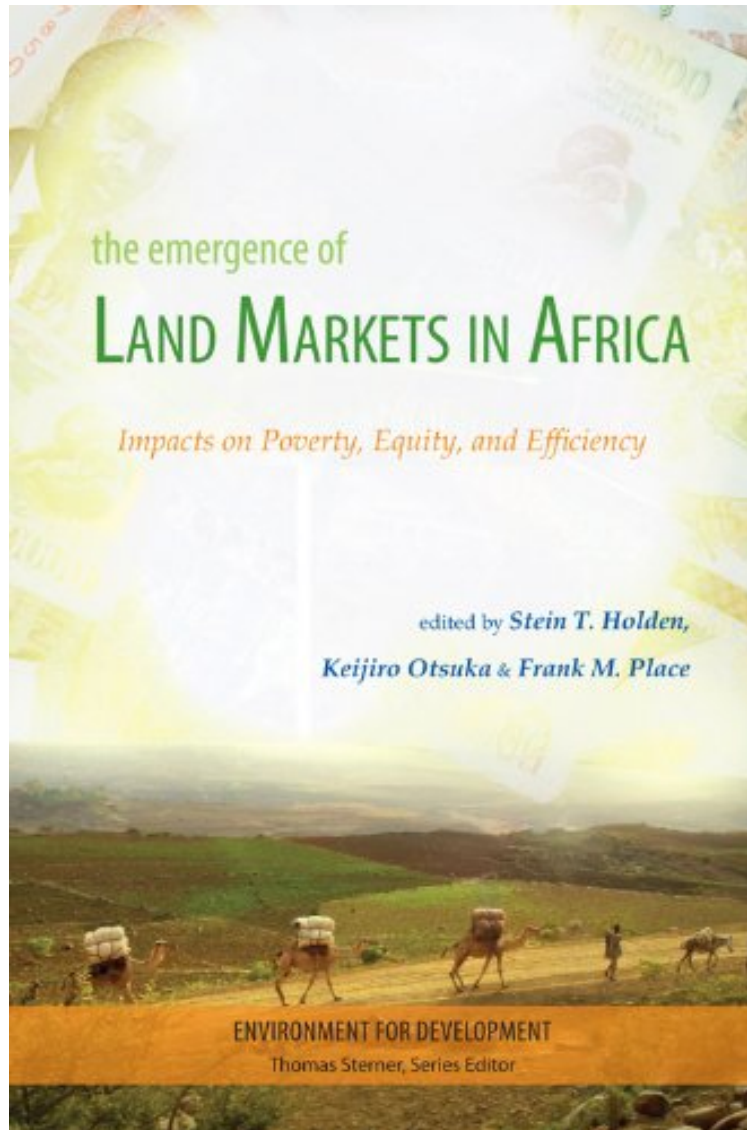


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MARKETS IN AFRICA is the first systematic attempt to address emerging land markets and their implications for poverty and equality across a number of African countries. Land issues and land usage is key among international policy agendas, yet there's been relatively little information on the market to help in decision-making processes. College-level collections strong in African studies and international policy issues will thus find this a unique, key acquisition.

This book is the first systematic attempt to address emerging land markets and their implications for poverty, equity, and efficiency across a number of African countries. The high incidence of poverty and the need for increased agricultural productivity remain acute in rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa, where a lack of secure land rights and a growing scarcity of land relative to the size of the population are becoming increasingly critical issues. Indeed, land issues in the region are high on the international policy agenda. Yet our knowledge about land tenure security and other rural factor markets (such as labor, oxen, manure, purchased inputs, and credit) is far from adequate to formulate sensible policies. The case studies in the book show that, while land markets and especially informal markets have been rapidly emerging in densely populated parts of Africa - and have generally been to the benefit of the poor--their functions remain imperfect. This is due to policy-induced tenure insecurity and the fragmentation of agricultural land. Applying rigorous quantitative analyses, the book provides a basis for taking into account the role of land markets in national land policies. All too often, the authors argue, land policies have been extreme, either prohibiting all land transactions or giving unrestricted freehold rights to a small elite at the expense of the poor. From the long experience in Asia, it is known that such policies are detrimental to both production efficiency and equity of land use. The authors argue that future policies in Africa should work with the markets. Regulations should be imposed only with careful testing that they are having the intended effects. The Emergence of Land Markets in Africa is a resource for teaching in developed and developing countries, as it provides both comprehensive reviews of the literature and detailed case studies. It is intended to facilitate the dialogue between researchers and policymakers, as well as inspire researchers to go further in their investigations and build an even stronger basis for good policies. The Emergence of Land Markets in Africa is the first publication in the new Environment for Development (EfD) book series. EfD books focus on research and applications in environmental and natural resource economics as they are relevant to poverty reduction and environmental problems in developing countries. The EfD book series is part of the EfD initiative. (www.environmentfordevelopment.org)

'This book deals systematically and competently with the equity and efficiency implications of land markets in sub-Saharan Africa. The rigorous empirical analyses provide important insights to guide decisionmakers and development partners in formulating policies and investments to promote economic growth and poverty alleviation in Africa.' - Gershon Feder, Research Manager for Rural Development in the Development Research Group, the World Bank 'A truly welcome contribution. It provides detailed, well-structured studies on recent initiatives in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and Malawi...It is an invitation for rigorous impact analysis and to further experimentation in the use of land markets. It is an appropriately important work with which to begin the Environment for Development series from Resources for the Future.' - Alain de Janvry, University of California at Berkeley, USA 'it is a careful empirical record of most everything one needs to know about land markets in Ethiopia' -Journal of Regional Science
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