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## **The Impact of Land Tenure Systems, Land Policy and Technology Transfer on the dynamics of Natural Resources Depletion: The case of three districts of central highlands of Ethiopia**

Ethiopia is endowed with natural resources but these resources have been depleted and the country is facing environmental problems which are threatening the livelihoods of millions of citizens. Comprehensive land policy and well-defined property rights regimes ensuring tenure security are supposed to be important preconditions for efficient resources allocation and management. The weakness of these institutions is seen as a root cause of the current situation in Ethiopia.

The study was designed to verify these inter-relationships and to dig out the major factors contributing to the dynamics of natural resources depletion in Selale highland in Ethiopia. The following objectives have been pursued: 1. to explore the impact of land tenure systems and land policy on resources depletion / resource conservation; 2. to study the impact of technology transfer on the dynamics of resources depletions / resource conservation; 3. to analyze the impact of land tenure systems on the use of technology. Different data sources were used. Primary data were collected from 60 sample households. Secondary data were collected from different organisations. Descriptive statistics was used to analyse the data.

Periodic land redistribution and land expropriation without compensation in previous regimes acted as disincentives for investments on long-term resources management and led to unsustainable resources use. Land redistribution and land expropriation created tenure insecurity, land fragmentation, soil erosion, and deforestation. Land productivity decreased which contributed to low yields from farm lands as well as to food insecurity and a non sustainable use of land. Agricultural and natural resources technologies have played a vital role in resources management through boosting production and productivity. Their diffusion and adoption were, however, hampered by inadequate land tenure and land policy throughout the different regimes.

The conclusion drawn from this study is that secured property rights, sound land policy and incentives such as guaranteed financial rewards from land augmenting investments could

encourage long-term resource management investments and could divert the current unsustainable types of land resources utilisation. Resources are well managed on private property rights regime. Therefore, resources management under common and state property rights regimes need revision based on management cost, nature of the resources, sustainability, economic objectives, and environmental goal of the intended resources. Another important issue is that the benefit and advantages which the community obtains from state owned property should clearly be defined. The community should get confirmation on benefits to manage the resources mutually with the government in a sustainable way. Participatory land use planning and security of current land users will cease the pressure on land which destroys the fragile environment and endangers the satisfaction of basic needs of current and future generations.

***Key words:*** Land tenure systems, tenure security, land policy, property rights, resources depletion, natural resource management, technology transfer, Ethiopia.