

Land Law Reform in Tanzania: Impact of The Village Land Law on Customary Tenure System. The Case of Mbozi District

Introduction

In attempt to eradicate poverty and transform rural economy after independency a number of programs were initiated by the government but most of the strategies were unable to affect rural livelihoods. In 1995 a new land policy was realized and new land laws (Village Land Act and Land Act) came into force in 2001.

Objective

To evaluate the impact of the Village Land Law on customary tenure system.

To examine its efficiency in terms of providing security of tenure and its contribution in improving rural livelihoods.

To investigate the legal status of women and other vulnerable groups with regard to access to land.



Villagers Issued with Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy

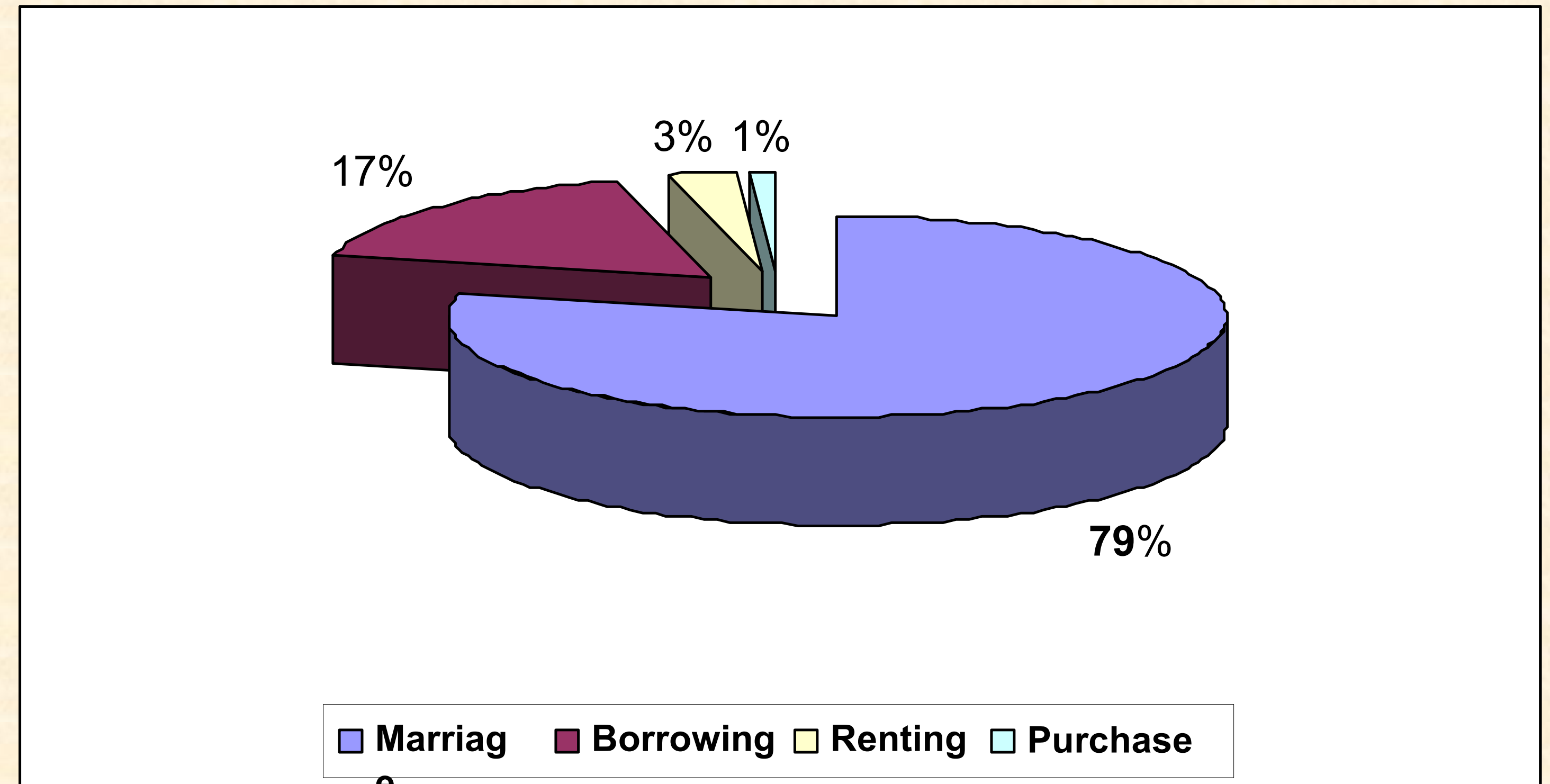
Research Methodology

The study used a qualitative data collection technique with some minor aspect of quantitative research.

Major Findings

- 134 out of 178 villages have been surveyed
 - 435 Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCRO) issued to villagers
 - 80% financial institutions not aware of CCRO
- Women Rights to Land:
 - Only 166 CCRO held in co-ownership
 - There is a gap between the law and what is practiced
- Villagers not aware of the advantages of the new law
- Lack of coordination
- Lack of funding for implementation

Ways through Which Women Gain Access to Land



Recommendations

- Improve infrastructure: roads, electricity, water and other social amenities; this will make customary lands more valuable and productive
- Apart from empowering women through land laws, government must ensure similar changes in other laws such as law of inheritance and law of marriage
- Procedures must be simplified and shortened
- More funds to be allocated for implementation of laws
- Need for massive public awareness programs on new laws
- Improve performance of rural marketing and support system
- Issues of capacity building in terms of personnel and training need to be addressed
- Information on women's rights should be organised and supported at all levels
- Improve cooperation between various stakeholders

Conclusions

Land has a cross cutting effect in poverty reduction. There is therefore a need for coordination among various institutions.



First Woman to be issued with Certificate of Customary Right of Occupancy