



GROW THE ECONOMY

STRENGTHEN LAND RIGHTS IN AFRICA

Macro-Economic Growth can be Enhanced by Clarifying and Strengthening Land Rights for Women, Men, and Communities:

- A global study of 33 countries found that stronger property rights were associated with a five percent increase in GDP growth
 - **Citation:** Fort, R. (2007). "Land inequality and economic growth: a dynamic panel data approach." *Agricultural Economics*, 37(2-3): 159-165.
- A global study of 108 countries found that stronger property rights were associated with an increased average annual growth of per capita income by 6 to 14 percentage points
 - **Citation:** Keefer, P. and S. Knack. (2002). "Polarization, politics and property rights: Links between inequality and growth." *Public Choice* 111 (1-2): 127-154.
- A global study of 101 countries found that more secure property rights were associated with higher private investment
 - **Citation:** Svensson, J. (1998). "Investment, property rights and political instability: Theory and evidence." *European Economic Review*, 42(7): 1317-1341.

Research across Africa shows that land tenure security is also positively associated with household productivity, wealth, and investment:

- A study in Ethiopia found that stronger property rights for smallholder farmers were associated with an increase in agricultural productivity by as much as 45 percent
 - **Citation:** Holden, S. T., Deininger, K., and Ghebru, H. (2009). Impacts of low-cost land certification on investment and productivity. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 91(2): 359-373.
- A study in Tanzania found that women with strong property and inheritance rights were nearly three times more likely to be employed outside the home and earned nearly 4 times more income
 - **Citation:** Peterman, A. (2011). "Women's Property Rights and Gendered Policies: Implications for Women's Long-term Welfare in Rural Tanzania." *The Journal of Development Studies*, 47(1), 1-30.
- A study in Zambia's southern province found that farmers with secure rights to land had a greater than expected aggregate fixed investment of about US \$1,280.
 - **Citation:** Smith, Robert E. (2004). "Land tenure, fixed investment, and farm productivity: Evidence from Zambia's Southern Province." *World Development* 32(10): 1641-1661.



Land is the single most important asset in most of rural Africa. Yet, 90 percent of the land in rural Africa is undocumented. Learn how some African states are using land rights to jumpstart rural development at: www.landesa.org/what-we-do/sub-saharan-africa/