Benin - Access to Land - Rural

Report generated on: July 1, 2020

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Overview

Identification

COUNTRY
Benin

EVALUATION TITLE
Access to Land - Rural

EVALUATION TYPE
Independent Impact Evaluation

> **ID NUMBER**
> DDI-MCC-BEN-WB-PFR-2015-v01

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION
Anonymized dataset for public distribution

Overview

ABSTRACT
This evaluation presents evidence from the first large-scale randomized controlled trial of a land formalization program. This study examines the links between land demarcation and investment in rural Benin. The demarcation process involved communities in the mapping and attribution of land rights; cornerstones marked parcel boundaries and offered lasting landmarks.

Key research questions addressed by the evaluation are as follows:

• What is the effect of the PFR on perceived and de facto tenure security?

• What is the effect of the PFR on investment in land and agricultural productivity?

• What is the effect of the PFR on land market participation?

• What are the gender-differentiated effects of the PFR on the outcomes of interest?

• What is the effect of the PFR on the intra-household bargaining power of women?

Results: Consistent with the project logic, early evidence shows improved tenure security under demarcation induced a shift toward long-term investment on treated parcels. This investment occurred in a shorter time-frame than estimated and as expected does not yet coincide with gains in agricultural productivity. The analysis also identifies significant gender specific effects. Female-managed landholdings in treated villages are more likely to be left fallow-an important soil fertility investment. Women further respond to an exogenous tenure security change by moving production away from relatively secure, demarcated land and toward less secure land outside the village to guard those parcels.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY
Randomization

UNITS OF ANALYSIS
Household and Community

KIND OF DATA
Sample survey data [ssd]

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
Land	MCC Sector	
Gender	MCC Sector	

KEYWORDS
Land use, Property rights, Land administration, Land tenure security, Gender, Agricultural investment, Natural resources, Africa

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
Rural area: 291 villages

UNIVERSE
This survey dataset gathers information on 3,507 households interviewed in 291 villages selected from 40 communes which cover 9 of Benin's 12 regions (départements), or first-level administrative divisions.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
World Bank	WB

FUNDING

Name	Abbreviation	Role
Millennium Challenge Corporation	MCC	
World Bank Gender Integration Lab	WB	
with funding sources including:		
Bank-Netherlands Partnership Program		
Gender Action Plan		
Belgian Poverty Reduction Partnership		
UN-Habitat		
French Ministry of Foreign Affairs		

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Millennium Challenge Corporation	MCC		Review of Metadata

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION
2015-10-27

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION
Version 1.0

DDI DOCUMENT ID
DDI-MCC-BEN-WB-PFR-2015-v01

MCC Compact and Program

COMPACT OR THRESHOLD
Benin I Compact

PROGRAM
The Benin Access to Land Project began in 2006 as part of the Benin Compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Under the Land Project, approximately $34 million was allocated towards land formalization activities, including the establishment of PFR Rural Land Use Plans, policy reform activities, and land information systems. The Access to Land Project was designed to assist rural and urban households in attaining more secure and useful tenure. Households in intervention areas should experience greater land tenure security and gain access to effective and less costly land registration documentation (land titles or certificates) through the systematic registration process. The project was designed to promote key policy reforms and strengthen women's land rights under the new policy framework. These interventions should lead to greater perception of land tenure security and may induce productive investments in land leading to long-term income benefits. Formal land registration documents are also expected to facilitate land transaction, reduce costs of such transactions, and lead to increases in land value.

MCC SECTOR
Land (Land)

PROGRAM LOGIC
The Benin MCA Program aimed to increase economic growth by removing obstacles to that growth. The Access to Land component of the project sought to increase the percentage of households investing in targeted urban and rural land parcels, reduce the time and cost of obtaining land title, and increase beneficiaries' perceptions of land tenure security. The "Access to Land" Project) consists of five activities: a) Policy and Legal Reform b) Achieving Formal Property Rights to Land c) Improving Land Registration Services and Land Information Management d) Information, Education and Communication Improved Institutional Improved Physical Infrastructure Land Objective: Strengthen property rights and investments Indicator: Percentage of households investing rural and urban land.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
The Land Project is expected to assist rural and urban households in attaining more secure and useful tenure. Households in intervention areas should experience greater land tenure security and gain access to effective and less costly land registration documentation (land titles or certificates) through the systematic registration process. The project will promote key policy reforms and strengthen women's land rights under the new policy framework.

Sampling

Study Population

This survey dataset gathers information on 3,507 households interviewed in 291 villages selected from 40 communes which cover 9 of Benin's 12 regions (départements), or first-level administrative divisions.

Sampling Procedure

The sample was drawn using a sub-set of rural households from a national household survey from 2010. In total, 3,507 households were surveyed in 291 villages, of which 192 were selected to receive a PFR and 99 were randomly selected to serve as control villages, resulting in 66 observed lottery pools. In line with the identification strategy, this study focused on those households with at least one landholding in their village of residence: 85% of households had one landholding in the same village as their homestead, 9% had their landholding outside their village of residence, and 6% had no landholdings. This led to a working sample of 2,972 households, with detailed information on 6,094 parcels.

The multi-topic household survey instrument covered a detailed set of questions related to basic demographics, parcel land use, intra-household control of resources, and agricultural production. The land modules elicit a rich set of information on perceived and de facto tenure security, perceived rights, market participation, and investment at the parcel level, while the agricultural modules allow for productivity estimates at the agricultural plot level. A community questionnaire was also administered to a set of key respondents with diverse responsibilities in each village. It includes information on village-level demographics, infrastructure, social services, economic activities, and mode of land acquisition, land market activity, and conflicts

Deviations from Sample Design

The initial vision for the evaluation was to build a panel dataset using three EMICoV survey rounds from 2006, 2010, and 2011. However, the tracking information from the 2006 EMICoV survey was insufficient to verify household-to-household or parcel-to-parcel matching. This problem persisted in the 2010 EMICoV survey. Additionally, the EMICoV survey did not include questions on outcomes key for the evaluation analysis. As a result, analysis was based off of a household survey conducted in 2011 by the World Bank and the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IREEP). The evaluation exploits the 2006 national EMICOV survey data to establish pre-intervention balance between treatment and control communities. Since the EMICOV employs a random sampling strategy at the commune level, this should not affect the validity of the identification. For robustness, the World Bank accounted for this lottery stratification in its econometric analysis.

Additionally, while the study design had called for the drawing of an equal number of treatment and control villages, fewer villages than expected were either 1) interested in participating in the PFR, or 2) succeeded in the village level diagnostic and moved on the lottery stage. As a result, the proportion of treatment and control villages, drawn from the EMICoV sample, was adjusted so that a larger percentage of these EMICoV "recruited" villages that succeeded in the diagnostic were awarded the PFR during the lotteries. Another reason given by GTZ, the project implementing contractor, was that they invested in evaluating (diagnosis) of villages and each control village that did not enter the program was effectively a lost investment. Therefore, rather than 50% each being assigned to treatment and control, 60% and even as high as 70% depending on the particular lottery, were selected for treatment.

Land demarcation activities were completed in 283 treated villages of the 300 villages assigned to the PFR intervention at the time of the survey. Land demarcation was still ongoing in an additional eight villages, and had not started in three villages. Six villages refused to cooperate and were dropped by the program.

Weighting

None.

Questionnaires

Overview

2011 & 2015 World Bank and the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IREEP) household survey

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start **End** **Cycle**

Data Collection Mode

Much effort was put together by the impact evaluation team and IREEP team in order to adapt the survey to local and cultural context. The team also worked to finalize the questionnaire instrument for the two separate modules (household and community), which were then piloted prior to the survey. Enumerators were recruited based on their experience with conducting surveys in rural areas and their ability to administer the survey in local languages. All field staff received training on data collection for 2 weeks. This consisted of instructive lectures and demonstrations followed by practice sessions at different households outside the sampled villages, and finally a special briefing session about field data collection procedures. The enumerator teams were led by supervisors and controllers. They were selected among the most experienced enumerators. The Impact Evaluation research team and the survey field coordinator closely monitored all the field activities through frequent visits for spot checking. They also revisited a random sub-sample of the respondents, called back the respondents for verification of information, and checked completed questionnaires for consistency.

Data Collection Notes

Time Method

The first wave of survey data collection took place from March to April 2011 with the technical support of the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IREEP) based in Benin.

Mode of Data Collection

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Questionnaires

2011 & 2015 World Bank and the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IREEP) household survey

Data Processing

No content available

Data Appraisal

No content available