

Reforms to Regulate Land Grabbing for the Benefit of Young People in Francophone West African Countries: the Case of Benin and Senegal.

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Key words: Access to land; Cadastre; Cartography; Geoinformation/GI; Land distribution; Land management; Land readjustment; Land grabbing, youth, land reforms, Youth land access, Land governance, Africa.

SUMMARY

Land grabbing has been in the news in Africa in recent years. Fertile land is increasingly falling into the hands of national or international private investors. Farmers with rudimentary means, youth, women, indigenous people, and pastoralists are the actors most affected by large-scale land grabs. Fertile land is becoming increasingly scarce and the public authorities do not seem to be determined to put in place safeguards to regulate this situation. However, while some countries such as Benin have made significant legal advances to try to regulate land grabbing, others are still sleeping on their laurels. The case of Senegal and many other West African countries are quite illustrative examples. But to better understand this rather differential trend, it is important to make a comparison between two systems, two West African countries, Senegal and Benin. The goal and purpose of our research paper was to compare the legal provisions of Benin and Senegal on land grabbing and to highlight the advances that limit this phenomenon to the advantage of the young people. The Methodology used in this research consisted firstly in a literature review of existing papers on the topic and the second aspect of our methodology consisted in the collection of land and legal data enabling us to see the progress of the phenomenon in order to propose recommendations to limit land grabbing in French-speaking West Africa for the benefit of youth. The results of our research paper will help to know more about land grabbing in francophone west Africa, especially in Benin and Senegal. The research results showed that land grabbing in Francophone West Africa requires legal and political regulation to better protect the land rights of vulnerable groups such as youth and women. The keywords in this research paper are Land grabbing, youth, land reforms, Youth land access, Land governance, Africa.

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