



# **Inventory of Socio-Economic Land Data (ISELDA) Project in Burkina Faso**

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## **Introduction**

Land governance is important for the structural transformation and sustainable development of Africa and its adaptation to climate change. It is also relevant for investment opportunities in the land sector. The importance of land policy for sustainable development is increasingly recognized and NEPAD has undertaken the Land Governance Programme (LGP) to provide support to member countries in integrating land governance issues into sector plans and strategies. To do this, an inventory of socio-economic databases is necessary.

The main objective of this study is to contribute to the development of quality socio-economic databases accessible to researchers and decision-makers in order to inform policy design and implementation in 10 African countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Namibia and Uganda. The specific objectives are: (i) to provide an inventory of land data on household and firm surveys in Burkina Faso, (ii) to develop a strategy for improving land data collection in Burkina Faso, and finally (iii) to develop a policy note to inform policy makers.

## Methodology

In order to achieve these objectives, a literature review and stakeholder visits were carried out. The literature review concerned the main land policy references in Burkina Faso: the Agrarian and Land Reform (which dates back to 1984 and was updated in 2012), the National Policy for Land Tenure in Rural Areas (PNSFMR 2007) and more recently law 034-2009 on Rural Land Tenure. The various instruments (questionnaires, survey guides, survey sampling) and survey reports were also reviewed. The interviews with the stakeholders were conducted from 22 to 28 September 2019. The choice of databases to be analyzed was made based on the information contained in the different databases and the objectives contained in the study's Terms of Reference.

## Results

- **The Permanent Agricultural Survey (EPA):** This is a panel database of households whose survey is carried out every year from the 2006/2007 crop year to the present. The objective of this survey is to annually estimate cereal production, areas, and crop yields. The data allow analysis on (i) gender, (ii) land use productivity, and (iii) operation of the land market. The EPA databases are available from the Directorate of Sectorial Statistics (*DSS*) of the ministry in charge of agriculture and are limited in access.
- **Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS):** This was conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Demography in 2014. The main objective of the LSMS is to set up a data collection system to feed into the main indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (*SCADD*). The data allow analysis on (i) gender, (ii) land use productivity, and (iii) operation of the land market. This database is open access. It can be downloaded from the DEMOSTAF website: <https://nada.web.ined.fr/index.php/catalog>.
- **The National Land Management Programme (PNGT) survey data.** This database is a household panel whose objective is to provide the programme with a set of relevant indicators to the monitoring and evaluation of rural household living

conditions. The data allow analysis on (i) gender, (ii) land use productivity, (iii) operation of the land market, and (iv) property income. The PNGT databases are available from the PNGT and from the Laboratory of Quantitative Analysis Applied to Development - Sahel (LAQAD-S). Access to these databases is limited.

- **Millennium Challenge Account (MCA):** This is a panel of households' data collected during the 2010/2011 crop year and then 2013/2014. The objective of these surveys was to assess the MCA rural land governance project. The data allow analysis on (i) gender, (ii) land use productivity, (iii) operation of the land market, and (iv) property income. This database is limited access and available from the MCA.

The analysis of the various databases collected revealed shortcomings in the collection of land information. In general, all databases use the General Census of Population and Housing (RGPH, 2006) for the determination of primary units (UP) or enumeration areas. For PNGT2 (2017) and EPA (2016) databases, the 2006 *RGPH* seems old and could bias the quality of the survey.

It appears from the four databases, that only the MCA database is intended primarily for the land tenure issue. For the other three databases, the land issue is secondary. The land variable is not uniformly codified in the different databases. The same is true for the variable "modality of acquisition of the parcel". This shows a lack of coordination between the actors that collect land data. Moreover, the data collection instruments are not updated according to the evolution of the land tenure security policy. Indeed, only the *EPA* database took into account the *PNSFMR* in its questionnaire. The management of land conflicts, which is an important aspect of land policy, is absent in almost all databases used in this study. Except the MCA, the main objectives of these surveys didn't include managing land conflicts.

In terms of geospatial information, the various surveys collect data on plot relief and soil type. GPS coordinates on longitude and latitude are also collected. However, surveys do not collect information on the longitude, latitude and shape of the parcels or field. If this information is taken into account, it could enrich economic analysis by exploring spatial econometric methods.

Based on these findings, the following recommendations are made to improve the land data collection strategy in order to better guide public policy interventions:

- **Conduct a specific land survey of national scope:** The MCA base is an example of success story on land database, but it does not cover the whole country and does not consider non-agricultural land. This survey could be conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Demography;

- **Improve the coding of the land tenure security variable:** It is important that the terms of the land variable consider the PNSFMR. To do this, the rural land ownership certificate must be integrated as a modality of the land variable;
- **Include a module on land conflict management:** This module should provide an insight into the nature and causes of conflicts, the protagonists in the conflict, the different levels of recourse for conflict resolution and the conflict resolution structures provided by the *PNSFMR*.
- **Include modules on the perception of land tenure security and the perception of the vulnerable** groups (young people, women and internally displaced persons due to the security crisis that Burkina Faso has been experiencing since 2016). The MCA questionnaire would be a good example.
- **Improve geospatial data collection** using tablets equipped with GPS. This allows an analysis of the spatial heterogeneity of households, which is linked to the behaviour of households in space.
- **Integrate topographic information:** This will provide information on habitats and infrastructures, road networks, rail networks, energy transport networks, hydrography, administrative boundaries, land use, orography, toponymy and points of interest, geodesy. This requires the involvement of the Geographic Institute of Burkina (IGB) in the development of data collection instruments and the survey.

## Policy implications

From above, the following policy implications emerge:

1. Make land socio-economic data accessible. For this, it is necessary to:
  - create a helpdesk of socio-economic databases. This helpdesk can be managed by the National Land Observatory (ONF)
  - Elaborate a law obliging the different actors of land data collection to make the data available for the establishment of the helpdesk.
2. Carry out a national survey specifically on socio-economic land data. To do this:
  - This survey could be conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD);

- The development of collection tools and instruments should be the subject of a participatory meeting of all stakeholders;
- The collection instruments must take into account the shortcomings of the data collection instruments currently used. For example, the rural land ownership certificate (APFR) must be integrated as a modality of the land variable in the questionnaires;
- Use tablets for data collection to facilitate data processing and scanning.

NEPAD could intervene in:

- the sensitization of the government on the importance of the creation of a land data helpdesk.
- the implementation of the helpdesk;
- capacity building for stakeholders of land data and the staff in charge of managing the helpdesk;



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