

The Palgrave Handbook of Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa

“I would like to congratulate Evans Osabuohien for bringing together so many scholars, especially Africans within the continent and in the Diaspora, to share their insights on relevant issues that matter for the transformation of Africa’s agriculture. This transformation is truly a critical facet of Africa’s general economic development prospects.”

—Jann Lay, *Professor, German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg & University of Goettingen, Goettingen, Germany*

“This is a remarkable book that highlights important and timely agricultural issues affecting Africa’s rural poor. In addition to increasing the knowledge base, providing policy-relevant ‘food for thought’ and pushing forward development efforts, *The Palgrave Handbook of Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa* serves as a solid reference point for future scholars, researchers and policy makers interested in informing and executing disruptive innovations in rural spaces on the African continent.”

—Uche Ekhator-Mobayode, *Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, USA*

“An exceptionally rich and comprehensive volume that provides an in-depth view of issues relating to agricultural and rural development in Africa and addresses pertinent policy questions. This is an important book, examining agricultural transformation from different perspectives across different countries on the continent to raise arising concerns, discuss impacts and provide helpful policies and recommendations. Astonishing scholarship, I hope this volume become a standard in the literature on development economics on Africa.”

—Samuel Amponsah, *President of the African Finance and Economic Association (AFEA), Institute for International Strategy, Tokyo International University, Japan*

“Unlike the previous publications on the subject, this book brings together the work of people who are concerned and knowledgeable about the dynamics of rural development and the channels through which transformation in agricultural land investments, production, processing, and other value chain activities boost productivity, income and employment for people living and working in rural areas in many African countries. By focusing on agricultural and rural development in Africa, this book has given the plights of poor farmers the special attention and efforts they deserve. Ultimately, the future success of initiatives to alleviate poverty, create employment and increase the livelihood of households in Africa is in the hands of Africans themselves and the competencies of its training institutes and research organizations. It provides a platform for African researchers to showcase their proficiencies in producing high quality research with robust and more widely applicable results.”

—Jacinta Nwachukwu, *Professor, Lancashire School of Business and Enterprise, University of Central Lancashire, UK*

“This book, which looks at agricultural and rural development in Africa, is timely and dovetails very well with the current African and international development agenda with respect to African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, the theme of the book is perfectly aligned with the African

Development Bank's High-5 on *Feed Africa* as well as the 2003 Maputo and 2014 Malabo declarations on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). The book provides rich background information for policy makers, development partners, students, and researchers. Undeniably, there is something in the book for every person, especially those who have a great interest in agricultural research and rural development."

—Adeleke O. Salami, *Principal Macroeconomist, African Development Bank Group Abidjan, Cote D' Ivoire*

"*The Palgrave Handbook on Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa* addresses relevant and crucial development issues as they pertain to the agriculture sector in African countries. It takes a holistic approach and presents these issues from multidisciplinary and cross-country perspectives. It is with no doubt that this handbook is very timely, insightful and appeals to anyone interested in the development of the agricultural sector and rural economy in Africa and other developing regions."

—Evelyn F. Wamboye, *Associate Professor, Pennsylvania State University, DuBois, USA*

"During the last decades, agricultural and rural development have experienced several 'ups and downs' with respect to the attention of academics, policy and development cooperation. The agricultural sector itself, and its main actors, seems to be too weak to 'hype' itself the attention it deserves. Therefore, it is highly welcome that a large group of overwhelmingly African scholars has tackled the subject in this volume and presents a broad spectrum of views on many of the topics that move the sector. I am optimistic that it will contribute a great deal in maintaining and sustaining the attention!"

—Michael Brüntrup, *Senior Research Fellow, German Development Institute, Bonn, Germany*

"The Agricultural sector is vital to Africa's prosperity and development. This sector employs more than half of the labor force but produces only 15% of GDP, with considerable cross-country variation, indicating that current performance remains below potential. *The Palgrave Handbook of Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa* contains technically rich and policy-relevant chapters that shed light on the performance and challenges of Africa's agriculture sector, particularly, youth employment, agricultural productivity, agricultural value chain, access to financial services, agricultural cooperatives and food security in Africa. Therefore, this book offers an excellent contribution for better understanding of the current state and prospects of Africa's agricultural transformation and generates valuable insights for improved agricultural policymaking on the continent."

—Ramu Govindasamy, *Professor and Chair, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, USA*

"The 2019 progress report on the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa highlights a stark warning: unless serious action is taken by African countries now, most of the SDGs are unlikely to be met in Africa by 2030. It is known that the greatest development challenges in Africa are in the rural areas where about 60% of the population live and where agriculture is by far the main economic activity. It is against this background that the timeliness and importance of this book must be judged. The plea by the authors for agricultural and rural transformation for Africa's development rings loud and clear throughout the book; may it be heeded!"

—Goolam Mohamedbhai, *Former Secretary-General, Association of African Universities; Former President, International Association of Universities; Professor and Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius, Mauritius*

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The Palgrave Handbook
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FOREWORD BY DR. BADAR ALAM IQBAL

It gives me the immense pleasure and honour to write a foreword on the book entitled *The Palgrave Handbook of Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa*, edited by Prof. Evans S. Osabuohien.

Agriculture and rural development is the *sin-quo-non* for every developing economy across the world. Africa is no exception. The editor has chosen a very critical issue of the African continent. Across the developing countries especially in Africa, there is a low level of agricultural transformation along with rural growth and development. This is largely due to inappropriate linkages between agriculture and agro-industries, which are the essential “**spring boards**” for accelerating rural growth and development.

It is an undisputed fact that a country cannot attain economic emancipation unless and until its agricultural sector and rural economies are properly and adequately developed. This could be possible when the country selects and applies proper technology and other modern practices in these sectors. Thus, the major issues, namely poverty, creation of jobs, and low purchasing power, are closely related to agricultural and rural development.

As the editor has rightly opined in the introductory chapter, that transformation suggests the course of change of paradigm, which is a pivotal element of development. In this way, it could be said that transformation goes in tandem with development. Furthermore, rural transformation entails both agricultural and non-agricultural activities, which presupposes that agricultural transformation is subsumed in rural transformation. Therefore, agricultural transformation, agricultural development, rural transformation, and rural development are used to express closely related meaning by various authors in the book.

This book has well-thought and—documented five sections with twenty-six chapters covering the different segments of agriculture and rural development in Africa. Every section is dealing with the major issues within the section that the sectors are facing. The views of the authors are well

supported by the citations. The citations are up to date and well inserted at the appropriate places to enhance the academic value of the book.

I do agree with the observations of the editor that “to achieve the desired agricultural transformation and development in Africa, more concerted efforts are required in formulating and implementing policies that will make financial resources available to the agricultural sector; reducing employment bottlenecks; access to agricultural-friendly technologies; adherence to principles guiding land acquisitions, among others. The aforementioned are germane to ensure that the desired agricultural and rural development in Africa are not only sustainable but people-centred”.

It is true that the basic purpose and function of agriculture and rural development is to boost the purchasing power of the people and their respective quality of life. These are the essential facets for transformation of traditional economy into modern economy. This could be possible when the required amount of investment is made out in the major segments of the rural economy of the African continent. There is a correct saying that “**rural Africa is the real Africa**” and economic, social, and political emancipation cannot see the light of the day unless and until there is accelerating pace of growth and development in “**rural Africa.**” Thus, the main challenge is the choice of the technology and its application in the agriculture and rural sectors.

The book provides a critical and valuable insight into the structure and function of the agriculture and rural economy in the African region and countries. It is both intensive and extensive. The book is “**light and fruit bearing**” in nature and contents. I must congratulate the editor and all the contributors for providing such a study, which will serve the better cause of agricultural and rural development on the African continent. It will also serve as an eye “**opener**” for planners and policymakers on the continent, who may take into consideration the issues raised and solutions provided, especially in the context of finance, food security, and the land management system. There must be an integrated approach for meeting the rising challenges which the African continent, in general, and the rural economy, in particular, face and which the book unveils to the readers.



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FOREWORD BY SIMPLICE ASONGU

It is a consensus both in scholarly and policy circles that after two decades of economic growth resurgence, many lives in Africa have not improved. It is apparent from the attendant literature that many countries in the continent did not achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target of halving extreme poverty by 2015. In summary, over the past two decades, while extreme poverty has decreased substantially in other regions of the world, close to half of the countries in Africa were substantially off-track from achieving the MDG extreme poverty target. Post-2015 policy reports and scholarship are also consistent on the view that unless paradigm shifts are taken on board, it is very unlikely that most countries in Africa would achieve most Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets by 2030.

In the light of the above, *The Palgrave Handbook on Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa* is a timely scholarly contribution that provides critical insights into the *Main Issues and Imperatives* that are worth engaging by scholars and policymakers in order to steer Africa towards the achievement of the SDGs. Whereas almost all dimensions of the SDGs are engaged in the book, two specific SDGs merit emphasis. SDG2 (*end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*) and SDG 8 (*promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*), which are central elements of the book, clearly articulate the imperative of addressing the challenge of agriculture and food security in the light of growing concerns about job creation, especially among the rural population. The narratives in the book are not exclusively limited to the livelihoods pertaining to primary production. This is essentially because, insights into the non-farm economy and value chains are also provided to articulate the interdependence of agriculture with other sectors of the economy in order to maximize targeted inclusive benefits for society.

The lessons learned from the failed integrated rural development programs in the 1960s are taken into profound account. In essence, policy syndromes and *Main Issues* of the failed rural development dominant paradigms of donors in the immediate post-independence era as well as subsequent structural adjustment and sector-wide paradigms from international financial institutions are addressed in this timely book. Accordingly, policy measures and *Imperatives* proposed in this scholarship acknowledge past lessons surrounding donor-funded investments, which cannot be effective unless there are substantial policy environmental changes. Hence, inter alia, enhanced political will and institutional capacity are some imperatives for the suggested policy initiatives to be sustainably taken on board. The novel approaches to rural transformation and development covered in the book are built on proven and documented contemporary successes on what works for agricultural and rural development. These include: people-centred approaches that are tailored to finding local solutions pertaining to local opportunities and challenges; building a conducive environment for inclusive and responsible investment in the private sector; evidence-tailored solutions that are resilient, inclusive and sustainable; engaging investments and policy concerns with transparency and accountability and strong ownership by stakeholders at the national levels (especially civil society and farming organizations).

In summary, the new paradigms to rural development proposed herein considerably acknowledge the central role of the rural world which, contrary to assumptions pertaining to policy syndromes of failed paradigms, are very different and extremely diverse, complex, and dynamic from one country to another. Hence, the *Issues* raised and *Imperatives* documented in this book for agriculture and rural development carefully engage the fact that the connectedness between the modern economy and the rural population is changing dramatically and hence multifaceted and country-specific approaches are worthwhile.

A relevant common feature that is apparent among the authors of various chapters is that the analyzed findings are succinctly summarized in order to increase readability and accessibility on the part of scholars and policymakers who might need more technical knowhow to grasp the robust empirical analyses and corresponding policy suggestions. Therefore, the book is an easy-to-read and richly policy-relevant scholarship for both non-specialists and specialists.



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The editor wishes to most sincerely appreciate the helpful assistance provided by individuals and organizations, which made this research project become a reality right from the ideas formation, conceptualization, proposal stage, review to this beautiful scientific piece. The dedication of the contributing authors of the respective chapters as well as the reviewers is greatly acknowledged.

It is worthy of note that the concept of this research project concretized from my research activities as a Visiting Professor at Faculty of Management and Economics, Witten/Herdecke University (W/HU), Germany with funding from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), Germany. Thus, I deeply appreciate the award from AvH for providing stipend for my stay and that of my family members in Germany, which enhanced my focus and concentration. The helpful assistance from my hosts at W/HU (Dr. Magdalene Silberberger and Prof. Joachim Zweynert) for creating compelling and serene ambience for productive research engagement is appreciated.

The provision of a good working environment by The German Development Institute during my short research stay in June 2019 after my Keynote Speech at the Jan Walliser Memorial Lecture, which facilitated the writing of the preliminary pages of the book, is equally acknowledged. Similarly, I appreciate Covenant University for granting me the permission to embark on research leave that enabled me to stay focused. My sincere appreciation also goes to my former hosts (Dr. Michael Bruentrup, German Development Institute, Bonn and Prof. Jann Lay, German Institute for Global and Area Studies-GIGA, Hamburg) who have remained veritable source of intellectual stimulation over the years.

The call for the book chapters had a wide coverage across the globe, which was facilitated by numerous networks that assisted in disseminating the information. These include: Dr. Kathleen G. Beegle (World Bank), United Nations Conference for Trade and Development Virtual Institute (UNCTAD Vi),

African Finance and Economic Association (AFEA) network, Council for the Development of Social Science in Africa (CODESRIA), Nigerian Economic Society (NES), African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Young African Researchers in Agriculture (YARA), African Growth and Development Policy Modeling Consortium (AGRODEP), African Political Economy Association, African-German Network of Excellence in Science (AGNES), Swedish Institute, among others.

Furthermore, I remain grateful to faculty and staff of the Department of Economics and Development Studies, Centre for Economic Policy and Development Research (CEPDeR) as well as Regional Centre of Expertise, Ogun (RCE Ogun), Covenant University for valuable insights that helped the *incubation and hatching* of this laudable project. I wish to also acknowledge the inputs and suggestions received from participants and organizers (too numerous to itemize) at various seminars, conferences, and workshops across the world where the ideas, processes, and stages of the research project were discussed.

Finally, I am eternally grateful to the Most High God for the strength and wisdom as well as my family members for their unquantifiable supports that created healthy and fertile ground to nurture and sustain the ideas all through despite other issues contesting for my time and attention.

Ota, Nigeria
2020

Evans S. Osabuohien Ph.D.

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Evans S. Osabuohien	
General and Background Issues	
Domesticating the SDGs in Africa for Rural and Agricultural Development: The Case of Devolved Governance	17
Samuel Mwangi Wanjiku, Fred Jonyo, and Milton Alwanga	
Youth Employment Challenge and Rural Transformation in Africa	41
Damian Kalu Ude	
Impact of Remittances on Agricultural Labor Productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa	67
Kwami Ossadzifo Wonyra and Muriel E. S. Ametoglo	
Electricity Access and Agricultural Productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Panel Data	89
Oluwasola E. Omoju, Opeyemi N. Oladunjoye, Iyabo A. Olanrele, and Adedoyin I. Lawal	
Beyond the Farm Gate: Can Social Capital Help Smallholders to Overcome Constraints in the Agricultural Value Chain in Africa?	109
Oluwaseun Kolade, Oluwasoye Mafimisebi, and Oluwakayode Aluko	

Household Livelihood and Welfare Matters

- Large-Scale Land Investments and Household Livelihood in Nigeria: Empirical Insights from Quantitative Analysis** 133
Evans S. Osabuohien, Felicia O. Olokoyo, Uchenna R. Efobi, Alhassan A. Karakara, and Ibukun Beecroft
- Agricultural Productivity and Household Welfare in Uganda: Examining the Relevance of Agricultural Improvement Interventions** 153
Nicholas Kilimani, John Bosco Nnyanzi, Ibrahim M. Okumu, and Edward Bbaale
- Pattern of Labor Use and Productivity Among Agricultural Households in Nigeria** 175
Popoola A. Olufemi and Adejare A. Kayode
- Challenges in Tackling Poverty and Unemployment: Analysis of Youth Employment in Agriculture Program in Alkaleri, Duguri and Gar Rural Communities of Bauchi State, Nigeria** 199
Ruqayya Aminu Gar and Roy Anthony Rodgers
- Access to Resources, Transformation and Productivity Interactions**
- Determinants of the Willingness to Pay for Public Sector Health Care Services: An Empirical Study of Rural and Urban Communities in Nigeria** 219
Lloyd Ahamefule Amaghionyeodiwe
- Increasing Agricultural Income and Access to Financial Services through Mobile Technology in Africa: Evidence from Malawi** 247
Angella Faith Montfaucon
- Identifying the Gap Between the Demand and Supply of Agricultural Finance Among Irrigation Farmers in Namibia** 263
Elina M. Amadhila and Sylvanus Ikhide
- Access to Land and Food Security: Analysis of ‘Priority Crops’ Production in Ogun State, Nigeria** 291
Ngozi Adeleye, Evans S. Osabuohien, Samuel Adeogun, Siraj Fashola, Oyinkan Tasie, and Gideon Adeyemi

Rural Transformation Through Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies in Moshi District, Tanzania	313
Neema P. Kumburu and Vincent Pande	
 Employment, Migration and Transformation Nexus	
Rural–Urban Labor Migration and Youth Employment: Investigating the Relevance of Nigeria’s Agricultural Sector in Employment Generation	341
Abiodun Elijah Obayelu, Oluwakemi Adeola Obayelu, and Esther Toluwatope Tolorunju	
Fostering Rural Development and Social Inclusion in East Africa: Interrogating the Role of Cooperatives	367
Mangasini Katundu	
Impact of Non-agricultural Activities on Farmers’ Income: Evidence from the Senegalese Groundnut Area	395
Amadou Tandjigora	
Youth (Un)employment and Large-Scale Agricultural Land Investments: Examining the Relevance of Indigenous Institutions and Capacity in Tanzania	425
Evans S. Osabuohien, Alexander von Humboldt, Uchenna R. Efobi, Ciliaka M. Gitau, Romanus A. Osabohien, and Oluwasogo S. Adediran	
Local Politics of Land Acquisitions for Foreign and Domestic Investments in Tanzania	457
Godfrey Eliseus Massay	
Agricultural Policy and Food Security in Nigeria: A Rational Choice Analysis	475
Opeyemi Idowu Aluko	
 Processing, Value Chain and Food Security	
Socio-Cultural Factors and Performance of Small-Scale Enterprise in Agro-Allied Manufacturing Firms in Nigeria	495
Alidu O. Kareem, Temitope F. Jiboye, Oluwabunmi O. Adejumo, and Michael O. Akinyosoye	

Labor Processes in Large-Scale Land Investments: The Case of Sugar Estates in South-Eastern Zimbabwe Patience Mutopo	513
Poverty Reduction, Sustainable Agricultural Development, and the Cassava Value Chain in Nigeria Waidi Gbenro Adebayo and Magdalene Silberberger	525
Micro-determinants of Women’s Participation in Agricultural Value Chain: Evidence from Rural Households in Nigeria Kehinde Oluwole Ola	553
Job Creation and Social Conditions of Labor in the Forestry Agro-Industry in Mozambique Rosimina Ali	571
Boosting Non-oil Export Revenue in Nigeria Through Non-traditional Agricultural Export Commodities: How Feasible? Grace O. Evbuomwan, Felicia O. Olokoyo, Tolulope Adesina, and Lawrence U. Okoye	611
Conclusion: Agricultural Investments and Rural Development in Africa—Salient Issues and Imperatives Evans S. Osabuohien and Alhassan A. Karakara	627
Index	641

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LIST OF FIGURES

Domesticating the SDGs in Africa for Rural and Agricultural Development: The Case of Devolved Governance

Fig. 1 SDGs domestication process 24

Youth Employment Challenge and Rural Transformation in Africa

Fig. 1 Trend of youth literacy rate by gender in Africa 56

Fig. 2 Trend of employment in agriculture and employment to population ratio in Africa 56

Impact of Remittances on Agricultural Labor Productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa

Graph 1 Remittances transmission channels in sub-Saharan Africa 71

Electricity Access and Agricultural Productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Panel Data

Fig. 1 Agriculture, fishing and forestry value added, 1981–2017 90

Beyond the Farm Gate: Can Social Capital Help Smallholders to Overcome Constraints in the Agricultural Value Chain in Africa?

Fig. 1 Conceptual framework: Social capital and mechanisms for overcoming constraints in the agricultural value chain 123

Large-Scale Land Investments and Household Livelihood in Nigeria: Empirical Insights from Quantitative Analysis

Fig. 1 Land tenure system and LLIs nexus 139

Increasing Agricultural Income and Access to Financial Services through Mobile Technology in Africa: Evidence from Malawi

Chart 1	Mobile cellular subscription and crop production in Malawi	252
Chart 2	Percent of respondents across the variables	255
Chart 3	Effect of education of HH head on the probability of having a phone	259

Identifying the Gap Between the Demand and Supply of Agricultural Finance Among Irrigation Farmers in Namibia

Fig. 1	Map of Namibia with regions	272
Fig. 2	The NCT model approach of computer-assisted analysis	276
Fig. 3	Loan amounts in arrears	282

Access to Land and Food Security: Analysis of ‘Priority Crops’ Production in Ogun State, Nigeria

Fig. 1	Ecological clustering of crops in Ogun State	297
Fig. 2	Output of selected priority crops in Ogun State, Nigeria	308
Fig. 3	Yield per hectare of selected priority crops in Ogun State, Nigeria	308

Rural Transformation Through Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies in Moshi District, Tanzania

Fig. 1	Overview of theory of change for rural transformation	319
Fig. 2	Role of SACCOS in rural transformation	322

Fostering Rural Development and Social Inclusion in East Africa: Interrogating the Role of Cooperatives

Fig. 1	The integrated co-operative Model (ICM)	383
--------	---	-----

Youth (Un)employment and Large-Scale Agricultural Land Investments: Examining the Relevance of Indigenous Institutions and Capacity in Tanzania

Fig. 1	The top 10 major recipients of land investments in Africa	428
Fig. 2	Analytical framework: Large-scale land deals and employment interaction	433
Fig. 3	Farmers’ association and youth employment	450
Fig. 4	Ward tribunal and youth employment	451
Fig. 5	Civilian vigilante group and youth employment	451
Fig. 6	Educational qualification of community leader and youth employment	451

LIST OF TABLES

Youth Employment Challenge and Rural Transformation in Africa

Table 1	Descriptive statistics	54
Table 2	Multicollinearity result	55
Table 3	The results of the estimation of rural transformation and youth employment challenge models	57

Impact of Remittances on Agricultural Labor Productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa

Table 1	The expected relationship between the explanatory variables and the Agricultural labor productivity	77
Table 2	Descriptive statistics of the variables	78
Table 3	Correlation matrix	80
Table 4	Results of the impact of remittances on agricultural labor productivity using GMM	81

Electricity Access and Agricultural Productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Panel Data

Table 1	Panel cointegration tests	97
Table 2	Regression results—impact of electricity access on agricultural productivity	98
Table 3	Panel cointegration tests	99
Table 4	Random effects model of the differential impacts of rural and urban electricity access on agricultural productivity	100
Table 5	Panel unit root test at level	103
Table 6	Panel unit root test at first difference	104
Table 7	Correlated random effects—Hausmann test	105
Table 8	Correlated random effects—Hausmann test	105
Table 9	List of countries in the analysis	106

Large-Scale Land Investments and Household Livelihood in Nigeria: Empirical Insights from Quantitative Analysis

Table 1	Variable names and definitions	143
Table 2	Summary statistics of variables	144
Table 3	Results from double difference (DiD)	146
Table 4	Double difference with fixed effect	147

Agricultural Productivity and Household Welfare in Uganda: Examining the Relevance of Agricultural Improvement Interventions

Table 1	Description of output, input, and farm specific variables	160
Table 2	Mean values of data used in the Stochastic production frontier	162
Table 3	Results of the stochastic frontier model	163
Table 4	Mean values of variables for the of the household consumption model	165
Table 5	Fixed effects model results for productivity on real household consumption per capita	167

Pattern of Labor Use and Productivity Among Agricultural Households in Nigeria

Table 1	Overview of main productivity measures	178
Table 2	A priori expectations for the determinants of labor use	186
Table 3	A priori expectations of the determinants of labor productivity	186
Table 4	Socio-economic characteristics of agricultural households	187
Table 5	Number of labor use during planting and harvesting activities	188
Table 6	Average number of man-days spent on work during planting and harvesting activities	189
Table 7	Average daily wage paid for hired labor for planting and harvesting activities	189
Table 8	Determinants of labor use among agricultural households	190
Table 9	Distribution of labor productivity	193
Table 10	Determinants of labor productivity	194

Determinants of the Willingness to Pay for Public Sector Health Care Services: An Empirical Study of Rural and Urban Communities in Nigeria

Table 1	Sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents	232
Table 2	Location (settlement area), access to health facility, preferred health care services, rating of the cost of health care services and whether cost prevented health facility utilization	233
Table 3	Perceived willingness to pay for improved quality of health services	234
Table 4	Average amount households are willing to pay for improved quality in public sector health care services	236
Table 5	Willingness to pay for improvement of health services (Prices in Naira (₦) for rural respondents)	238

Table 6	Willingness to pay for the improvement of health services (Prices in Naira (₦) for Urban respondents)	239
---------	--	-----

Increasing Agricultural Income and Access to Financial Services through Mobile Technology in Africa: Evidence from Malawi

Table 1	Marginal effects-factors affecting probability of having a loan	256
Table 2	Probability of non-zero agricultural income	257
Table 3	Marginal effects-factors affecting agricultural income and mobile phone ownership	258
Table 4	Probability of a household owning a mobile phone	258

Identifying the Gap Between the Demand and Supply of Agricultural Finance Among Irrigation Farmers in Namibia

Table 1	Population list of green-schemes	273
Table 2	Total loans approved, and the number of applications received between 2012 and 2014	274
Table 3	Loan access distribution	279
Table 4	Range of amounts borrowed by farmers interviewed	279
Table 5	Gap between demand and supply among green-scheme communal farmers in Namibia	280

Access to Land and Food Security: Analysis of ‘Priority Crops’ Production in Ogun State, Nigeria

Table 1	Average values of the crops	298
Table 2	Hectarage, output and yield pattern of priority crops (2003–2015)	299
Table 3	Ecological clustering of crop production	307

Rural Transformation Through Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies in Moshi District, Tanzania

Table 1	Explanatory variables and the hypotheses included in regression analysis	326
Table 2	Socio-economic characteristics of studied SACCOS	327
Table 3	Members transformation through SACCOS	328
Table 4	Multiple regression on the effects of SACCOS to rural transformation	329

Rural–Urban Labor Migration and Youth Employment: Investigating the Relevance of Nigeria’s Agricultural Sector in Employment Generation

Table 1	Rural–urban migration and engagement of youths in agriculture	356
---------	---	-----

Impact of Non-agricultural Activities on Farmers' Income: Evidence from the Senegalese Groundnut Area

Table 1	Incomes shares from the diversification of activities (%)	398
Table 2	Descriptive statistics of farmers' income	409
Table 3	Descriptive statistics of the non-agricultural activity as a secondary activity	410
Table 4	Farmers' non-farm income	410
Table 5	Non-agricultural income in terms of agricultural income	410
Table 6	Descriptive statistics of the number of days devoted to secondary employment	411
Table 7	Farm experience and farmer income	412
Table 8	Farmers' education level	412
Table 9	Farmers' sex	413
Table 10	Age and farmers' income	413
Table 11	Farmers' household size	414
Table 12	Estimations Results	415

Youth (Un)employment and Large-Scale Agricultural Land Investments: Examining the Relevance of Indigenous Institutions and Capacity in Tanzania

Table 1	Large-scale land deals in Tanzania (domestic versus foreign)	429
Table 2	Locations surveyed, # land deals and youth unemployment using ILO's definition of youth	435
Table 3	Summary statistics of selected variables using ILO's definition of youth	437
Table 4	Baseline regression inclusive of presence of NSAs	438
Table 5	Baseline regression inclusive of local institutions	440
Table 6	Baseline regression inclusive of social stability indicators	442
Table 7	Baseline regression, inclusive of quality of community leader	445
Table 8	Sensitivity checks (regression inclusive of only rural sample)	446
Table 9	Sensitivity checks (regression using TOBIT technique)	448

Socio-Cultural Factors and Performance of Small-Scale Enterprise in Agro-Allied Manufacturing Firms in Nigeria

Table 1	Result of reliability test	503
Table 2	Socio-cultural factors influencing performance of SSAMEs in South-western Nigeria	504
Table 3	Mechanism linking socio-cultural factors to SSAMFs performance	505
Table 4	ANOVA results for test of the hypotheses	507

Poverty Reduction, Sustainable Agricultural Development, and the Cassava Value Chain in Nigeria

Table 1	Nigeria—relative poverty headcount (1980–2010)	532
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Table 2	Nigeria—urban/rural incidence of poverty by different measures in 2010	532
Table 3	Nigeria—Gini index (inequality index) Nigeria (1985–2010)	532
Table 4	Production share of cassava by region average (1990–2017)	536
Table 5	Nigeria’s cassava production, share of world production and gross production value (current million US\$)—(1961–2017)	537

Micro-determinants of Women’s Participation in Agricultural Value Chain: Evidence from Rural Households in Nigeria

Table 1	Summary of statistics of selected variables	562
Table 2	Probit regression dependent variable: level of involvement	564

Job Creation and Social Conditions of Labor in the Forestry Agro-Industry in Mozambique

Table 1	Percentage of the Occ Pop. in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (AFF) and proportion of the Occ Pop. who gave “peasant” as their main occupation, Sanga and Chimbonila Districts in Niassa Province, 1997 and 2007	574
Table 2	Areas occupied by the forestry companies, Niassa province	580
Table 3	Labor processes in forestry production in Niassa	585
Table 4	Structure of the workforce, Forestry Company A, Niassa, in 2012	589
Table 5	Monthly wage (in Meticais—MT) and percentage of workers paid below the minimum wage, Forestry Company A, Niassa, 2012	593
Table 6	Change in social strata (Part 1) and change in possession of particular goods (Part 2), before and after the entry of the forestry companies, Chimbonila e Sanga districts, Niassa province	603

Boosting Non-oil Export Revenue in Nigeria Through Non-traditional Agricultural Export Commodities: How Feasible?

Table 1	Fixed effect results by commodity	620
Table 2	Random-effects regression result	622