

Agricultural Lands Cadastre Provisions and Management: a Suitable Means for Poverty Eradication and Youths Empowerment in Delta State of Nigeria

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SUMMARY

Farm Lands Cadastre in Delta State of Nigeria is not well articulated and defined in general Cadastre Land Administration and Management. Presently, Lands Cadastre System is basically focused on parcels and land ownership for residential and commercial purposes. Certificate of Occupancy for farmlands are very restricted and uncommon particularly with low income group of farmers. Farm Lands Cadastres are within local and customary tenancy for the peasant farmers and individual plantation ownerships. Documentation in terms of boundaries delineations and Survey Plans with titles and rights are not popular and lack governmental encouragement. Compensations are usually poor and cumbersome. The aim of this paper is to showcase the need for Farm Lands Cadastre provisions and management; which is a veritable means for poverty eradication and youths' empowerment. The state government of Delta State is capable and the initiative is possible. Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Lands Survey and Urban Development (MLSUD) are to be the major players. This paper will look into the inter play between the Ministries in the state and Federal Government. Inter and Intra Ministerial relations shall be examined and discussed. Cooperative Societies and Farmers Associations are all stakeholders in this initiative. Farm Lands Cadastre Laws shall be identified to show the legal milestones and its inadequacies. The farmlands in the state presently: in terms of ownership, rights, restrictions and the records are not readily available in the Office of State Surveyor General. Farmers particularly peasants do not have ownership documented titles and rights. The big and corporate farms are existing in the state with valuable title documents and government back rights. But the Agricultural Policy of the State Government lacks adequate Land Administration and sustainable development. This Paper will examine the challenges; express solutions; suggest way forward for a good agricultural Lands Cadastre provisions and management for poverty eradication and youths' empowerment for good governance and sustainability. The paper will examine other countries with similar state of things and how they have been able to surmount the problem. Presidential Committee for Lands Titling that is on going in the country will be examined; the progress made by this committee shall form part of this work. Rural Land and Urban Area demarcation for good land administration will form part of this work. Urbanization and farmlands are usually not in harmony when the Land Administration is not properly managed. Crops damage and poor or no compensations are very common. This as a challenge to the peasant farmers will be studied and highlighted. Governmental and Non Governmental agencies that are in limbo will be identified and a course of action shall be charted out for them. Reforms emanating from this initiative will adapt holistic approach of employing the perceptions of the farmers in terms of culture and history of the people as related to land management and development.

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