

Presented at the FIG Working Week 2017,
May 29 - June 2, 2017 in Helsinki, Finland

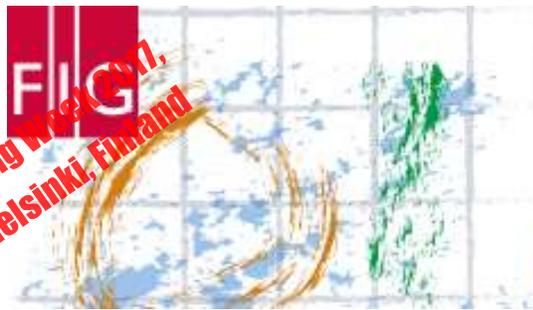
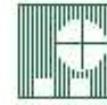


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Role of farmers' participation in Land Use Consolidation in Rwanda: From principles to practice

Pierre Damien NTIHINYURWA

Fahria MASUM

May 30, 2017

What is Land Consolidation?

Land Consolidation is generally defined as simple reallocation of parcels to overcome the effects of fragmentation.

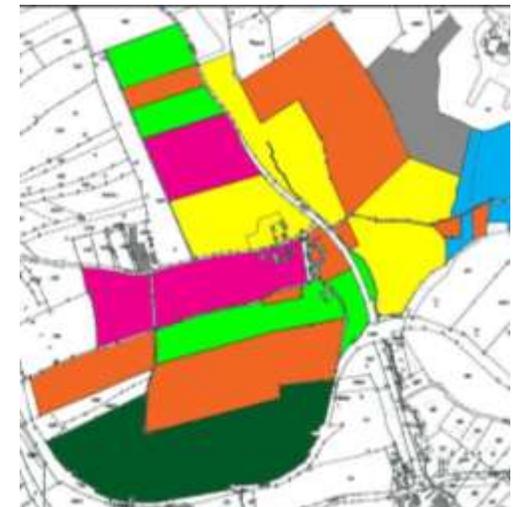
But according to FAO, in reality land consolidation has been associated with broader social and economic reforms.

- Land consolidation is an instrument or entry point for rural development.
- Environmental conditions are being given increasing priority.
- Land consolidation now encompasses activities of village renewal.
- Land consolidation projects also serve to modernise tenure arrangements.

Before Land Consolidation



After Land Consolidation



Official Gazette n0 52 of 27/12/2010

MINISTERIAL ORDER N°14/11.30 OF
21/12/2010 DETERMINING THE
MODELS OF LAND CONSOLIDATION
AND ITS PRODUCTIVITY

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PROVISIONS**

Article One : Purpose of this Order

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**CHAPTER II: OBJECTIVES AND
MODELS OF LAND CONSOLIDATION**

Section One: Objectives

Article 3: Rural Development and
agricultural reforms

Article 4: Selection of the model of land
consolidation

Section 2: Land Consolidation Models

In the Rwandan context, the term ‘Land Consolidation’ and ‘Land Use Consolidation’ are often used interchangeably in law and policy.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) uses the term Land Use Consolidation

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Official Gazette n° Special of 16/06/2013

1° special economic zones: a geographically specified and physically secured area administered by a single body, offering certain incentives including more liberal and simplified economic regulations for businesses to physically locate and operate within it;

2° flowing natural water: water flowing without any human intervention;

3° swamp: a plain area between hills or mountains with water and biodiversity, and where papyrus or carex or plants of their species grow;

4° land use consolidation: a procedure of putting together small plots of land in order to manage the land and use it in an efficient and uniform manner so that its productivity is increased;

5° national roads: international roads that link Rwanda with neighbouring countries; roads that link Districts or that link a District and the City of Kigali; roads that link areas of tourist significance and facilities of national or international importance such as ports and airports;

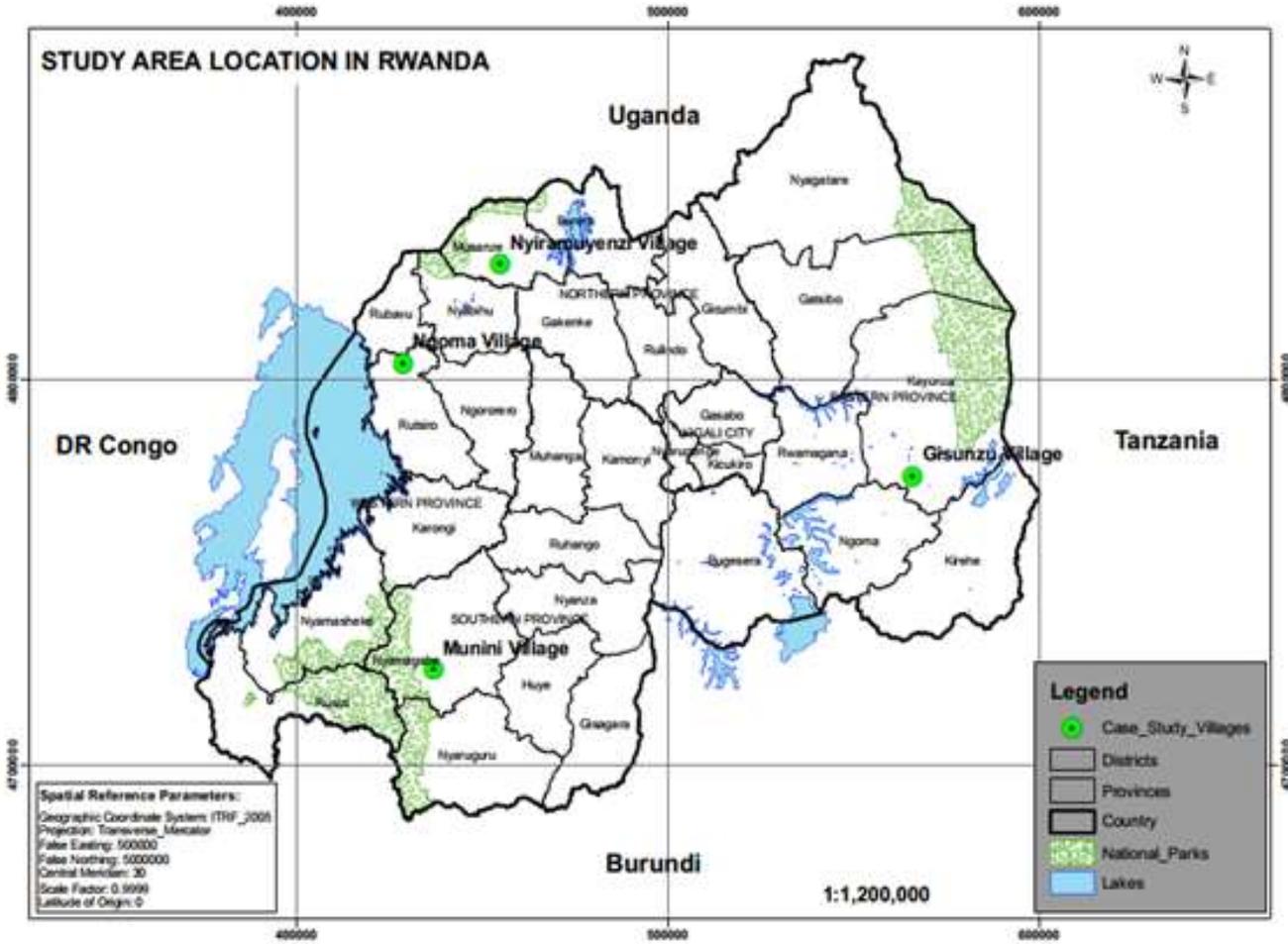
Land Use Consolidation in Rwanda

In Rwanda Land Use Consolidation Policy or Consolidation of Use Patterns enunciated started in 2008 as a main pillar of Crop Intensification Program (CIP) initiated in 2007 by the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI).

Farmers in a given area with closed parcels grow the same priority crops on a minimum size area of 5 ha in a synchronized manner on the provision of subsidized inputs by the government while the boundaries and rights on parcels remain intact.



Study Areas



NGOMA (Rutsiro District, Western Province)

NYIRAMUYENZI (Musanze District, Northern Province)

MUNINI (Nyamagabe District, Southern Province)

GISUNZU (Kayonza District, Eastern Province)

Data Collection Methods

- *Household survey in 4 villages*

Total 86 represent 15% of total households in 4 villages

- *Semi structured interviews with key respondents*

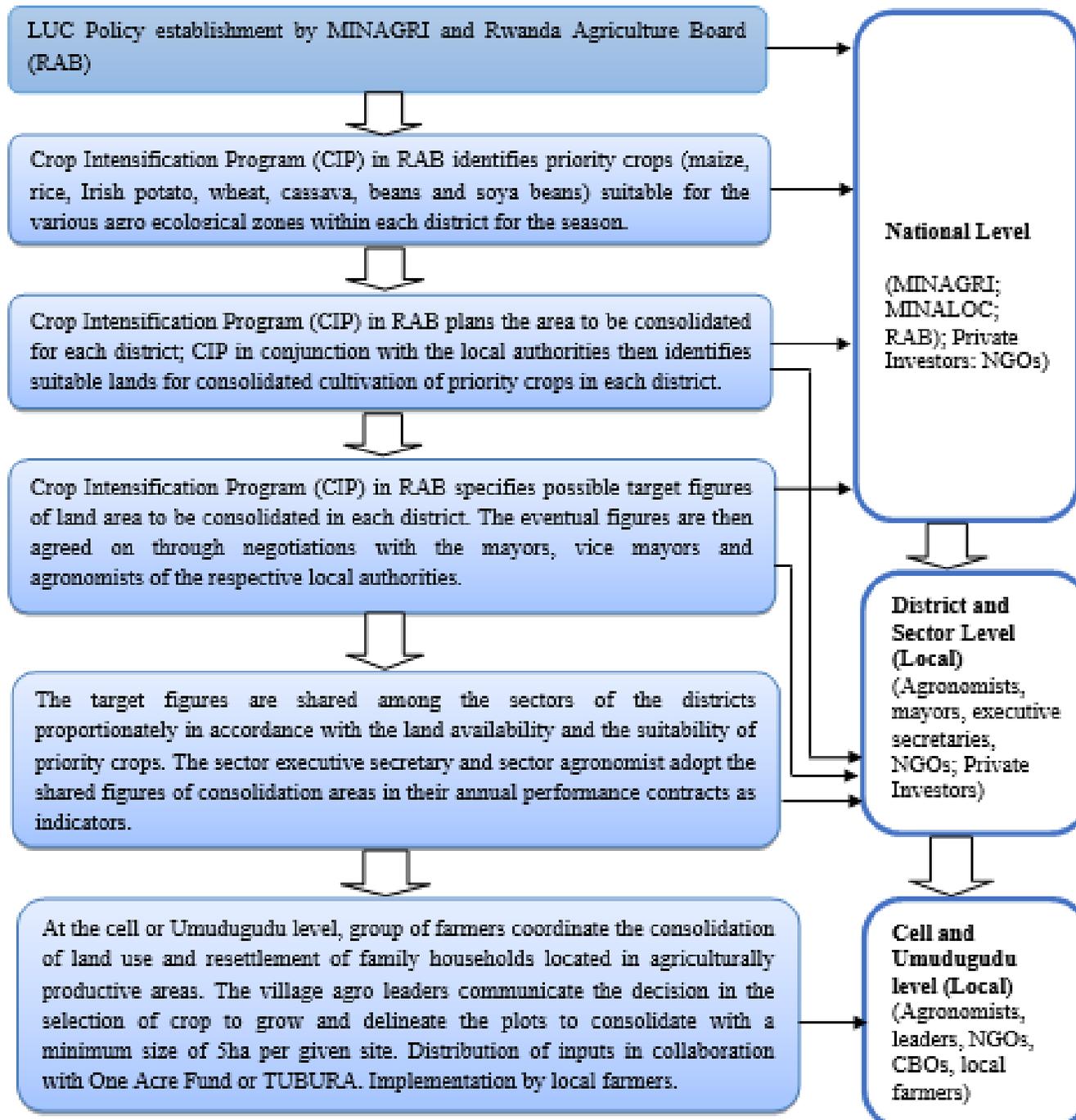
4 Local Government Officials (2 sector agronomists and 2 cells agronomists)

1 National Government Official (Head of the Department of Crop

Intensification and Food Security in Rwanda Agriculture Board)

2 Researchers/Experts (Chief of Party of USAID Land Project in Rwanda and a university professor).

LUC implementation process and stakeholders' involvement



Source: Authors, adapted from Konguka, G.O. (2013). *Land Consolidation in Rwanda*. Paper presented at World Bank Conference. Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources. Available at: www.minagri.gov.rw. [Accessed on October 10, 2015].

Major Findings

The gap between LUC principles and their implementation

Land Consolidation Ministerial Order n°14/11.30 of 21/12/2010 (Article 14) addresses the role of farmers' participation in LUC process.

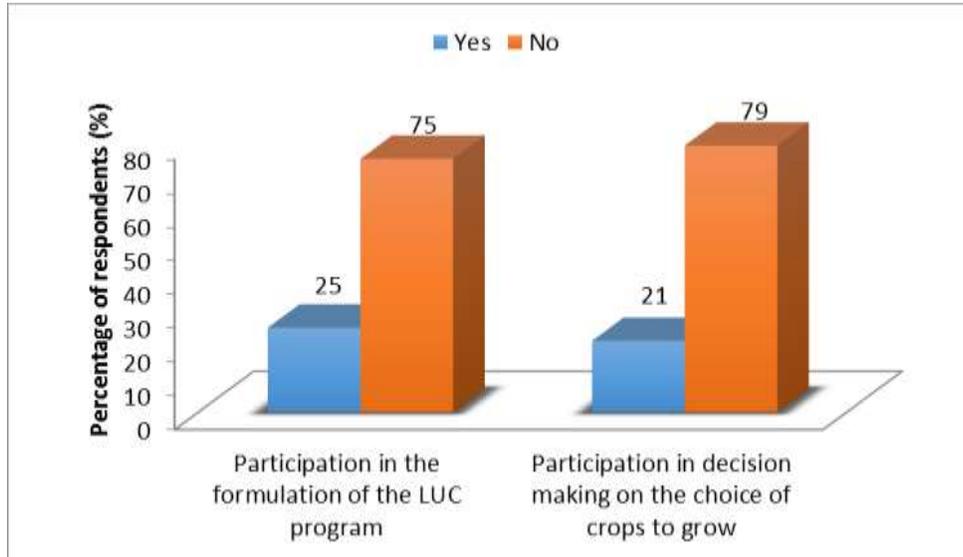
'To determine the possibilities of encouraging farmers and private investors to voluntarily participate in the program and to support it'.

'To apply democratic principles, use of consultative methods on any issue to be tackled and provide avenue for members of the community to express their comments on various programs'.

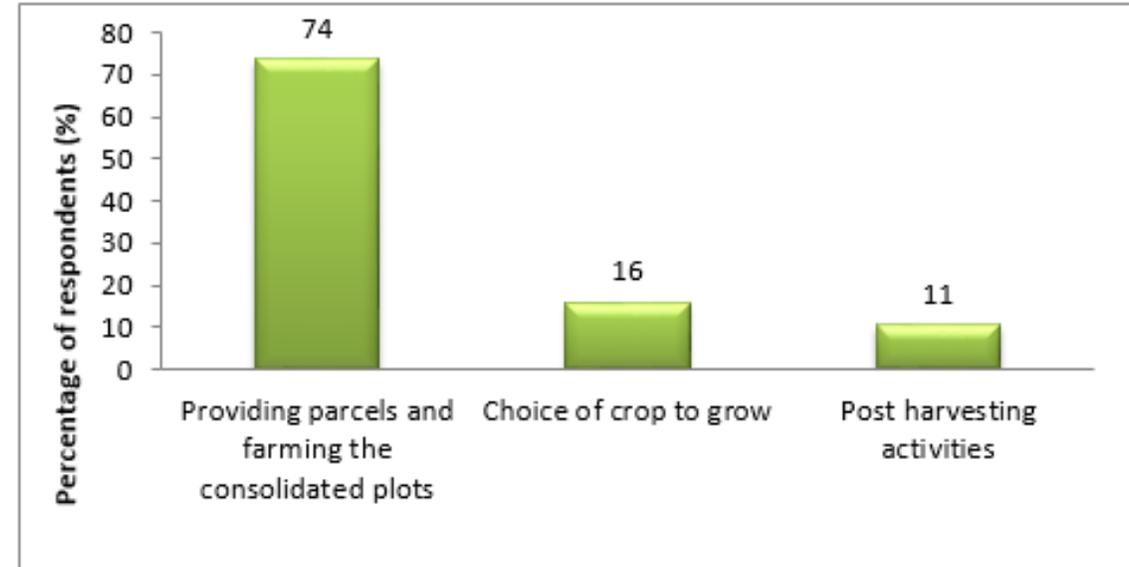
The research found, the above principles were not applied in practice.

Major Findings

Level of farmers' participation in LUC formulation



Level of farmers' participation in LUC Implementation



Does target driven top down approach violate farmer's right to use and manage land?

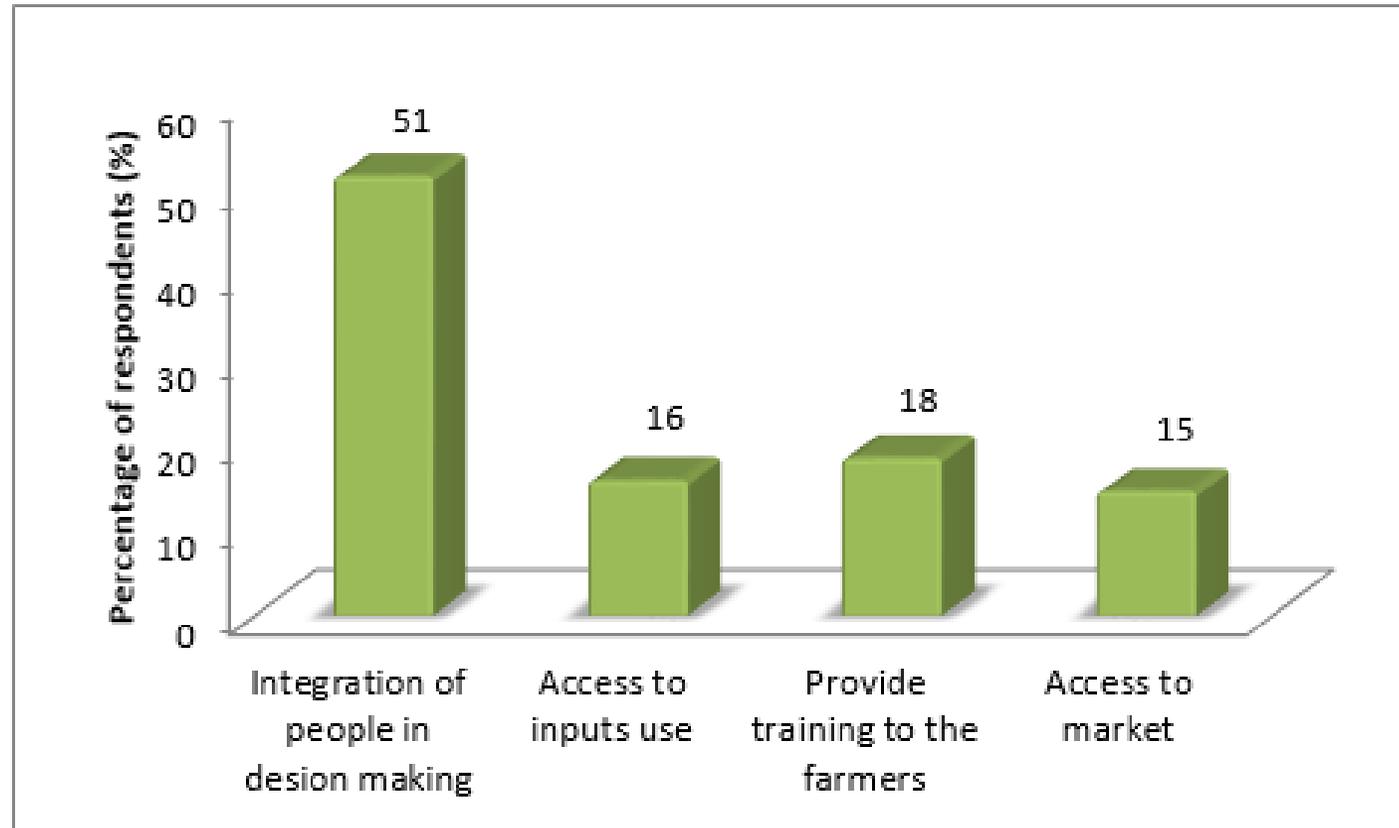
Major Findings

Level of farmers' satisfaction with LUC policy and priority crops

- 34% and 5% of the respondents are reported 'unsatisfied' and 'very unsatisfied' respectively with present LUC policy
- 16% and 20% are found satisfied and very satisfied respectively.
- 25% of the respondents have reported neutral to negative feelings about LUC policy.

Major Findings

Farmers' opinion on improving LUC program



Most of the farmers believe that LUC should be participatory.

Conclusions

- LUC process is target driven and follows a top-down approach.
- The fact of compelling the farmers to grow the priority crops chosen by the government in a top down way is seen as government's control over farmers' land use right and may cause land use conflicts.
- This calls for an active involvement of local farmers in the decision making process on how to use their land through a bottom up approach instead of existing top-down approach.

Recommendations

- The level of farmers' participation should move from passive level (i.e. information giving) to active level (i.e. taking part in decision making). Strong legal framework should be formulated. A post-project evaluation is also necessary.
- Closer coordination between government officials at national and local level is required
- Moving from 'land use consolidation' to 'comprehensive land consolidation' program.

Thank You