

Contents

Abbreviations 13

Conversion of Currencies 17

Abstract 19

1. Introduction 21

1.1 Private-sector coordination as a poverty alleviation tool in Tanzania 22

1.2 Large-scale land transfers in SAGCOT 24

1.3 Land in the context of market-oriented agrarian reforms 26

1.4 Water in the context of land and agrarian reforms 27

1.5 Research questions and scope 28

2. Background 33

2.1 Tanzania in a nutshell 33

2.2 The multilevel policy background for poverty alleviation 36

2.3 The Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania:
An overview 42

2.3.1 SAGCOT partners and financing instruments 42

2.3.2 Corridor and cluster designs 45

2.4 The evolution of land rights in Tanzania: The legal framework 51

2.5 The post-2015 political climate and its impacts on SAGCOT 54

2.5.1 The pre-2015 corruption scandals and land deals 54

2.5.2 The post-2015 political climate and investment setbacks 58

2.5.3 The growing emphasis on smallholders and public ownership 62

2.5.4 The new export bans to tackle food insecurity 64

3. Theoretical and conceptual frameworks 69

3.1	The agrarian political economy approach	69
3.2	Access as a conceptual alternative to land rights	74
3.3	Theories explaining the links between land, markets, and poverty alleviation	79
3.4	Contract farming as a pro-poor strategy	82
3.5	Research design: a trajectory-based agrarian political economy framework	89
4.	Methods	95
4.1	Case study selection	95
4.2	An overview: the Madibira irrigation scheme	97
4.2.1	The scheme construction and land distribution	98
4.2.2	Pre-SAGCOT agrarian transformation	102
4.3	Data collection and analysis	106
4.4	Potential biases	111
5.	Remaking Madibira: land-use change and distribution at conservation margins	113
5.1	The river basin management discourse in Usangu	113
5.1.1	Land-use change until the 1990s	115
5.1.2	The trial and failure of the river basin management approach, 1993–2006	116
5.1.3	Conservation area expansions in 2006	120
5.2	The geopolitical importance of Madibira within the river basin	123
5.2.1	The early days of the scheme: from a hydrological solution to a hydrological problem.....	124
5.2.2	Land and water use in the scheme, 1998–2006	128
5.3	Two episodes of land distribution after the 2006 conservation turn	130
5.3.1	Episode I: the transfer of unused lands in 2006	130
5.3.2	Episode II: conflict-led land transfers in 2009	134
5.4	The scheme's ongoing critical position in the river basin debate	135
5.4.1	Regular annual fee rises and land loss until 2018	137
5.4.2	Water regulations following the 2016 drought	141
5.4.3	Wetland politics in a vacuum.....	143
6.	The private sector-led agricultural transformation in Mbarali	149
6.1	The local private sector	150
6.2	The scope of SAGCOT activity in Mbarali	155
6.3	SAGCOT partners	156

6.3.1	Agricultural buyers	156
6.3.2	New inputs and cultivation techniques	158
6.4	The cost of semi-intensive paddy farming	164
6.5	Financiers	169
6.5.1	M-SACCOs (1998–2016).....	169
6.5.2	Mucoba Bank	172
6.5.3	Informal moneylenders	173
6.6	Mechanization and the Kilimo Kwanza fiasco	176
6.6.1	Contractual malpractice in the central government	178
6.6.2	Machine breakdowns and M-SACCOs' collapse	180
7.	In union, there is strength? Farmers' organizations as a gateway to the private sector	187
7.1	The Machine project	188
7.1.1	The machine capacity and income	188
7.1.2	Discrepancies in official reports	191
7.1.3	Farmers' perspectives on the machine project	194
7.1.4	The combine-harvester crisis	196
7.2	The fertilizer project.....	199
7.3	The collective-marketing project	201
8.	Autonomous contract-farming groups	207
8.1	Lyandembela Farmers' Group: objectives and the organizational structure	209
8.2	The contract-farming model and partners	211
8.3	Contract stipulations	217
8.3.1	Input choice and product specification	218
8.3.2	Risk aversion and loan-optimization strategies	219
8.3.3	Price determination and the quota arrangement	221
8.3.4	Monitoring and sanctioning mechanisms	222
8.4	Group-building: separation from Mamcos, cooperation, and conflict	226
9.	Rural differentiation: income variations and livelihood pathways	233
9.1	Interseasonal price fluctuations and the impact of grain export bans on local markets.....	234
9.2	Defining better Off: landholding sizes and harvest-income thresholds	239
9.3	The harvest and income data	246
9.4	Stepping down and out: ramifications on land and labor dynamics	254

10. Discussion	265
10.1 Key findings	265
10.1.1 Limits of common-property landholding	266
10.1.2 Political outcomes of market and contract coordination	268
10.1.3 Implications for income and rural differentiation	270
10.2 Research limitations	276
10.3 Policy and research recommendations	277
11. Acknowledgments	289
12. Literature	291
Annex – Interview Database	333

List of Figures and Tables

Table 1: The three-level policy framework of SAGCOT	37
Table 2: Four ASDP pillars and their implementing initiatives	40
Figure 1: SAGCOT partners	43
Figure 2: The corridor and clusters	46
Figure 3: Three types of private-sector coordination in SAGCOT	47
Table 3: Available land planned for use in clusters	48
Table 4: Milestones in Tanzanian land reforms	52
Table 5: Property-rights regimes	75
Figure 4: Operationalization of the APE-informed analysis	90
Figure 5: The location of the Great Ruaha River Basin	96
Figure 6: Location of the Madibira irrigation scheme	99
Figure 7: An illustration of canal design in the Madibira scheme	102
Table 6: Average income from paddy according to land size	103
Table 7: Scheme cultivated area and harvest, 1998–2005	104
Figure 8: Three stages of primary data collection	106
Table 8: Madibira informants, main fieldwork	110
Table 9: Cluster, basin, and private-sector informants	110
Figure 9: Hydrological map of the Usangu Wetland	115
Table 10: Milestones in Usangu land and water use	119
Figure 10: The location of the Madibira irrigation scheme	126
Figure 11: Steps of land access and loss due to annual-fee debts	132
Table 11: Annual-fee increase over years	138
Figure 12: Satellite image of the Phase II expansion area	145
Figure 13: The Mbarali River before and after Highland Estates	152
Figure 14: Raphael Group Limited in Mbeya	157

Figure 15: YARA flyer on fertilizer use for SRI	164
Table 12: Production costs for one-hectare paddy farming.....	165
Figure 16: Loan advertisements attached to a scheme food hut	174
Figure 17: Kilimo Kwanza project partners.....	180
Figure 18: Mamcos machines parked in its compound	190
Figure 19: Uturo combines	198
Table 13: Fertilizer project income and expenditures	201
Table 14: Data collection at the Lyandembela Farmers' Group	208
Figure 20: Mapanda's warehouse and milling facility	213
Figure 21: contract-farming cash and commodity cycle	214
Table 15: The cultivation calendar and loan distribution	216
Figure 22: Loan size of contract-farming informants	220
Figure 23: Measures to prevent loan defaults	223
Figure 24: Proactive measures to enforce loan repayment.....	224
Table 16: Data collection during the harvest period, 2017.....	234
Table 17: Scheme-farmer informants' harvest and income data	234
Figure 25: Wholesale rice price seasonality, 2017	236
Figure 26: Laborers sewing overfilled paddy sacks	238
Figure 27: Landholding size of irrigation farmers, 2016–17	240
Table 18: Harvest thresholds for income generation, 2016–17	241
Figure 28: Harvest data, 2016–17	246
Table 19: Categorization of harvest volumes according to land.....	248
Figure 29: Farmer with crop failure collecting crop residues.....	251
Table 20: Smallholder livelihood transitions 2016–17	253
Figure 30: Three stages of farming transitions in Madibira	273

List of Boxes

- Box 1: Rainy seasons in Tanzania
- Box 2: SAGCOT's role in staple food trade in Tanzania
- Box 3: Defining poverty
- Box 4: Selous farm profile in the Ndembera Subcatchment
- Box 5: YARA fertilizers promoted in Mbarali
- Box 6: Machine prices
- Box 7: Mamcos marketing proposal
- Box 8: The World Food Program in contract farming
- Box 9: Narratives of labor transformation

