

# Access to agricultural land, youth migration and livelihoods in Tanzania

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# Introduction

- Majority of the poor in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) engaged in agriculture
- Source of livelihood to over 80 percent of the population in SSA including youths
- Developing the agricultural sectors of the SSA countries as strategy to reduce youth migration in search of alternative livelihood opportunities
- Access to land is fundamental for youths in SSA to engage in agriculture as a source of livelihood

## Introduction (cont'd)

- High population growth in SSA countries is increasingly reducing access to land for youths
- A large proportion of the population is young people, suggesting that the number of youths will continue to grow in the next decade
- Out migration is one way of coping with increasing land constraints
- This paper investigates the effects of land constraints among rural youths on youth migration in Tanzania

## The study

- **Study hypothesis:** Inadequate access to agricultural land induces young people to migrate out for alternative livelihood opportunities
- We applied a probit regression model using 2008/09, 2010/11 and 2012/13 national panel data to investigate whether limited access to agricultural induce youths to migrate out of rural areas

## The model

- Analysis done at household member level
  - 2038 households; 10,964 members
- Model Variables:
  - Dependent variable: binary variable =1 if household member aged 15-25 years was available in 2008 but unavailable (migrated) in subsequent years

## The Model (Cont'd)

- Explanatory variables:
  - Population density
  - Land holding size of parent
  - Land productivity
  - Head of the household characteristics
  - Household members characteristics (age, gender, education level)
  - Distance to motorable road
  - Other variables are as shown in [Table below](#)

# Results of the probit model of migration decisions of household members between 15 and 25 years

Explanatory Variable	Marginal Effect
Gender of the member (1=male)	0.0027
Age of the member (years)	0.0528***
Square of age of the member (years)	-0.0013***
<i>Member's education attainment (base: no education:)</i>	
_primary education	-0.0098**
_secondary education	-0.0078
_post secondary	0.0556*
Crop net productivity per ha harvested ('millionTSh)	-0.0020
Land holding (ha)	-0.0001**
Matrilineal districts dummy	0.0197
Landholding*matrilineal districts	-0.0002
<i>Age of the household head (base: under 45yrs)</i>	
_45-55 years	0.0060
_55-65 years	0.0193***
_over 65 years	0.0246***

Explanatory Variable	Marginal Effect
Head of hh sex (1=male)	-0.0008
Head of hh education attainment (years)	-0.0004
# male between age of 15-20	-0.0007
# female between age of 15-20	-0.0016
# brothers and sisters to hh head	0.0047**
# spouses to the hh head	0.0019
Km from land to motorable road	0.0007**
# livestock	0.0001**
own tractor (1=yes)	0.0219
own plough (1=yes)	-0.0093**
own cellphone (1=yes)	0.0010
<i>Population density dummies (base: 0-50 persons/km2):</i>	
_50-100	-0.0008
_100-200	0.0027
_200-300	0.0028
_300-500	0.0072
_500-1000	0.0121*
_>1000	0.0294**
	*

## Key results

- **Population density:** Out migration of young household members is more prevalent in high densely population areas
- **Land holding of parents:** Out migration of young household members declines with increase in land holding of parent
- **Crop land productivity:** The higher the net productivity per unit of land the less the probability of young household members to migrate
- **Distance to motarable road:** Distance to motorable road as measure of market access and remoteness increases out migration of young people



## Other results

- Members' education attainment increases probability of a member to migrate
- Age of the household head increases out migration young members of the household
- Number of brothers and sisters to household head induce young members of the household to migrate
- Ownership of a plough in a household reduces out migration of young members of the household

# Conclusions

- While some people associate migration of youths out of rural areas with the behavior of disliking rural life or engaged in farming, the results of this study suggest that they are fundamentally against being poor
- Their decisions to migrate or not are affected by conditions that affect their ability to earn a decent livelihood in their home areas
- These results suggest that incentives to motivate youths to engage in profitable agriculture will change their migration behavior

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING



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