

Comments on Stein Holden and Frank Place Land Issues in Africa

March 2007

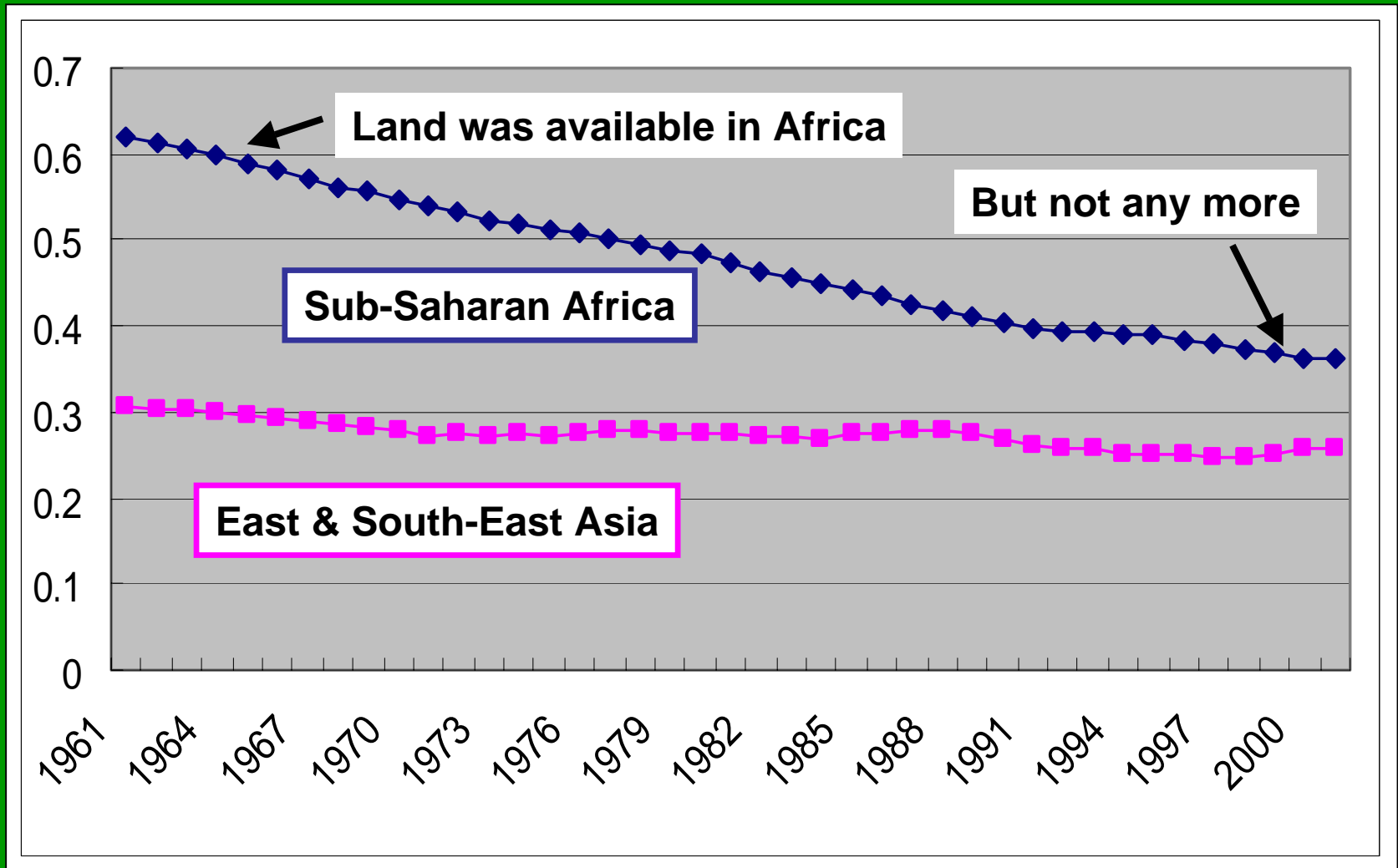
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Why focus on land in Africa?

- Africa's traditional land tenure systems have attracted both academic and policy interests.
- And, we now know that land tenure systems are dynamic and have evolved significantly, which attracted more interests.
- Land is one of a few assets that poor people in rural areas own, besides labor. Thus, it is important to know the distributions of land and how land markets function. Are land markets pro-poor.
- Land is becoming scarce in Africa.

Declining Land Availability per Person

(Arable Land/ Rural Population)



Source: FAO STAT

Comments on Frank and Stein Papers

- Frank Place's paper reviews broadly the issues related with land tenure and policies.

His main message is that there are so much heterogeneity in research findings which are reflected in policies.

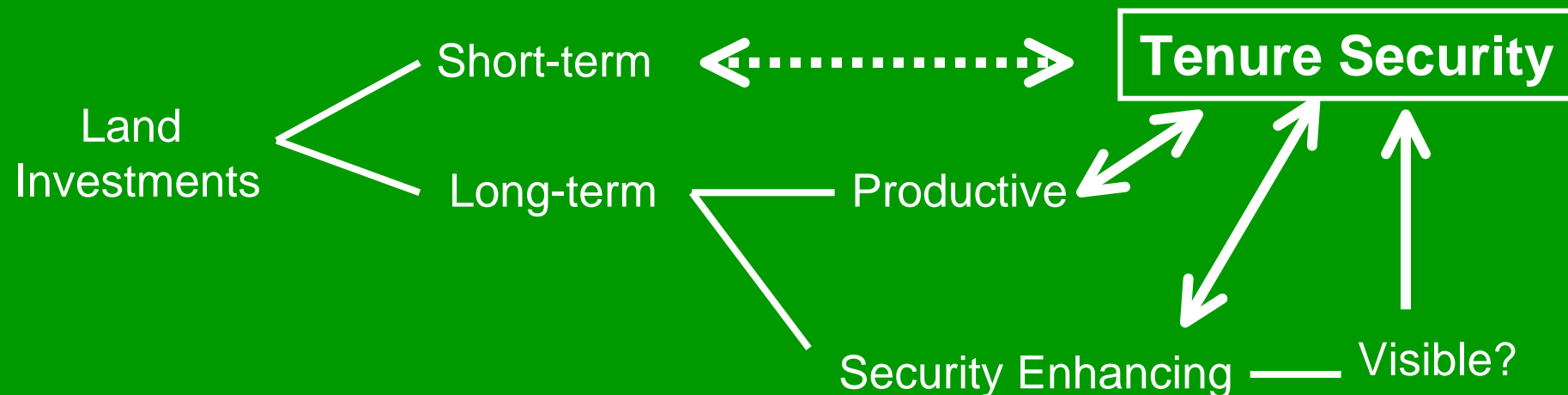
- Stein Holden's paper focuses more on land tenancy and its implications for efficiency and equity.

He reviews most recent research on land markets and indicate that markets are becoming important in Africa. However, he also find some complex interactions between land markets, efficiency, and equity.

Let's us come to some agreements

Main Hypotheses:

- (1) Tenure security enhances access to credit
>> Not so important in Africa (at least for now)
- (2) Tenure security enhances investments
>> Depends on types of investments (see below).



Let's us come to some agreements (cont.)

(2) Continued...

It seems that land insecurity does not have strong impacts on short-term investments such as chemical fertilizer use.

Does this mean that land insecurity does not explain low crop yields, at least for the short-term?

Let's us come to some agreements (cont.)

(3) Tenure security stimulates land markets

(4) Land markets improve productive efficiency

(5) Land markets improve equity

>> There are some evidence to support these hypotheses.
But the results depend on local situations.

(6) Women's land rights are less secure

>> Yes.