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## Access to Land and Food Security Nexus: Analysis of ‘priority Crops’ Production in Ogun State, Nigeria

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### Abstract

Ogun State is one of the six states in the South-West geopolitical zones of Nigeria with an arable land of 1,204,000 ha (74 % of the total land area of the state) and cultivated area of 350,000 ha (29 % of arable land area). The State has agricultural and location advantages which could be harnessed strategically in her quest of becoming an agricultural powerhouse. The State has acquired over 95,000 ha of agricultural land across the 28 communities across different Local Government Areas (LGAs) that are deemed to be suitable for the cultivation of priority crops, namely: cassava, rice, cocoa, maize, plantain, and oil palm. As at 2015, the State had allocated over 31,000 ha (32.6 %) to various agricultural investors, which connotes the existence of about 67.4 % of un-utilised agricultural land sites. Given that the abilities of both small-landholders and commercial-scale farmers to own arable land (land access) is a pre-cursor to ensuring agro-produce, OSG put in place a number of measures towards ensuring that the farmers’ agricultural cycle is not threatened. From the State’s Ministry of Agriculture, it takes an average of 3 to 6 months for an individual to secure land for agricultural purposes while it takes an average of 7 months a corporate body (commercial scale) to obtain same. Given that 10,000 hectares of land are to be acquired by OSG in 8 locations in selected LGAs of the State for agricultural purposes, successful individual applicants are entitled to 19 hectares of land while that for a corporate body is limitless. Thus, this study carries out an empirical investigation of land access and priority crop production in Ogun State, Nigeria. This is achieved using both primary data on issues relating to land ownership, access and cultivation collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGD) at LGAs and secondary data on crop production obtained from the State Ministry of Agriculture. For the primary data collection, out of 20 Local Governments in the State, FGDs were held in 3 LGAs. The selection of these areas was based on the fact that they are the bedrock of the State’s agro-food production.

**Keywords:** Cassava, food security, land access, priority crops