# Exploring perceptions of land tenure security and its implications in northern Benin

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## Introduction

Land tenure systems are key to land access and use (FAO, 2018). Though existing research covers the effects of secure land tenure, gaps exist in understanding farmers' perceptions (Ghebru & Lambrecht, 2017).

To support the development of equitable and sustainable land management policies, this study explores farmers' perceptions of land tenure security and its consequences in Northern Benin, using an innovative approach that combines farmers' mental models and survey data (Neef et al., 2000; Jones et al., 2011; Broek et al., 2021).
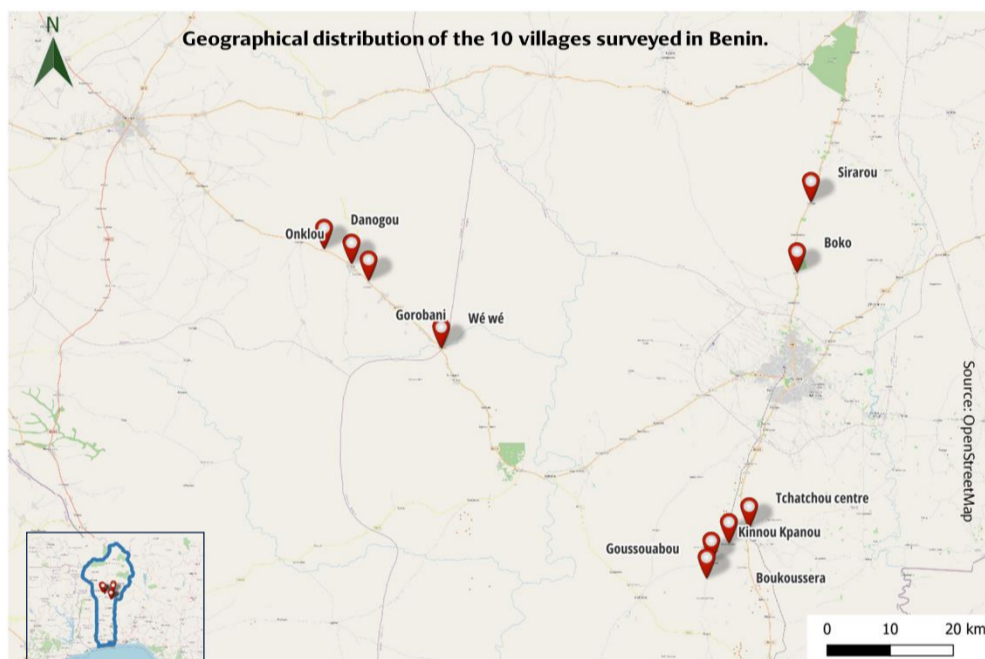


**Fig.1: Geographical distribution of the 10 villages surveyed in Benin.**

## Materials & Methodology

- Materials: M-Tool for mental models and Survey Solutions for survey data.

- M-Tool is an innovative digital mapping tool used to collect and analyse mental models on individuals' perceptions of real-world processes.

- Mental models are used to assess perceptions across contexts with varying literacy levels.

- Methodology: Descriptive statistics, mental models' data aggregation, regression analysis and linking survey data to mental model data for further analysis.

## Preliminary Results & Discussion

### Surveyed sample preliminary results

The study surveyed 300 respondents with a well-balanced gender distribution. 67% acquired their parcels through inheritance and owned their land, but only 18% of the owned parcels were registered due to the complicated procedure of acquiring a land title, and the lack of knowledge on how to acquired it, among them 8% have formal land title.
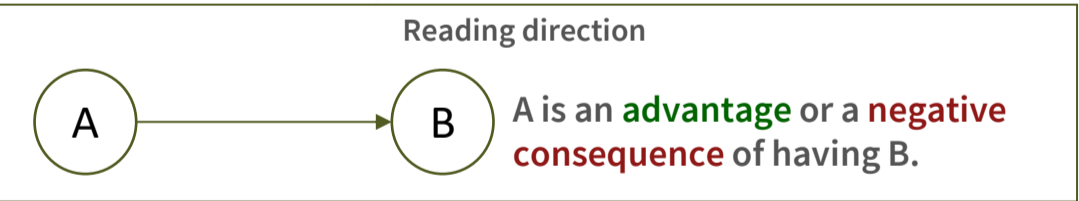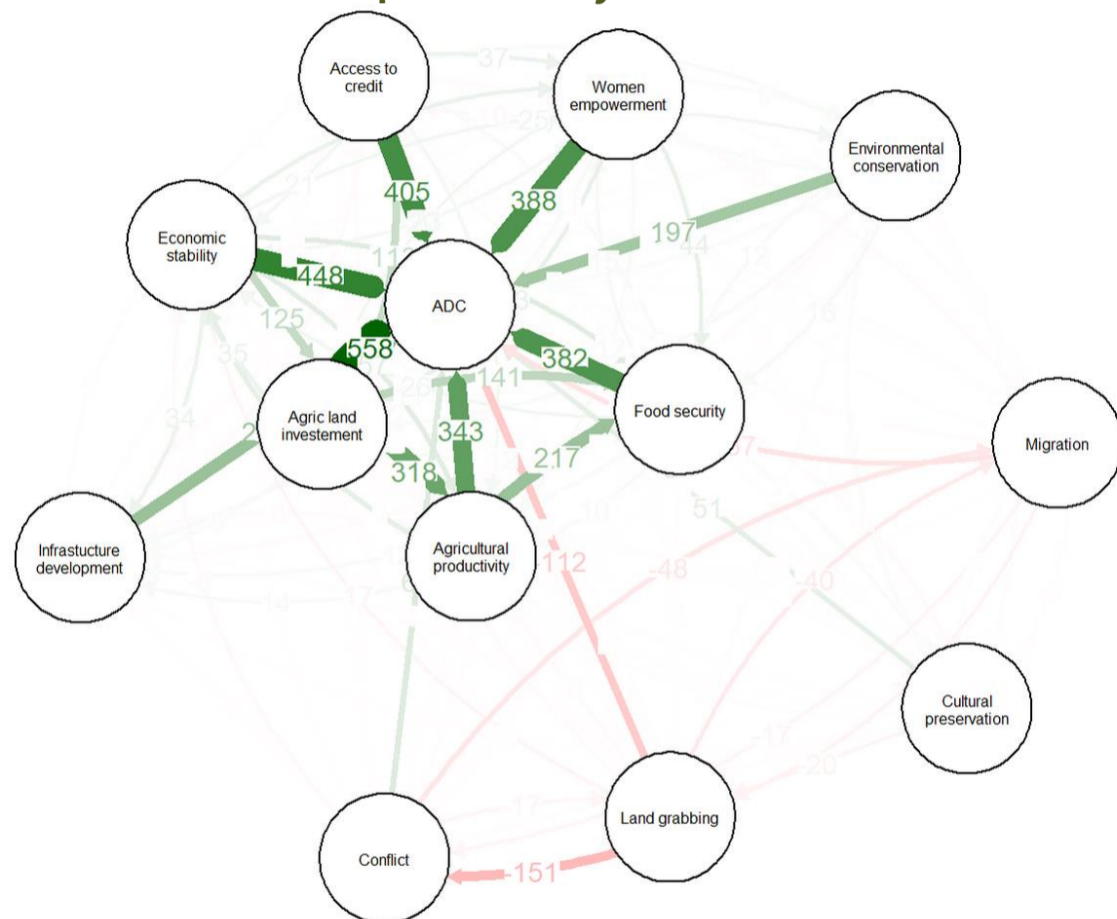
### Mental models preliminary results



**Reading direction**

A → B   A is an **advantage** or a **negative consequence** of having B.

**Fig.2: Aggregated mental models of respondents.**
**Question asked : 'What can be the advantages and disadvantages of having a customary secure land title called ADC in Benin?'.**
Arrows used during data collection were scaled between -3 and +3.

## Conclusions

Land use, access, and ownership critically shape perceptions of land tenure security and policy interventions on land management practices. In this study, we will compare men, women, migrants, and indigenous people, to identify more vulnerable groups for policy recommendations.

## References

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