In most African countries, access to land is central to the lives of most people, since a great majority of Africans and some 80% of the continent's poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Therefore, specifically land administration and land management reforms, are of vital importance. One of the main objectives of the introduction of land administration reforms is to strengthen land tenure security, which is important for agricultural production, as farmers are expected to be more willing to invest or to adopt new technologies if their land tenure is secured.

Rwanda's economy is largely agrarian with more than 80% of the population depending on small-scale farming for their livelihoods. In the immediate post-genocide period, Rwanda was characterized by land tenure insecurity caused by lack of access to land, low agricultural productivity and food insecurity. To deal with such challenges, the Rwandan Government initiated a Land Tenure Reform Programme. This thesis focuses on effects of the reform on the livelihoods of small-scale farmers considering two main components: the Land Registration and Titling programme for improved tenure security, and the Land Use Consolidation programme for improved agricultural production.

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