



STRUCTURED SUMMARY

CHARACTERISING COLLECTIVE TENURE SECURITY IN PASTORAL SYSTEMS IN BURKINA FASO

Issa Sawadogo, Elie K. Illy, Boubacar Ly, Safiatou Diallo, Ismael Badini, Jufferin Magnini and Magda Nassef

Motivation

Conflicts over grazing and pressures on grazing have increased owing to climate change — shifting rainfall patterns, shorter rainy seasons and more dry spells. Expansion of cropping, especially cotton, has eaten into pasture and water for pastoralists.

Purpose

We review land tenure for pastoralism and its governance. The subjects are pastoralists who migrated in the 1970s and 1980s from the north to the south, pushed by increasingly frequent drought in the north. They now live alongside agro-pastoralists in a zone relatively little populated because in former times it was blighted by river blindness; a plague ended when the vector of that disease, black fly, was eradicated in the 1970s.

Methods

We reviewed background literature on pastoralism and land tenure in Burkina Faso. We studied the case of Tigre village, commune of Binde, Zoundweogo Province, Centre-South region of Burkina Faso. In February and March 2023, we interviewed key informants and ran four focus groups with resident pastoralists, the Wakilé Allah.

Findings

The pastoralists graze land traditionally used for livestock. The land is privately owned but managed under collective, customary rights. Customary tenure aligns with the national Land and Rural Orientation Plan (LORP) which reserves the land for grazing.

While the customary system for managing grazing is widely accepted, concerns linger regarding its security. Tenure security is threatened by loss of social cohesion, unmarked pastoral spaces, encroachment by agriculture, and inadequate law enforcement.

Policy implications

Addressing threats to the pastoralists' tenure requires a balance that safeguards traditional practice, while providing legal protection through land management and registration. Grazing land should be registered in the name of the pastoral group or the commune, a step that will include developing rules for use of grazing and a local land charter.

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