

Governing Institutions of Informal Settlements in the Peri–Urban Areas of Ethiopia, the Case of Bahir Dar

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SUMMARY

Title: Governing Institutions of Informal Settlements in the Peri-urban Areas of Ethiopia, the Case of Bahir Dar Abstract The peri-urban land which predominantly has been used for agricultural purpose and held by local farmers is a target area for informal settlement. Despite the fact that most governments in sub-Saharan African countries like Ethiopia are ill-informed with respect to the social rules and institutions governing how people are acting in the informal settlement areas, informal settlements have their own forms of social ordering and systems. Actors in the informal settlement areas survive with their own initiative management system and land tenure relations. However, little in-depth research and analysis has been conducted on the actors involved in the informal (illegal and unauthorized) acquisition and development of peri-urban agricultural lands of Ethiopia. Also, research on what institutions are facilitating and regulating the process of informal acquisition and development of land in the peri-urban areas is very limited. Thus, this study aims to provide an overview of the principal actors involved in the informal transaction of land and the nature of non-state institutions governing informal acquisition and development of peri-urban plots. The study has employed a mixture of an intensive desk review with a case study research. This study has identified that the principal actors interested to have a plot of land from peri-urban areas informally are largely the urban poor. Moreover, traditional social institutions play a significant role in stabilizing and solving land related conflicts in the informal settlement areas. The study has also found out that the process of acquiring a plot of land from peri-urban areas passes through its own stages which mainly start with identifying a plot for sale and ends with the confirmation of letter of agreement signed by transacting parties.