

# The Intersection of Youth Access to Land, Migration and Employment Opportunities: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa



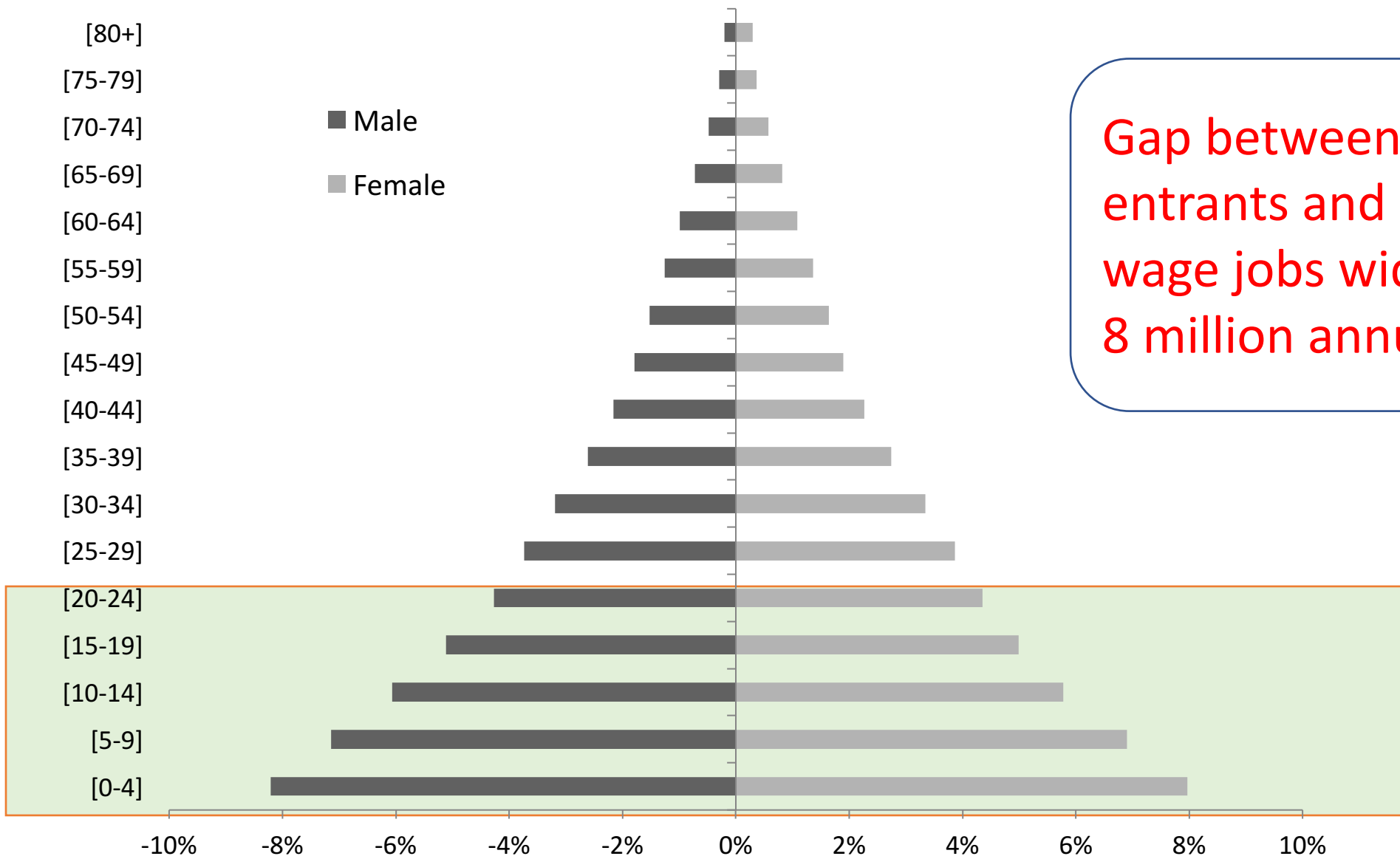
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# Youth bulge: Looming employment challenge

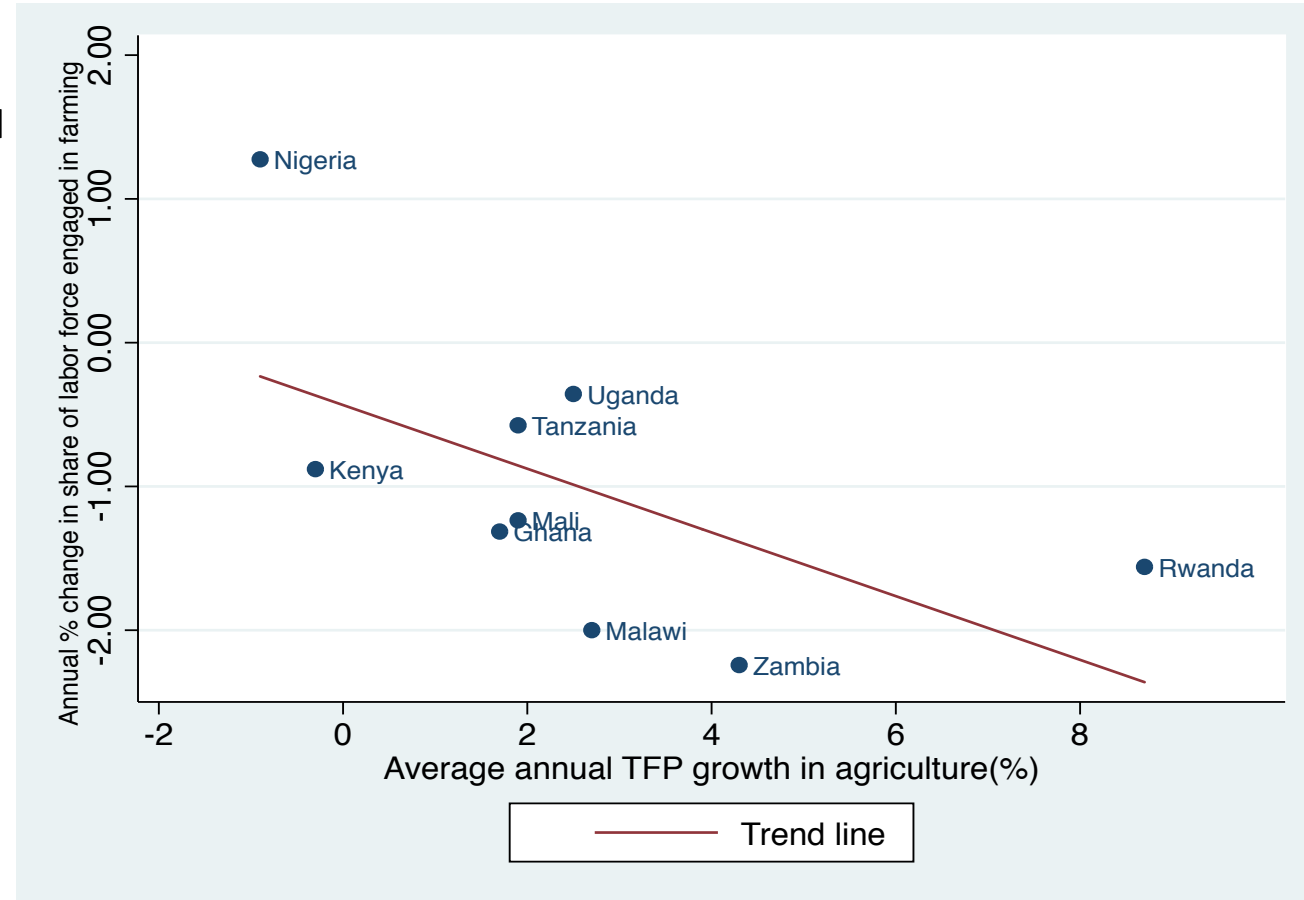


Gap between labor market entrants and available formal wage jobs widen by about 8 million annually

62% < 25 years old

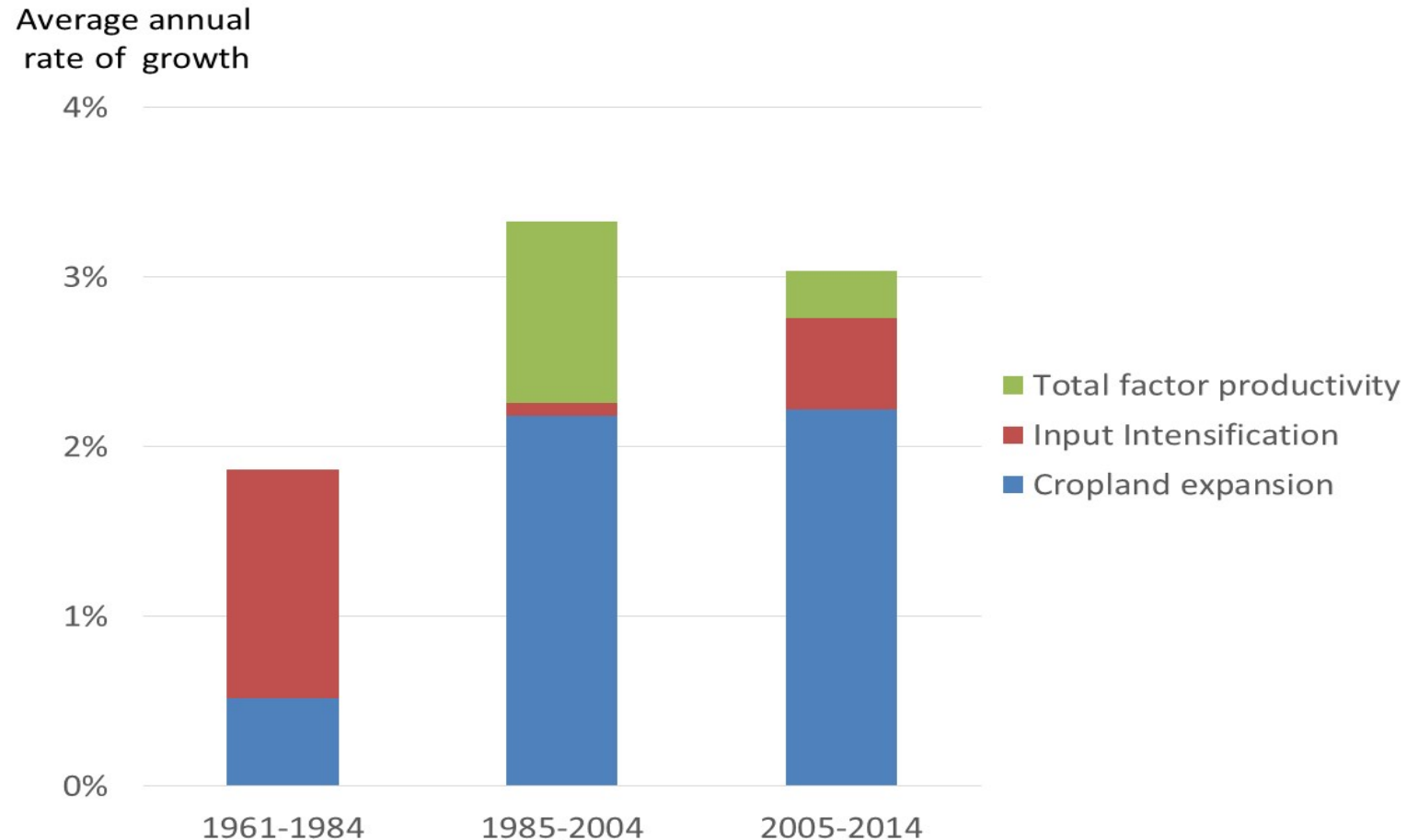
# Agrifood system: A sector of opportunity for job creation

- Rising food demand and reliance on imports (World Bank, 2015)
  - Food demand to expand by 55% in SSA (World Bank, 2015)
  - SSA food import rose from US\$6 billion to US\$45 billion between 2001 and 2014
- Multiplier effects
  - Off-farm job growth closely linked to performance of agriculture
- Access to land could be a key binding constraint??



Source: Yeboah and Jayne (2018)

# Africa's agricultural growth still relies mainly on cropland expansion, not enough on productivity growth



# Objectives

- Document evolving dynamics in land distribution and ownership patterns in SSA → implications for youth access to land
- Determine the importance of land rental markets as means for youth to gain access to land
- Examine how access to land influences youth employment and migration decisions



Dynamics in land distribution and ownership  
patterns in SSA

# Rising Land Scarcity

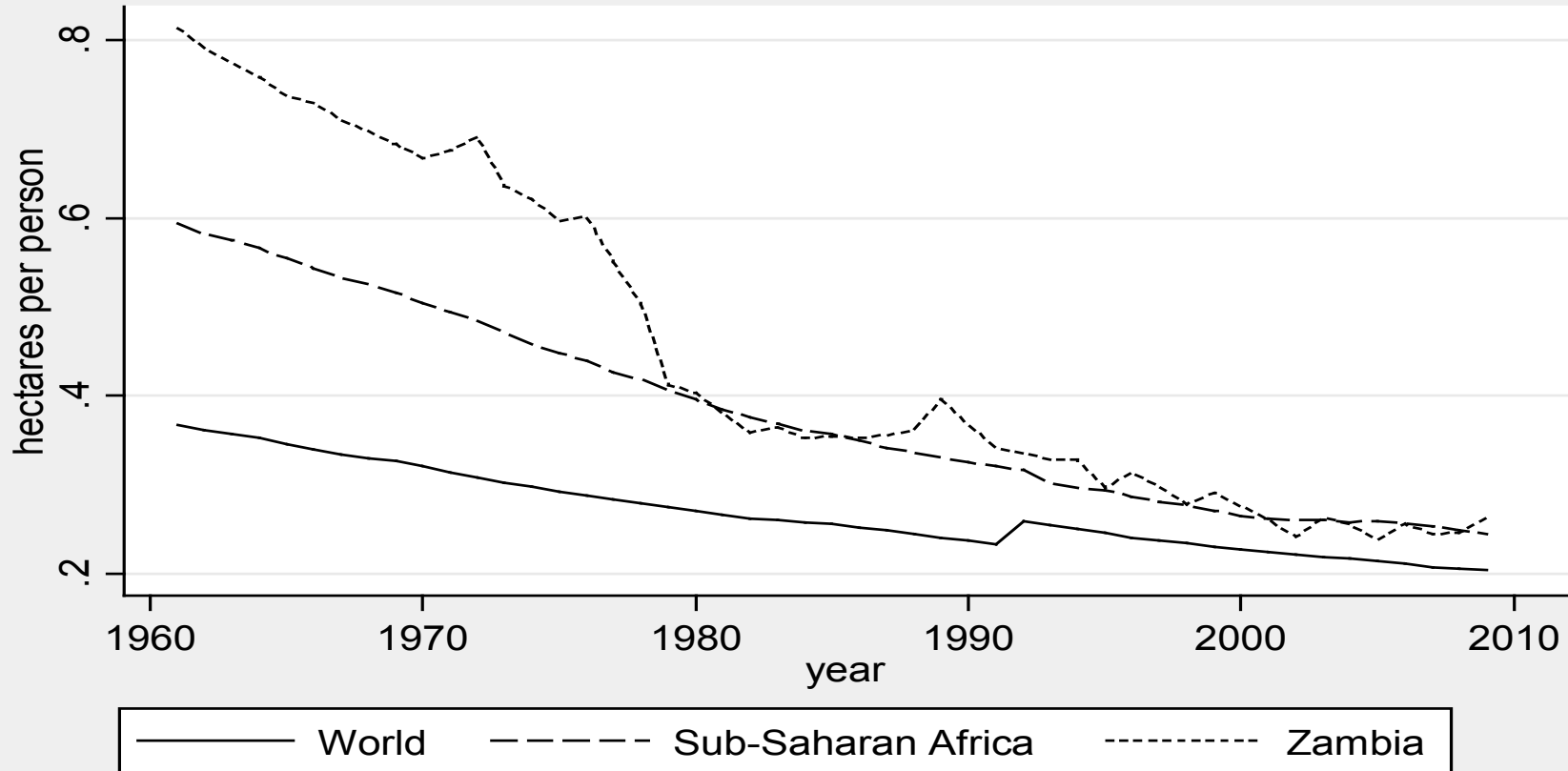
Many African countries are either land constrained or approaching the full extent of their land

	Non-forested unutilized land <sup>1</sup> (million ha)	Proportion	Cumulative Proportion
DRC	84.8	46.5%	46.5%
Angola	18.9	10.4%	56.9%
Congo	12.9	7.1%	63.9%
Zambia	10.8	5.9%	69.9%
Cameroon	10.5	5.7%	75.6%
Mozambique	9.0	4.9%	80.5%
CAR	7.1	3.9%	84.4%
Gabon	6.5	3.6%	88.0%
Sudan	5.8	3.2%	91.2%
Rest of Africa (n=45)		<b>8.8%</b>	100.0%

**9 countries  
contain 90%  
of Africa's  
unutilized  
arable land**

# Shrinking farm sizes

Arable land per capita  
1960-2010



Average farm size per capita has declined by 30–40 % in over 40 SSA countries since 1970 (Headey and Jayne, 2014)

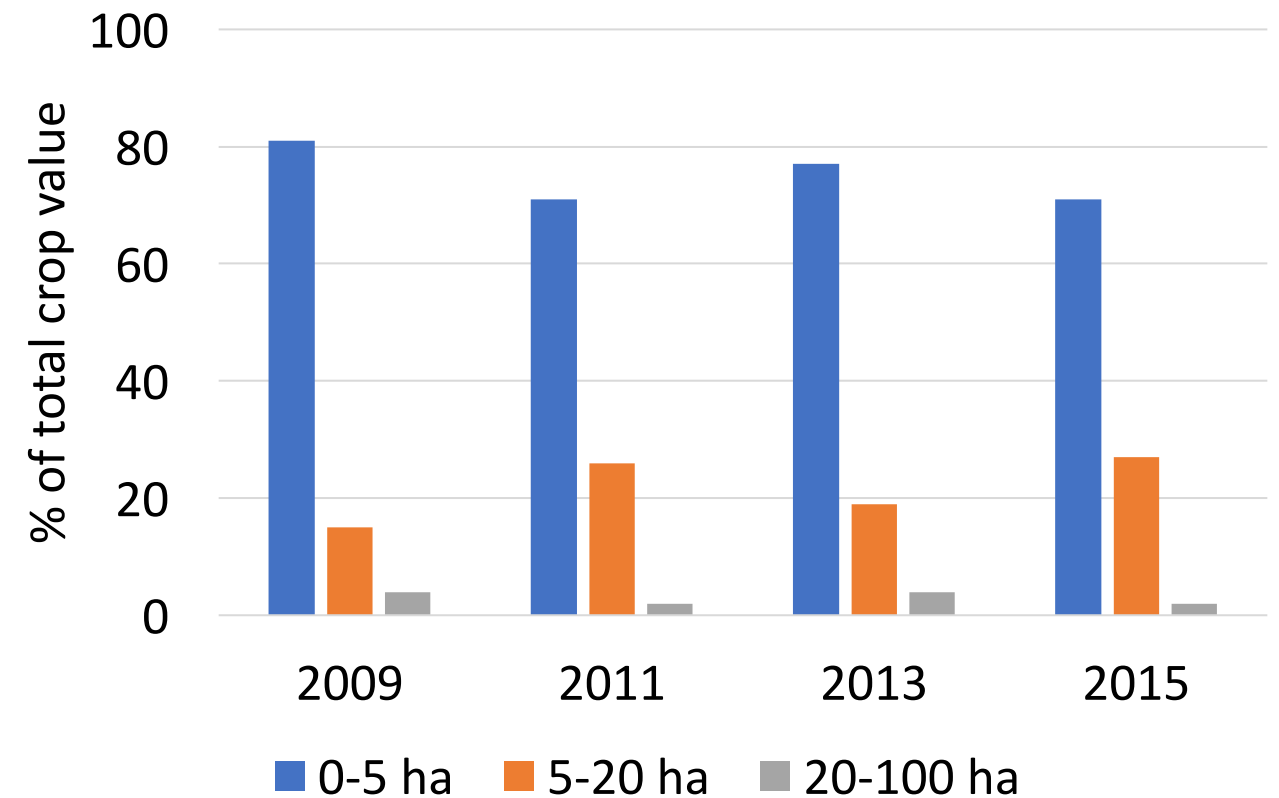
Source: World Development Indicators, World Bank



# Changing Farm Structure/Rise of Medium Scale Farms

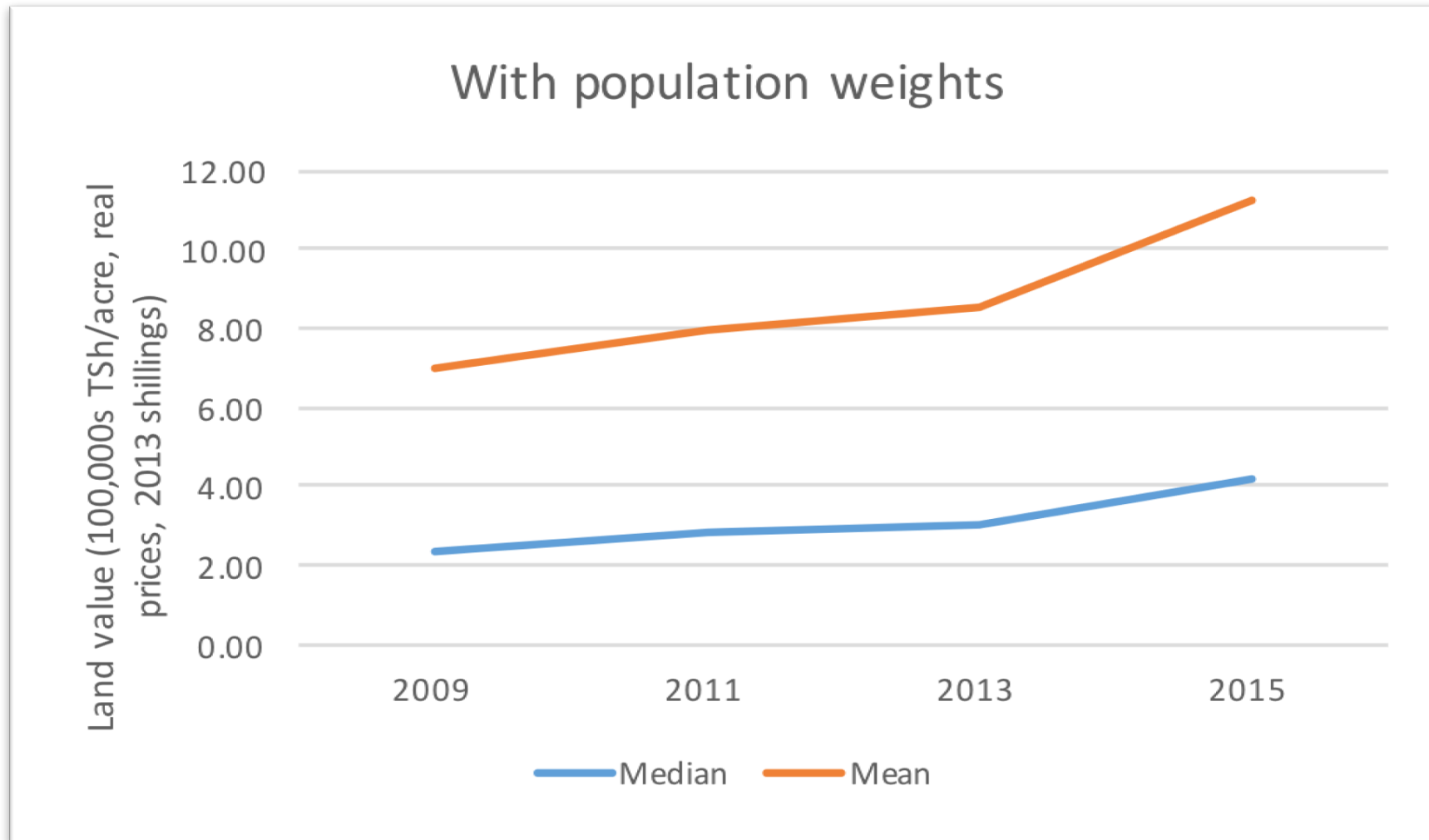
- Rapid growth in the # of medium scale farms while # of small farms grow slowly
- Medium and large scale farms account for an increasing share of total agricultural land and value of marketed crop output.
- Growth of medium scale farms mainly in areas where unutilized land remains for expansion.

Share of total crop value by farm size group, Tanzania



Source: Tanzania National Panel Survey

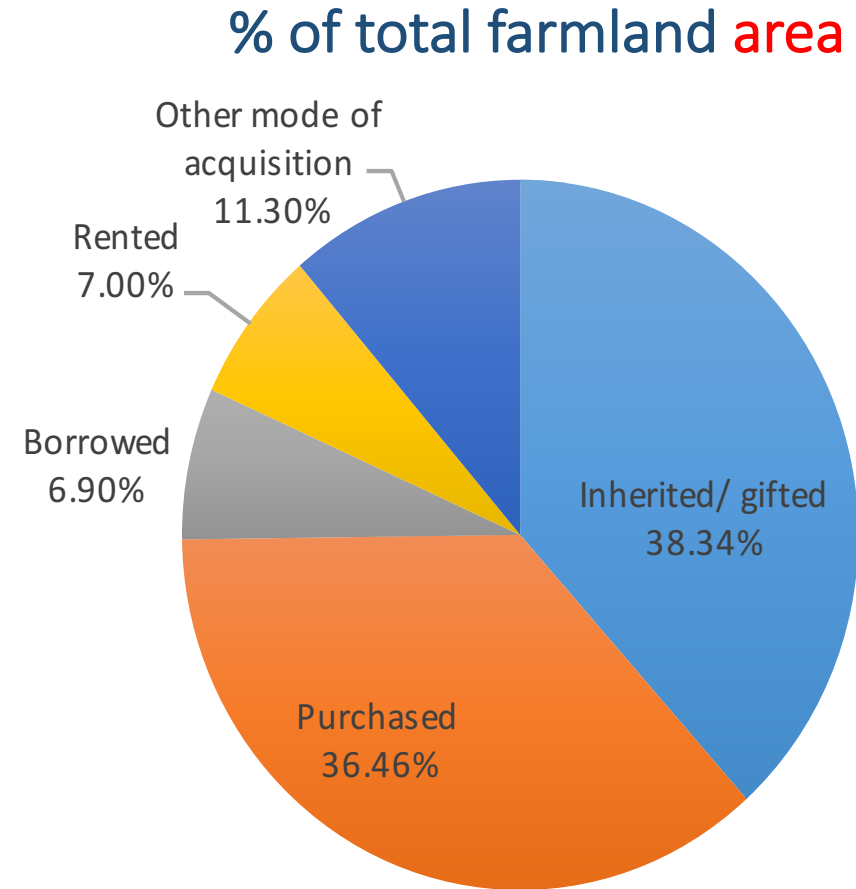
# Rising land prices → straining youth access to land



Mean land prices in Tanzania: +53.9% in real terms in 6 years

# Declining land inheritance

- Weakening of customary tenure systems → declining % of land under system
  - Zambia: 94% in 1964 → 54% 2015
  - Malawi: 87% in 1964 → 60% in 2016  
(SitKo and Chamberlin, 2016; Anseeuw et al., 2016).
- Share of households' land acquired through inheritance now stand at 40% in Ethiopia, 78% in Malawi.
  - Only 25% of rural youth inherit land
- Rural youth are waiting longer to inherit land because of significantly longer adult life spans  
(MIJARC/IFAD/FAO, 2012)



Source: NPS 2014/15

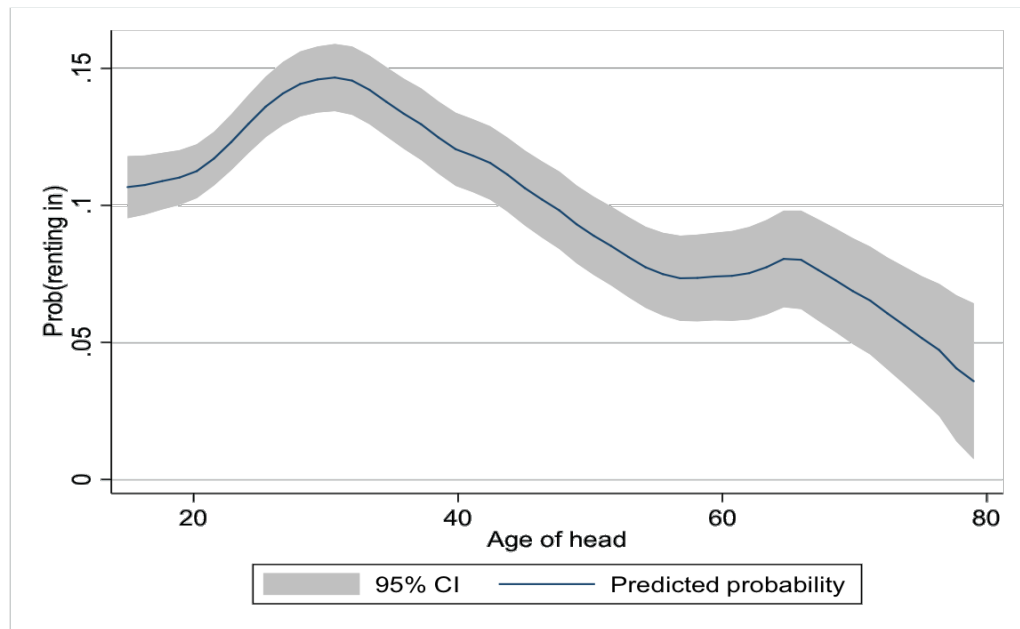
A black and white photograph showing a man in profile on the right side of the frame. He is wearing a dark knit beanie and a jacket, and has a full beard. He is pointing his right arm towards a vast, open landscape. The landscape consists of a wide, flat field with scattered trees and small structures in the distance. In the far background, there are low mountains or hills under a bright, clear sky. The overall mood is contemplative and expansive.

Importance of land rental markets

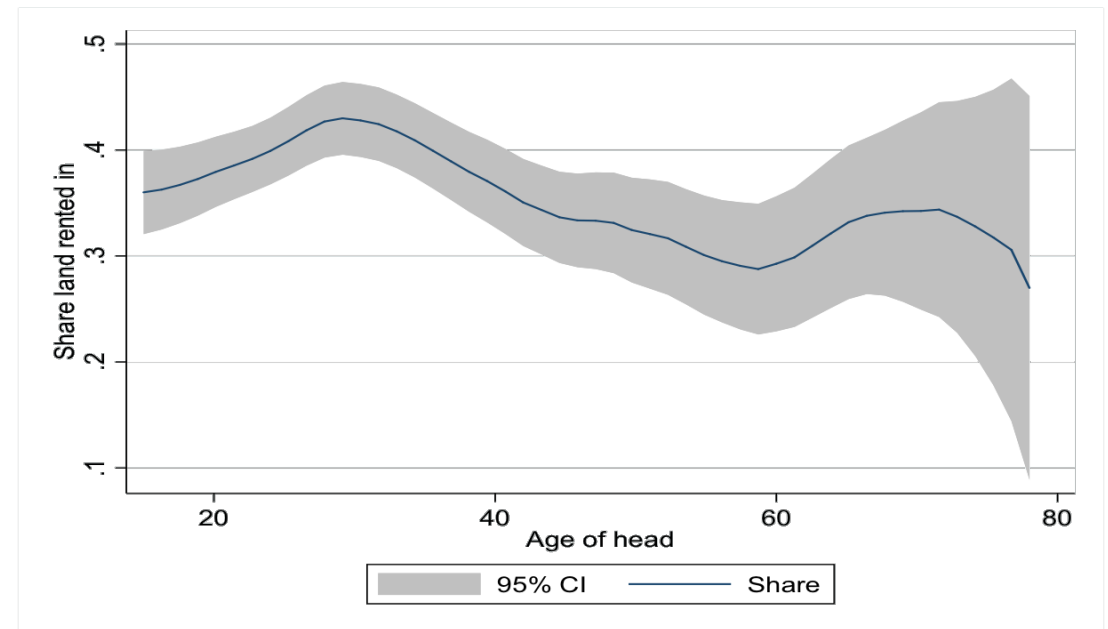
# Growing importance of land rental as a means for youth to acquire land

- Younger heads are more likely than older heads to rent-in land

Probability of renting in, by age of head



Share of land rented in by renters, by age of head





Role of land access in youth employment  
and migration decisions

# Land access influence migration: Probit model

Dependent variable: Members migration status

	Coefficient	P>z
<b>MEMBER LEVEL:</b>		
Gender of the member (1=male)	-0.023	0.00
Age of the member (years)	0.005	0.00
<i>Member's education attainment (base: no education)</i>		
_primary education completed	-0.002	0.84
_secondary education completed	-0.018	0.10
_post secondary education completed	0.030	0.27
<b>HOUSEHOLD LEVEL:</b>		
head of hh age	0.000	0.04
head of hh sex (1=male)	0.021	0.07
<i>Marital status (base: monogamous)</i>		
_polygamous	0.008	0.35
_single	0.040	0.00
_other	0.003	0.76
Land holding (ha)	-0.005	0.08
# livestock	0.000	0.80
own plough (1=yes)	0.004	0.66
<b>COMMUNITY LEVEL:</b>		
% of land over 20 ha and above	0.001	0.04
Residuals from first stage regression	-0.003	0.08

Increased access to family land reduces youth migration

Concentration of land in MS farms increases youth migration

Source: Tanzania NPS 2009, 2011, 2013

# Land access influence agriculture employment: Fractional probit model

Dependent var: Share of total work time (FTE) devoted to farming

	Coefficient	P>z
<b>MEMBER LEVEL:</b>		
Gender of the member (1=male)	-0.032	0.13
Age of the member (years)	0.032	0.00
<i>Member's education attainment (base: no education)</i>		
_primary education completed	-0.064	0.03
_secondary education completed	-0.207	0.00
<b>HOUSEHOLD LEVEL:</b>		
head of hh age	-0.001	0.39
head of hh sex (1=male)	0.054	0.10
<i>Marital status (base: monogamous)</i>		
_polygamous	-0.032	0.26
_single	0.041	0.39
other	0.000	0.99
Land holding (ha)	0.011	0.05
# livestock	0.000	0.47
own plough (1=yes)	0.039	0.26
<b>COMMUNITY LEVEL:</b>		
% of land over 20 ha and above	0.002	0.09
Residuals from first stage regression	-0.010	0.07

Increased access to land increases time youth devote to farming



# Summary and Conclusions

- Significant changes in land distribution and ownership patterns in SSA
  - Changes in farm structure featuring a rise in # of medium scale farms
  - Rising land prices and inequality
  - Decline of land inheritance
  - Land markets as increasingly important means of acquiring land
- Secured land access is required to sustain SSA economic transformation
  - Directly create jobs in agriculture for young people
  - Promote productive agricultural growth with significant employment multiplier
- Policies need to anticipate and respond to dynamics in land distribution to foster inclusive, competitive and productive agriculture growth

Thank you



Questions?