



Gender, Politics and Sustainable Land Utilisation: A Comparative Study of Pre-Fast Track and Fast Track (*Jambanja*) Agrarian Reforms.

In many post colonial countries there have been some disparities in land ownership by race and gender. Such countries have called for land redistribution as a way of redressing the colonial injustices in land tenure systems. The land reform dynamics in Zimbabwe have to be understood within the framework of colonial and post colonial land policies and legislation. The present study compares pre-fast track and fast track agrarian reforms. Pre-fast track (Model A) was informed by the Lancaster House Agreement of 1979, while fast track (*jambanja* / 3rd Chimurenga) was a result of amendments to the Land Act that were instituted in the late 90s. Comparison will be based on the following variables: criteria used to select beneficiaries, land occupancy by gender, levels of production (yield / ha and hectares under cultivation), availability of support services, challenges being faced by farmers, conservation measures put in place by farmers and impact of HIV / AIDS. The methodology will be triangulated (both qualitative and quantitative). The study samples will be selected through stratified and snowball sampling. In like manner, quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods will be adopted. Findings will be disseminated through book publication and journal articles. Apart from engaging policy makers and other stakeholders, there will be a conference organised on land reform in Southern Africa where findings of the current study will also be presented. It is hoped that findings from this investigation will inform policy so that gender sensitive and sustainable land reforms will be put in place. The Zimbabwe case might serve as a lesson for other African states grappling with the land issue.