

# Participatory Land Use Consolidation in Rwanda: From Principles to Practice

Pierre Damien Ntihinyurwa (Rwanda) and Fahria Masum (Germany)

**Key words:** Land management; Land use consolidation, farmers' participation

## SUMMARY

Land Use Consolidation (LUC) in Rwanda began to be implemented in 2008 with the objectives of increasing agriculture production, food security and improving rural livelihoods. It has been implemented to some extent in all districts of Rwanda, and continues to expand to additional areas. In spite of its growing interest, different researches at different times reported inefficiency in the policy implementation and lack of public participation in the process. Hence, the main objective of the study is to evaluate the role of farmers' participation in implementation of LUC policy.

The research was conducted in 4 villages representing 4 provinces of Rwanda. The findings have shown that there is a big gap between the principles and their implementation. The implementation process has been found to use compulsory and forced participation of local farmers by local authorities whereas the law stipulates that voluntary participation should be executed based on negotiations and democratic principles.

The research recommends the involvement of farmers in decision making on the choice of crops to grow and move from informative level of participation to involvement and collaboration level. This requires a bottom up approach in the implementation process instead of existing top down one. The study confirms that the comprehensive land consolidation has a prospect to be an effective solution to cope with land ownership and land use fragmentation problems in Rwanda.