

ABSTRACT

Land Tenure and Agricultural Investment In Antigua

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The research investigated whether evidence of land tenure insecurity exist among Antiguan farmers. The study also investigated the effect of tenure on the willingness of the farmers to invest in agricultural equipment and technology. The farmers' access to credit was used as a proxy to help assess their ability to invest.

The research approach used was exploratory in nature and employed two main data collection instruments namely interviews and questionnaires. Secondary data was also utilized. The chi square test was used where applicable in determining the nature of the relationship between the dependent variable (security of tenure) and the independent variables.

Results of the survey indicate that there is evidence of tenure insecurity, especially among female farmers. However, this level of insecurity does not seem to affect the farmers' willingness and ability to invest. The main Agricultural investment incentive to farmers was found to be market availability while the major disincentives to invest were market unavailability and praedial larceny. Roaming animals and praedial larceny were the main problems encountered by the farmers.

The finding of the research is thought to be very significant given the sensitive nature of the topic within the Antiguan context. The qualitative and exploratory nature of the research lays the foundation for more detailed quantitative investigations.

