An impact evaluation of Rural Land Use Plans in Benin: Methodological and substantive lessons
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Benin has been experimenting for nearly two decades with a participatory land intervention, the *Plan Foncier Rural* (PFR) or Rural Land Use Plan, which aims to formalize the customary rights of rural smallholders through the documentation and certification land claims at the village level. The final step of the PFR procedure involves the allocation of individual certificates that provide legal recognition of land tenure.

The World Bank is conducting a randomized impact evaluation of an ongoing large-scale PFR program in Benin in about 300 villages supported by the Millennium Challenge Corporation / MCA Benin and implemented by GIZ. This presentation will shed light on the policy relevance of this program to improve tenure security, enhance land market participation, and deepen land investments, for male and female farmers. It will also expose and discuss the methodological hurdles encountered, and offer some preliminary assessments based on ongoing data collection.