**Land access profiles in the territory of Kalehe**

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This papers offers a comparative overview of land access mechanisms at the household level in selected case studies in the territory of Kalehe, South Kivu, Eastern DRC. For each case study, an access profile was constructed by using a participatory ranking exercise. These profiles contain information about the relative importance of different access mechanisms at the household level. It looks at strategies that households have at their disposal to access land (such as inheritance, buying land, renting land or land access through sharecropping arrangements), the way in which these mechanisms are combined and the way they are appreciated and evaluated by their users. The analysis of these profiles shows significant variation in land access strategies within one confined geographical space. This variation is explained by the households’ migratory status, their initial access to family land and their specific geographical location. Especially this last element is rather surprising because of the limited physical distance between the different cases. This relates to the different historical trajectories, specific contemporary developments and the role of powerful individuals that determine the specific population stratification and land distribution patterns on a very local level. Land access profiles are thus useful instruments to gain insights into local land dynamics and into possible strategies to improve tenure security.

This paper can be presented in French and/or English