



Land Tenure Security and Smallholder Investment Decisions in Mozambique

An Analysis of the 2021–2026 Policy Framework

Ana Mungói^{1,2}, Carlos Macuácuá^{3,4}

¹ Catholic University of Mozambique

² Department of Animal Science, Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária (INIA)

³ Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária (INIA)

⁴ Department of Crop Sciences, Catholic University of Mozambique

Correspondence: amungi@outlook.com

Published: 26 April 2026 **Received:** 18 January 2026

Accepted: 05 April 2026 **DOI:**
[10.5281/zenodo.19485456](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19485456)

Author notes

Ana Mungói is affiliated with Catholic University of Mozambique and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa. Carlos Macuácuá is affiliated with Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária (INIA) and focuses on Agriculture research in Africa.

ABSTRACT

Background: Land tenure security is a critical determinant of agricultural investment, particularly for smallholders in sub-Saharan Africa. In Mozambique, a complex dual system of statutory and customary rights creates uncertainty, potentially inhibiting productivity-enhancing investments. Recent policy reforms aim to formalise and secure these rights, yet their on-the-ground impact remains inadequately assessed.

Purpose and objectives: This study analyses the relationship between perceived land tenure security and smallholder investment decisions within the context of the current national policy framework. It specifically examines the propensity to invest in perennial crops and soil conservation structures.

Keywords: Land tenure security, smallholder agriculture, agricultural investment, sub-Saharan Africa, policy analysis

Article Highlights

- Perceived security drives investment more than formal documentation
- Communal validation remains paramount for smallholder decisions
- No significant effect found for short-term agricultural inputs
- Policy effectiveness hinges on locally-legitimate security enhancement

Methodological Note

Mixed-methods approach combining household surveys with key informant interviews; probit model analysis with robust standard errors clustered at community level.

Examines the 2021–2026 policy framework's impact on smallholder investment behaviour.

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

REQUEST FULL PAPER

 **Email:** info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

 **Submit at:** app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge