Why equal access and inheritance of land in SSA are important from an economic, social, and political standpoint?

**Economic and Social standpoints:**

**Highlights:** in SSA, women in agric are majority, 60% labour share, but land ownership is still an issue; little or no inheritance rights in most SSA (Customary practices ≠ State laws).

- But research evidence & policy concerns are advising us to check some of these customs in SSA.

- Based on our paper, allowing women/female household heads without access to land ownership to gain such access is **food poverty alleviating** and hence **food security enhancing**.
  - results conform with the theoretical positions of FAO (2011) and SDGs-5a for DCs (SSA involved), and GESP (2009) for CMR.
  - This will permit us to effectively **fight hunger** which has been on an increase the SSA region since 2014 (UN, 2019).
• It will empower women (training & capacity building) and facilitate access to credit services (it serves as collateral), hence more potential to hold savings and develop social networks.
  
  • Remember women have a greater potential to make a family better-off (WB, 2007); most of their money is spent on food & children’s need.

  • And access to land also implies access to other natural resources, like forest (Sida).

  • So, improving their access to land ownership for productive use will empower them to support the family, educate the children and consequently the society.

  • Importantly, our paper underlines that the tussle (man = woman, in land ownership) is not pro-food poverty, but just allowing more women without access to gain access is the key.

• Enable them move from subsistence to commercial farmers.

• Evidence also posits that women’s land rights reduce domestic violence.
Political Standpoint

 Highlight: Women's equal rights to land and property is a fundamental HR.

• According to OHCHR, improving on women’s land rights is key to democracy, peace, justice.
  • Because it is a social asset that is important for cultural identity, political power and participation in decision making.

• For example, female farmers in politics: Audrey Denney, Emily Best etc