

Political Decentralisation and Agricultural Reform in Rwanda

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For the past fifteen years Rwanda has made much progress in economic development and political reform. Now, as political consolidation has taken place, the government of Rwanda is implementing the third phase of the decentralisation programme. The aim is to give greater administrative and financial responsibility to the district level. This paper examines the implementation of this political decentralisation policy by particularly focusing on agricultural and land reform. The paper begins by explaining the aims and objectives of the reform process, and illustrates how these fit into the long term development plans of the Rwandan government. The second part takes a more localised approach by examining the implementation of the policy in three districts which have experienced their own particular problems tackling this new policy challenge. The third, and final part identifies the commonalities and differences between the experiences at the district level, and suggests ways in which these issues may be tackled.