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Title of Dissertation: THE IMPACT OF LAND USE CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM ON IRISH POTATOES PRODUCTION IN MUSANZE DISTRICT IN RWANDA
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ABSTRACT
This study investigated how the land use consolidation program impacted on Irish potatoes production in Musanze district in Rwanda. The district was chosen because it is known to be the first district producer of Irish potatoes in Rwanda, while this study focused on Irish potato as a priority crop generally in Rwanda and in particular in Musanze district where Irish potatoes are produced in high quantity compared to other districts of Rwanda. The study was guided by the two objectives which are; determining the impact of land use consolidation program on Irish potatoes production in Musanze district and understand the opinions of Musanze community on land use consolidation program. The study adopted a case study design, used both qualitative and quantitative research methods for data collection. The used questionnaire, interview guide, and documentary as research instruments to collect data. It covered 123 respondents as sample size and whom the questionnaire was administered to. The findings from the interview revealed that land use consolidation program was implemented in Musanze district and adopted by local farmers by consolidating their own lands on which they grow different crops and in particular the Irish potatoes as a suitable crop in the region, but also as selected crop to be cultivated on land consolidation policy. The results of the study show that 100% of respondents are farmers and have adopted the implementation of land use consolidation program in their farming activities, 68.3% of respondents implemented the program by growing Irish potatoes in their land. The results of the study revealed that 48% disagree with the policy even if they implemented the program in their land. About the reason of disagreement, respondent said that, the land use consolidation program forbids people’s rights to use their land on their choice by farming a crop they wish while 40.7% of respondents said that, they adopted the program because it is a government policy. The researcher found that farmers adopted the program because it’s a government policy. This research found out that farmers adopted to implement the program by accepting consolidate their own lands, but they were not happy with the policy avoiding them their traditional agricultural system of mixing different crops in the same cultivable farm. About the impact of agricultural land use consolidation program, on Irish potatoes production in Musanze district the results of the study found that, the program has helped to increase the Irish potatoes production in Musanze district comparing before and after implementation in Musanze district. Respondents 51.2% said that their harvest increased after the land use consolidation program, 62.6% of respondents said that the price of selling Irish potatoes per kilo increased compared to before implementation of the program, 44.7% of respondents said that the income generated from Irish potatoes production increased. As far as increase in agriculture production is concerned, land size remain a major challenge to farmers and in particular growers of Irish potatoes in Musanze district and generally in Rwanda and especially to increase
the production of the priority crops such as irish potatoes and ensure food security and transformation of agricultural yields into business for and increase economy from agriculture production. Policy of land use such as consolidation would help to manage this challenge if it’s well implemented. The results of this study demonstrated needs for the government of Rwanda through its different institutions to improve on ways of implementation of land use consolidation policy by improving awareness of local farmers on land use consolidation program also put in place regulations for trading of irish potatoes in local market to avoid its shortage in the local markets after the harvest period.