

Tenure Insecurity and the Continuum of Documentation in a Matrilineal Customary System

May 14, 2024

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Motivation

Secure land tenure allows farmers to make long-term investments in agricultural productivity

In customary tenure systems, social position determines rights to land and their security

- ▶ Women often feel less secure: land accessed through their husbands' families
- ▶ In a matrilineal system, women don't face those same threats

Mixed empirical impacts of documentation/formalization of rights in Sub-Saharan Africa (Fenske, 2011):

- ▶ Farmers may not perceive customary land as less secure re disputes within the community
- ▶ Documentation makes rights legible to outsiders

Research Questions & Preview of Results

How is tenure insecurity experienced in Mozambique?

- ▶ 49% concerned about collective expropriation
- ▶ 13% worried about losing land due to private plot disputes

How does a matrilineal kinship system shape the gendered burden and sources of tenure insecurity in Mozambique?

- ▶ Women are **less** concerned about collective expropriation than men

Explore documentation efforts along a continuum:

- ▶ Community Delimitation: correlated with lower insecurity
- ▶ Household plot Demarcation
- ▶ Land Certificates Issued

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Matrilineal Kinship

Matrilineal: Descent & membership in kin group traced through mother; inheritance through mother's line (especially uncles).

Matrilocal: Couple lives in wife's family's village; women are 'rightful owners of the village' (Peters 2010)

Women have more social and physical capital than in patrilineal groups

- ▶ Lowes (2020) shows less cooperative with spouses & smaller gender gap in political participation
- ▶ Gottlieb & Robinson (2016): long-term resources rather than one-time
- ▶ Most are still **patriarchal**: men have higher status and power

Matrilineal Land Rights

Married couple cultivates land that belongs to wife's matrilineage;
husband does not inherit land in case of widowhood

Between marriages, men will return to their natal village and borrow a plot from their sisters

Women's land rights are relatively more protected under customary norms, but decision-making still male dominated.

- ▶ Documentation could record men's names and dispossess women (Peters 2010)

Documentation in Mozambique

Land abundant but facing rapid population growth; customary norms predominate.

All land belongs to government but grants land use-right certificates (DUATs):

- ▶ As of 2015, 97.8% of plots nationally did not have DUAT
- ▶ Several efforts to issue DUATs, including *Terra Segura*:
 - ▶ Aimed to issue 5 million DUATs & complete 4 million community delimitations 2015-2019
 - ▶ 250,000 DUATs by 2017; 750 communities by 2016
 - ▶ More active in Southern Mozambique

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Data: Land Tenure Survey (LTS) 2019

1,953 households surveyed in 9 villages in 2 districts: Namarroi (4 villages) and Erati (5 villages)

- ▶ In Namarroi, 1 village no documentation, 1 community delimitation only, 1 + HH demarcation, 1 + certification (but <10% have DUAT) [▶ Balance](#)

Respondent Gender	HH Head Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Male	1,399	105	1,504
Female	1,186	549	1,735
Total	2,585	654	3,239

Detailed plot characteristics, collective & individual tenure insecurity, dispute experiences, land acquisition

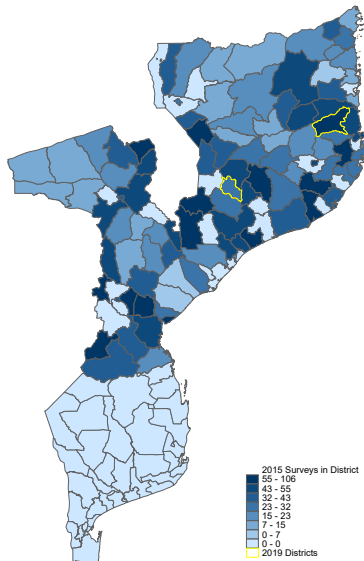
- ▶ Gender-disaggregated at the parcel level [▶ Descriptive Statistics](#)

Data: Supplemental Land Tenure Survey (SLTS) 2015

3,556 households surveyed across 7 provinces (20 districts), including both matrilineal and patrilineal areas

Similar questions but plot characteristics (including insecurity) only asked once of the household

24% of households report a female head; of these, 31% report a male spouse in the household



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Correlational/Descriptive analysis

Outcomes:

- ▶ Perceived Individual Insecurity: = 1 if likely to lose rights in next 5 years due to private land disputes (encroachment, inheritance, divorce, etc)
- ▶ Perceived Collective Insecurity: = 1 if likely to lose rights in next 5 years due to government expropriation for public use or allocation to private investors

Linear probability model; community fixed effects in most specifications
+ controls vary

Wild Cluster Bootstrapped p-values at the Village level

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Women Have More Rights in Matrilineal Areas

2015 Data

Variable	(1) Matrilineal		(2) Patrilineal		(1)-(2) Pairwise t-test	
	N	Mean/(SE)	N	Mean/(SE)	N	Mean difference
Woman has ownership rights to parcel	8201	0.777 (0.005)	1925	0.722 (0.010)	10126	0.056***
Woman makes business decisions for parcel	8237	0.673 (0.005)	1938	0.591 (0.011)	10175	0.082***
Woman manages income/output from parcel	8162	0.701 (0.005)	1925	0.595 (0.011)	10087	0.106***
Woman mainly spends labor time on parcel	8103	0.776 (0.005)	1896	0.627 (0.011)	9999	0.149***
Woman contributed money for parcel purchase	6220	0.418 (0.006)	1454	0.273 (0.012)	7674	0.144***
Woman's name on DUAT	88	0.375 (0.052)	60	0.433 (0.065)	148	-0.058
Parcel purchased	8345	0.136 (0.004)	1963	0.138 (0.008)	10308	-0.003
Parcel inherited	8345	0.284 (0.005)	1963	0.098 (0.007)	10308	0.187***
Expect private dispute to arise on parcel next 5 years	8345	0.052 (0.002)	1964	0.105 (0.007)	10309	-0.053***
Expropriation likely on parcel next 5 years	8345	0.238 (0.005)	1964	0.207 (0.009)	10309	0.030***

Other Features of Matrilineal Areas

Variable	(1) Matrilineal		(2) Patrilineal		(1)-(2) Pairwise t-test	
	N	Mean/(SE)	N	Mean/(SE)	N	Mean difference
Husband will inherit asset other than hh land, wife's answer	2256	1.559 (0.021)	482	1.880 (0.058)	2738	-0.321***
Wife will inherit asset other than hh land, husband's answer	2143	1.429 (0.020)	364	1.835 (0.062)	2507	-0.406***
Sons' share of inheritance of other assets, husband's answer	2140	28.313 (0.455)	362	39.207 (1.560)	2502	-10.894***
Daughters' share of inheritance of other assets, husband's answer	2137	23.434 (0.407)	362	23.246 (1.115)	2499	0.188
Husband owned land prior to marriage	2144	0.460 (0.011)	364	0.203 (0.021)	2508	0.257***
Wife owned land prior to marriage	2264	0.197 (0.008)	486	0.016 (0.006)	2750	0.180***
Number of Children of HH Head	2855	8.346 (0.154)	701	9.304 (0.319)	3556	-0.958***
Any HH member had land inherited	2808	0.520 (0.009)	687	0.189 (0.015)	3495	0.331***
Any HH member purchased land	2808	0.214 (0.008)	687	0.245 (0.016)	3495	-0.031*
HH Head Born in Village	2806	0.728 (0.008)	686	0.609 (0.019)	3492	0.118***
Any HH member moved here for marriage	2427	0.335 (0.010)	517	0.416 (0.022)	2944	-0.081***
Any HH member Muslim	2803	0.308 (0.009)	685	0.020 (0.005)	3488	0.287***
Any member of HH lost land in last 5 years	2807	0.031 (0.003)	687	0.003 (0.002)	3494	0.028***

Matrilineal women are more secure on the same parcels

2019 Data

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity
Female	-.0429185 (0.01)	-.0375107 (0.03)	-.035649 (0.00)	-.03902 (0.03)
Female household head			-.1192806 (0.10)	.0249355 (0.58)
Constant	.516591	.1517566	.5325794	.1484173
Observations	3224	3241	3223	3240
R^2	0.009	0.011	0.014	0.011
N	2054	2063	2053	2062
FE	Parcel	Parcel	Parcel	Parcel
Wild Cluster Bootstrap SE	Village	Village	Village	Village

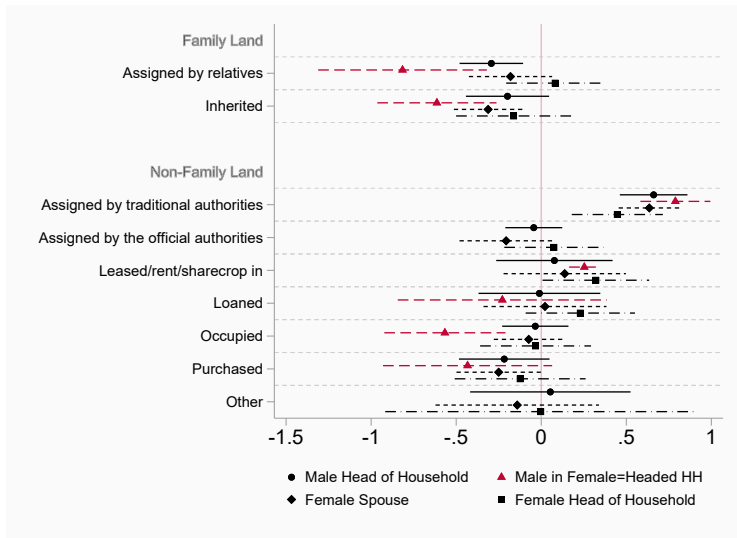
p-values in parentheses constructed by Wild Cluster Bootstrap at the Village level

Insecurity and Rights

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity
Reports self as having rights to parcel	-.0433236 (0.02)	.0237968 (0.11)	-.0264299 (0.73)	.1140509 (0.01)
Female	-.0488682 (0.01)	-.0090583 (0.26)	-.0314734 (0.63)	.0838315 (0.01)
Female × Has Rights			-.0297868 (0.81)	-.1589422 (0.00)
Constant	.526008	.1292001	.5149302	.0700686
Observations	2939	2947	2939	2947
R^2	0.004	0.002	0.004	0.014
FE	Village	Village	Village	Village
Wild Cluster Bootstrap SE	Village	Village	Village	Village

p-values in parentheses constructed by Wild Cluster Bootstrap at the Village level

Accessing Land



Family Structure

Children:

[▶ Regression Results](#)

- ▶ Number and/or gender of children has no relationship with collective insecurity
- ▶ More children (male & female) associated with higher individual insecurity
- ▶ Does not change respondent gender difference in insecurity
- ▶ No interaction effect

Migration:

[▶ Regression Results](#)

- ▶ Does not change respondent gender difference in insecurity
- ▶ No relationship with collective insecurity
- ▶ Wife's absence correlated with higher individual insecurity

Land Experiences

Losing land:

[▶ Regression Results](#)

- ▶ Does not change respondent gender difference in insecurity
- ▶ Past land confiscated by government shapes collective & individual insecurity
- ▶ Past land lost in private disputes only shapes individual insecurity

Investment:

[▶ Regression Results](#)

- ▶ Control for whether respondent is primary manager of parcel output, primary source of labor for parcel, and primary decisionmaker for business decisions about parcel
- ▶ Does not change respondent gender difference in insecurity
- ▶ Gendered patterns of relationship between management decisions and insecurity

Gendered Awareness of Threats

Could women feel more secure simply because they are less aware of threats?

- ▶ Magnitude of gender difference similar for individual and collective insecurity
- ▶ Nationally (including patrilineal areas) in 2015 survey, women are **more** insecure than men
- ▶ No differences for those with/without IDs
- ▶ No difference in belief documents make land more secure or interest for plot boundary certificate

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VARIABLES	(1) Plot Boundary Demarcated	(2) DUAT for Plot	(3) Individual Insecurity	(4) Collective Insecurity
Community Delimitation	0.0504** (0.0247)	0.0318*** (0.0109)	-0.0860*** (0.0149)	-0.153*** (0.0244)
Household Plot Demarcation	0.0838*** (0.0307)	0.0325* (0.0169)	-0.0147 (0.0169)	0.0321 (0.0317)
Land Certificates Issued	-0.172*** (0.0324)	-0.0431** (0.0169)	0.0334* (0.0186)	-0.0969*** (0.0325)
Constant	0.538*** (0.0122)	0.0278*** (0.00388)	0.170*** (0.00887)	0.566*** (0.0117)
Observations	3,093	3,249	3,241	3,224
R-squared	0.011	0.012	0.016	0.029
SE	HC3	HC3	HC3	HC3
T2 vs control p-value	1.01e-07	4.35e-06	0	4.27e-06
T3 vs control p-value	0.153	0.0528	7.01e-05	0

Standard errors in parentheses
 *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

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In a matrilineal system in Mozambique, women feel less insecure (especially about collective expropriation) than men do.

- ▶ 15% of societies in Sub-Saharan Africa practice matrilineal kinship, yet relatively little known about them

Community delimitation seems to meet concerns about both individual disputes and collective expropriation:

- ▶ Cost-effective
- ▶ Makes customary rights legible to outsiders while preserving flexibility of customary system within community

Even light-touch documentation can shape customary institutions, including relative rights of men and women.

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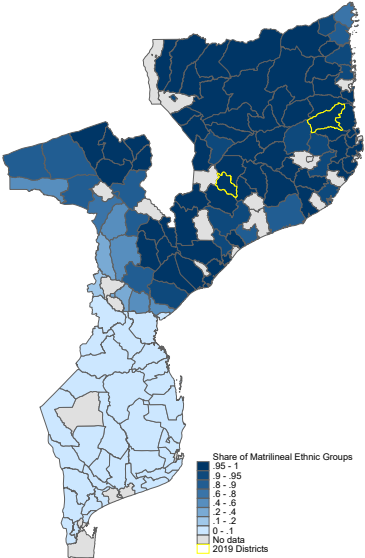
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Map of Matrilineal Areas



Household Types

Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	T-test Difference		
	Male Head of Household Mean/(SE)	Male in Female-headed HH Mean/(SE)	Female Spouse Mean/(SE)	Female Head of Household Mean/(SE)	(1)-(2)	(1)-(3)	(3)-(4)
Age	38.23 (0.313)	37.56 (1.134)	32.64 (0.320)	42.39 (0.629)	0.670	5.587***	-9.746***
Years of schooling	4.837 (0.082)	4.521 (0.341)	3.354 (0.081)	2.208 (0.118)	0.316	1.482***	1.146***
Owns ID	0.665 (0.013)	0.510 (0.049)	0.378 (0.014)	0.338 (0.020)	0.155***	0.286***	0.041
Number of observations	1399	105	1186	549			

Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	T-test Difference		
	Male-headed male-only HH Mean/(SE)	Male-headed HH with female spouse Mean/(SE)	Female-headed female-only HH Mean/(SE)	Female-headed HH with male partner Mean/(SE)	(1)-(2)	(2)-(3)	(3)-(4)
Access to credit	0.223 (0.028)	0.302 (0.013)	0.207 (0.019)	0.219 (0.041)	-0.079**	0.095***	-0.012
Savings account	0.094 (0.020)	0.199 (0.012)	0.078 (0.013)	0.200 (0.039)	-0.105***	0.121***	-0.122***
Plots' avg distance (walking time)	22.834 (1.436)	21.214 (0.821)	24.062 (2.590)	18.809 (1.686)	1.621	-2.849	5.254
Owned area (ha)	1.229 (0.098)	1.796 (0.045)	1.732 (0.083)	2.404 (0.156)	-0.568***	0.064	-0.673***
Cultivated area (rainy season)	0.741 (0.048)	6.080 (4.249)	0.975 (0.032)	1.588 (0.151)	-5.339	5.105	-0.613***
Wealth Index	-0.582 (0.091)	0.099 (0.045)	-1.072 (0.065)	0.465 (0.150)	-0.682***	1.171***	-1.537***
Number of observations	222	1186	440	105			

Balance Across Treatment

Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Pairwise t-test		
	Control Mean/(SE)	Delimitation Mean/(SE)	Demarcation Mean/(SE)	Certification Mean/(SE)	(1)-(2)	(1)-(3)	(1)-(4)
Household Size	3.723 (0.048)	3.437 (0.081)	3.565 (0.100)	3.507 (0.085)	0.285***	0.158	0.216**
Association membership	0.492 (0.014)	0.386 (0.025)	0.300 (0.028)	0.338 (0.026)	0.106***	0.193***	0.154***
Husband absent in last 12 months	0.078 (0.008)	0.089 (0.016)	0.114 (0.020)	0.083 (0.016)	-0.011	-0.036*	-0.005
Wife absent in last 12 months	0.049 (0.007)	0.040 (0.011)	0.073 (0.017)	0.066 (0.015)	0.009	-0.024	-0.017
Has access to credit	0.270 (0.013)	0.183 (0.021)	0.179 (0.024)	0.240 (0.025)	0.087***	0.091***	0.030
Individual has savings account	0.170 (0.011)	0.093 (0.016)	0.110 (0.020)	0.077 (0.016)	0.078***	0.060**	0.093***
Owns ID	0.615 (0.015)	0.548 (0.028)	0.524 (0.032)	0.462 (0.029)	0.067**	0.091***	0.153***
Social Connectedness	0.750 (0.013)	0.737 (0.024)	0.691 (0.030)	0.722 (0.026)	0.013	0.059*	0.028
Political Connectedness	0.092 (0.009)	0.187 (0.022)	0.114 (0.020)	0.125 (0.020)	-0.095***	-0.022	-0.033*
HH has land inherited/gifted	0.139 (0.010)	0.055 (0.013)	0.073 (0.017)	0.066 (0.015)	0.084***	0.066***	0.073***
HH has land purchased	0.069 (0.008)	0.126 (0.018)	0.114 (0.020)	0.194 (0.023)	-0.057***	-0.045**	-0.125***
HH has land occupied/cleared	0.252	0.357	0.386	0.288	-0.105***	-0.134***	-0.036

◀ Data

Bivariate Correlates of Insecurity: Household Factors

VARIABLES	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity
Female-headed household	-.0934479**	-.0153789
Wealth Index	.0079589	.0076485
Total landholdings, ha	-.0127778	.011235
Social Connectedness	-.0549016	.1025833***
Political Connectedness	.0882627***	.1797085***
Received Legal Advice	-.0711009	.0236382
Observations	3,223	3,241
Sample	All Villages	All Villages
Fixed Effect	Village	Village
Wild Cluster Bootstrap SE	Village	Village

Bivariate Correlates of Insecurity: Individual Factors

VARIABLES	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity
Female	-.0628532***	-.0121846
Female household head	-.0803747**	.0052058
Years of Schooling	-.0078432*	-.0092176***
Owns ID	.1305863***	.0029547
Nonfarm activity	-.0176133	.0011513
Observations	3,223	3,240
Sample	All Villages	All Villages
Fixed Effect	Village	Village
Wild Cluster Bootstrap SE	Village	Village

◀ Parcel FE

Bivariate Correlates of Insecurity: Plot Factors

VARIABLES	(1) Collective Insecurity	(2) Individual Insecurity
Other document owned	.2513534***	-.0980061***
Had plot dispute	.222526**	.1827377**
Has DUAT	.0280416	-.0595663**
Plot clearly demarcated	.016369	-.0363042
Plot surveyed	-.020018	-.0971219***
Plot used as collateral	.279694	.1390217
Walking time to parcel	-.0008317	-.0003855*
Acquired parcel from family	-.1415271***	-.0184511
Plot has conservation structure	.0034605	.0714203*
Plot has trees	.0145127	.0615286**
Ever fallowed plot	-.2258812**	.0451893
Fixed Effect	Village	Village
Wild Cluster Bootstrap Cluster SE	Village	Village

Accessing Land

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity
Female	-.0520493 (0.00)	-.0241563 (0.11)	-.0468098 (0.11)	-.0246762 (0.55)
Family land	-.1854388 (0.00)	-.0363325 (0.03)	-.1906139 (0.00)	-.0430411 (0.09)
Female × Family land			-.010927 (0.75)	.0013925 (0.97)
Female-headed household	-.1735925 (0.07)	-.1389031 (0.02)	-.1482556 (0.25)	-.1476018 (0.10)
Female-headed household × Family land			-.0622366 (0.70)	.0208946 (0.67)
Female household head	.1191533 (0.09)	.1541336 (0.02)	.0594409 (0.57)	.147761 (0.11)
Female household head × Family land			.1352247 (0.31)	.0112202 (0.87)
Observations	3202	3218	3202	3218
FE	Village	Village	Village	Village
Wild Cluster Bootstrap SE	Village	Village	Village	Village

p-values in parentheses constructed by Wild Cluster Bootstrap at the Village level

Children

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity
Female	-0.0444799	-0.0116213	-0.0433037	-0.0127905	-0.0106221	.0064466
	(0.00)	(0.37)	(0.00)	(0.31)	(0.80)	(0.71)
Number of children	.0362484	.0469375				
	(0.22)	(0.03)				
Number of male children			-.0354757	.0365134	-.0447765	.0531285
			(0.24)	(0.03)	(0.22)	(0.03)
Number of female children			.0460116	.0330504	.0377523	.0388742
			(0.29)	(0.02)	(0.41)	(0.00)
Female × Num Male Children					-.0071259	-.0099587
					(0.87)	(0.64)
Female × Num Female Children					-.0339691	-.0218942
					(0.23)	(0.13)
Female-headed household	-.0674792	-.0012651	-.0764865	.0046202	-.174338	.0149587
	(0.15)	(0.95)	(0.13)	(0.81)	(0.02)	(0.63)
Female-headed HH × Num Male Children					.0533856	-.0554803
					(0.19)	(0.22)
Female-headed HH × Num Female Children					.1257226	.0271519
					(0.23)	(0.38)
Observations	3223	3240	3223	3240	3223	3240
R ²	0.008	0.004	0.010	0.007	0.013	0.008
FE	Village	Village	Village	Village	Village	Village
Wild Cluster Bootstrap	Village	Village	Village	Village	Village	Village

p-values in parentheses constructed by Wild Cluster Bootstrap at the Village level

Migration

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity
Female	-.0430328 (0.00)	-.0128875 (0.26)	-.0308213 (0.04)	-.0019874 (0.84)
Female-headed household	-.0773143 (0.09)	-.0147243 (0.44)	-.0888456 (0.08)	-.0114378 (0.42)
Husband absent from HH in last 12 months	-.0109405 (0.79)	.0494768 (0.22)	.0799588 (0.13)	.1310717 (0.01)
Wife absent from HH in last 12 months	.0467592 (0.34)	.1906528 (0.01)	-.0195739 (0.81)	.1824871 (0.12)
Female × Husband Absent			-.1471972 (0.01)	-.1277262 (0.01)
Female × Wife Absent			.0132362 (0.83)	.0139823 (0.87)
Female-headed Household × Husband Absent			-.0176786 (0.92)	-.0895376 (0.39)
Female-headed Household × Wife Absent			.1691413 (0.06)	-.0136597 (0.87)
Observations	3223	3240	3223	3240
FE	Village	Village	Village	Village
Wild Cluster Bootstrap	Village	Village	Village	Village

p-values in parentheses constructed by Wild Cluster Bootstrap at the village level [◀ Family Structure](#)

Experiences Losing Land

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity
Female	-.0433962 (0.00)	-.0126128 (0.32)	-.0396671 (0.01)	-.0041549 (0.71)
Female-headed household	-.0734008 (0.08)	-.0085499 (0.64)	-.0556665 (0.23)	-.0066222 (0.77)
HH lost land due to private dispute	-.0082691 (0.89)	.3484324 (0.06)	-.0424017 (0.48)	.3681227 (0.04)
HH had land confiscated by government	-.1865757 (0.01)	-.0481145 (0.02)	-.0870763 (0.07)	.012273 (0.75)
Female			-.0283599 (0.81)	-.1101701 (0.12)
× HH Lost land to private dispute			.3052158 (0.12)	.261096 (0.37)
Female-headed HH			-.0834979 (0.17)	-.0716135 (0.15)
× HH had land confiscated by gov			-.286981 (0.02)	-.114995 (0.04)
Observations	3223	3240	3223	3240
FE	Village	Village	Village	Village
Wild Cluster Bootstrap	Village	Village	Village	Village

p-values in parentheses constructed by Wild Cluster Bootstrap at the village level

Investment Decisions

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity	Collective Insecurity	Individual Insecurity
Female	-.0682934 (0.00)	.0012141 (0.93)	-.1567765 (0.00)	-.0269354 (0.18)
Female-headed household	-.04642 (0.31)	-.0265237 (0.26)	-.0759885 (0.38)	-.1076841 (0.01)
Output Manager	-.023767 (0.35)	.0122038 (0.49)	-.1579991 (0.01)	-.0374222 (0.03)
Primary source of labor	.0145524 (0.56)	.0046798 (0.68)	.0910195 (0.03)	-.0346256 (0.07)
Business Decisionmaker	-.0636191 (0.01)	.0279179 (0.08)	-.100215 (0.00)	.069851 (0.02)
Female × Output Manager			.3292245 (0.00)	.085022 (0.04)
Female × Main Labor			-.1926907 (0.00)	.0596623 (0.09)
Female × Business Decisions			.0611956 (0.17)	-.1099476 (0.02)
Female-headed Household × Output Manager			-.2521728 (0.01)	.0291797 (0.35)
Female-headed Household × Main Labor			.200883 (0.01)	.0510434 (0.03)
Female-headed Household × Business Decisions			.0231615 (0.72)	.0542988 (0.21)
Observations	3223	3240	3223	3240
FE	Village	Village	Village	Village
Wild Cluster Bootstrap	Village	Village	Village	Village

p-values in parentheses constructed by Wild Cluster Bootstrap at the village level