

The political agronomy of contested seeds in Tanzania

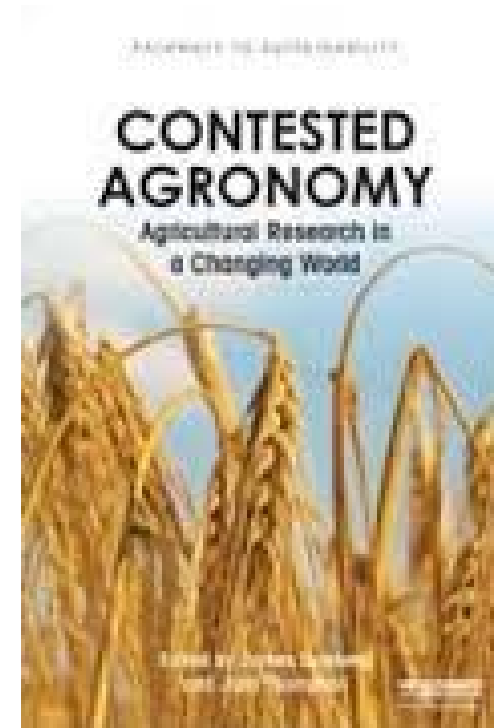
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Purpose

Assess different narratives that frame the thinking around the way forward in relation to improved seeds and the meaning of political agronomy in Tanzania



Why do few farmers use improved seed from the formal seed system (5-25%) (Haug et al. 2016)

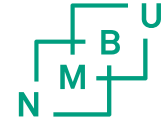


- Affordability
- High risks/Low profitability
 - Unpredictable policies
 - Market uncertainties
 - Fake seed
 - Bad weather
- Availability (sometimes)
- Awareness (not a problem)



Unpredictable policies and markets

(Haug and Hella 2013, Haug et al 2016)



- ***Price policy that hurt farm gate prices***

- Periodic export bans (maize)
- Unexpected import (rice)



- ***Marketing constraints***

- Limited public and private marketing service
- Poor roads, long distances
- Farmers not organized
- Numerous road blocks with official/unofficial cash payments

Dominant and alternatives narratives of ag science and policy

(Thompson and Scoones 2009)



Dominant narratives

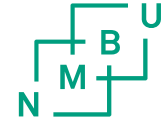
- The Production/Innovation narrative (green revolution)
- The Growth Narrative

Alternative narratives

- Agro-ecology
- Participatory approaches

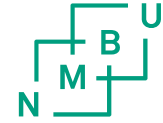


Different seed narratives



- **Time-modernists**: “green revolution” type of transformation will happen at some point regardless of efforts put into it
- **Technology-optimists**: investment needed in seed availability, delivery, private sector, rural infrastructure, extension and credit
- **Local-idealists**: promotes continued use of local seed and local seed systems, and recognize farmers experimenters and innovators of improved seed
- **Political-agronomists**: certified/improved seed could be good dependent upon structural factors and the political economy context

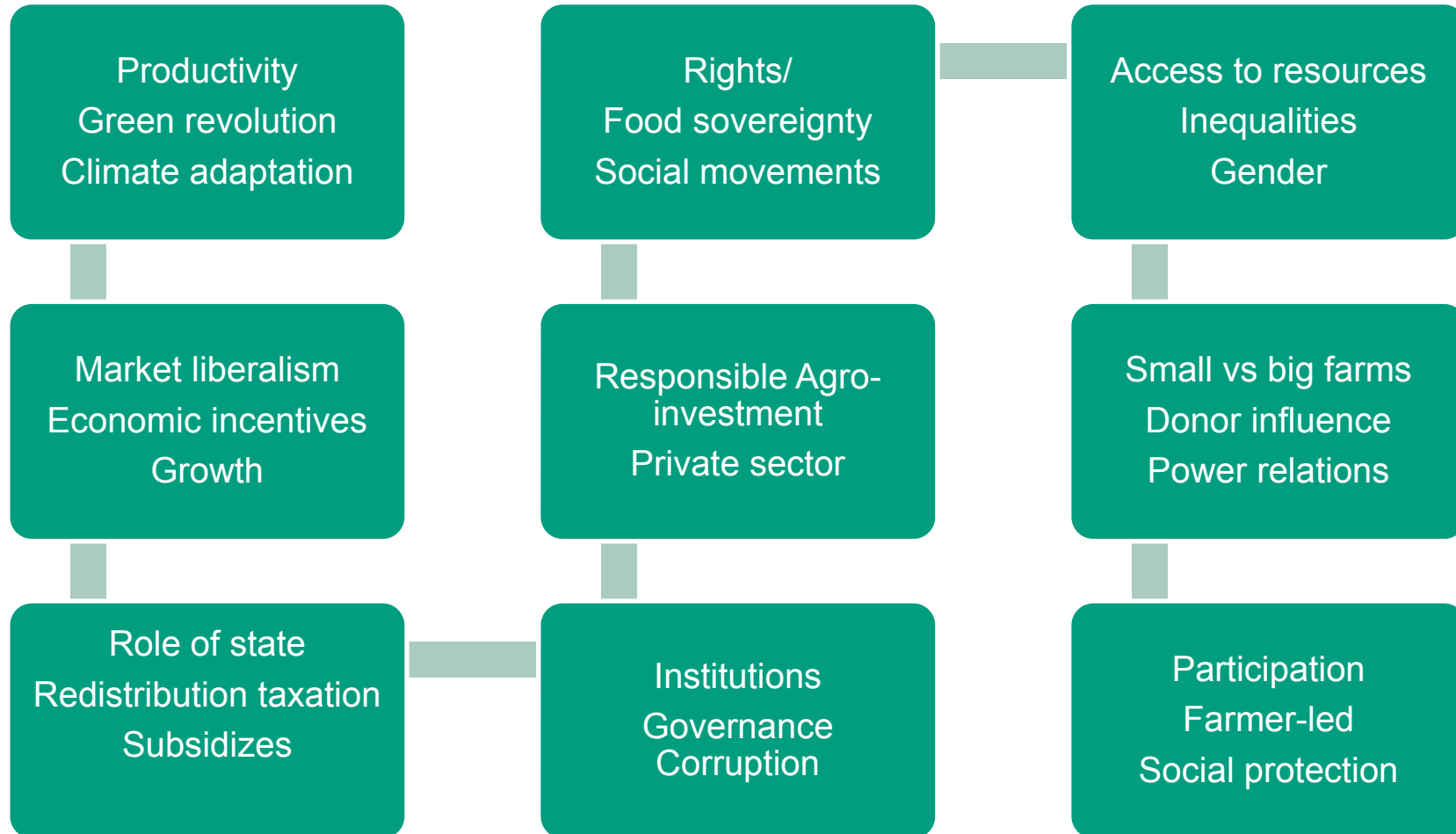
The way forward in Tanzania



- Both the dominant and the alternative narratives have failed as development strategies
- Agronomy has been too separated from structural factors and the political economy contexts
- Political agronomy the way forward? If yes HOW?



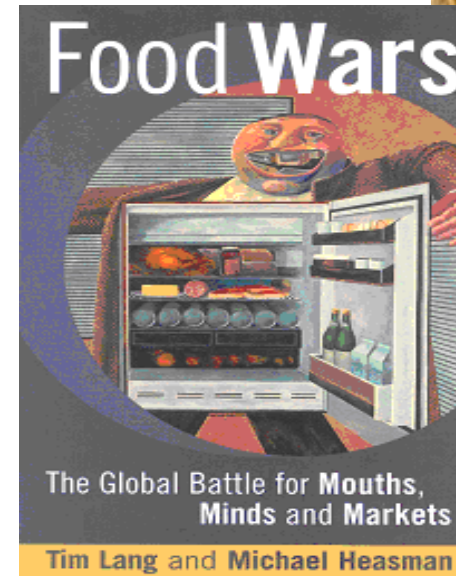
What is Political Agronomy?

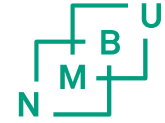


Political agronomy

(ideas from Cadieux & Slocum 2015)

- Context
- Understand power
- System change
- Constraints
- When and how state & market
- Democratic participation
 - Whose policy and ideology?





Thank you!