

“Mutualism or predation?”: Analysing the linkages between artisanal mining (AM) and small-scale agriculture (SsA) in South Kivu/Eastern DRC

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1. Introduction

- The recognition of AM importance has been controversial for a long time :
 - 1970: its entry into the vocabulary of International development
 - an appealing alternative for rural poor in search of employment
 - 1990: its association with negative aspects quickly overshadowed its economic importance
 - 2000: Academic researchers in in social sciences and development studies have advocated for its “critical rethinking”
 - looking at its connection to other sectors
 - Growing number of studies on the link between artisanal mining and agriculture

1. Introduction

- Linkages are considered to be either mutualistic or predatory
- E.g. of Mutualism
 - Occur in different seasons (safety net to each other)
 - Revenue of one is invested in the other
 - Mining site= important market for farmers at high price
- E.g. of predation
 - Mining= destruction of farming environment
 - Mining pull farming labour

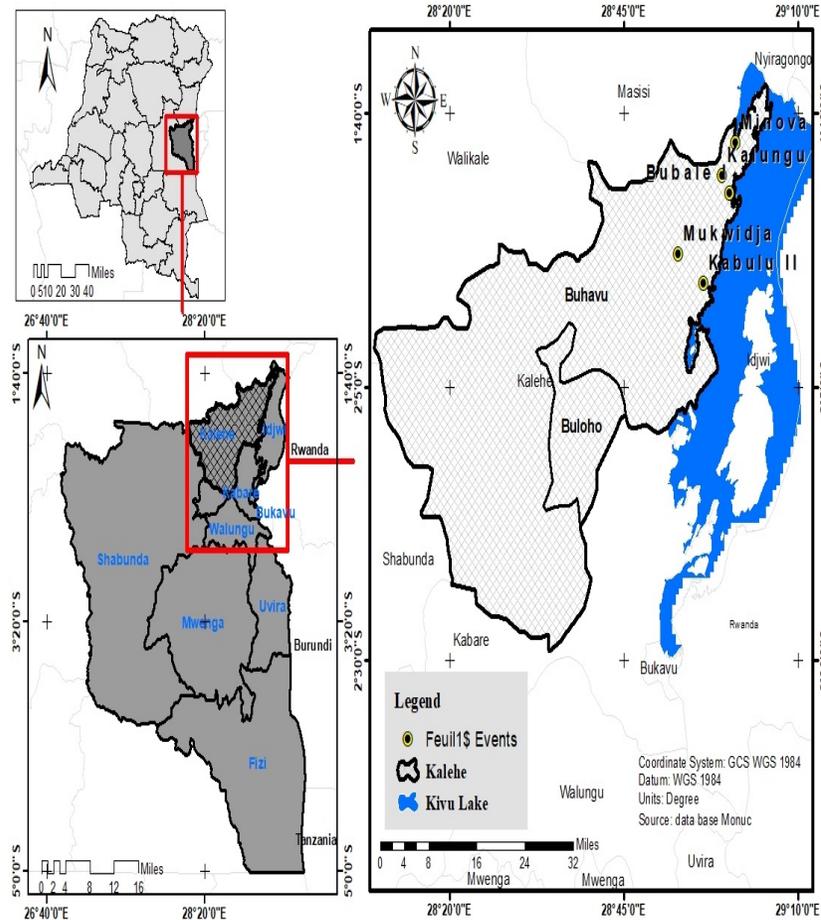
1. Introduction

- Though presenting the mechanisms through which positive and negative links between AM and SsA are made up
 - does not explore the counterfactual situation to analyse what will be the situation of one sector in the absence of the other
- Analyse the counterfactual situation by comparing farmers living close to AM with those with no connection to it.

2. Research questions

- Does the emergence of artisanal mining create “particular” and beneficial linkages with agriculture?
 - What is the impact of artisanal mining on farmers’ livelihoods?

3. Methodology



- Kalehe territory
 - Coexistence between farming and mining
 - Accessibility
- Mbinga Nord and Buzi
 - 5 villages
 - 2 villages in Mbinga Nord

3. Methodology



- Qualitative pilot survey in 2017
 - 23 individual interviews,
 - 13 focus groups and
 - direct observation
- Quantitative survey in 2018
 - 496 farm household
 - 268 artisanal miners
- Mixed methods
 - Identify the links between these two sectors
 - compare farm households living in the vicinity of the AM with those that do not (PSM).

4. Some findings

1. AM complements income from agriculture :
 - Off-farm income: >
2. AM facilitates the marketing of agricultural production at a relatively high price
 - Share of production sold <
 - Monetary gain from sale >
3. AM facilitates investment in agriculture
 - Number of agricultural land >
4. AM creates land conflict
 - Not significant
5. AM reduce the number of agricultural workers used by households
 - Not significant

Conclusion

- This chapter sheds more light on the rootedness and indispensability of artisanal mining on agriculture-based livelihood
- Although showing some predatory characteristics, AM enables farm households to meet their needs that cannot be met by agricultural income alone
- Instead of discouraging or prohibiting it as is often the case (Hilson, 2016b), policy makers should develop supportive policies to limit the negative effects that artisanal mining can have

AKSANTI!!