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the State: THE CHANGING FEATURES IN THE TRADITIONAL LAND TENURE SYSTEMS AND UTILIZATION IN THE EASTERN STATES OF NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

The major objective of this study is to analyze how land is strictly tied to the culture of the people in the Eastern States of Nigeria and how cultural changes stimulate changes in the systems of land tenure and utilization. In order to achieve this objective, the author examines the persisting characteristics and the problems of the traditional land tenure systems and land use in the Region, and investigates various mechanisms which have helped to revolutionize traditional agriculture.

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Among the major mechanisms of change in the traditional land holding patterns and use are: (1) the rapid expansion of population ~~which has ruled out~~ the practicability of a shifting cultivation system; (2) the European contact with the Eastern States which has had a tremendous influence on the cultural, social and economic life of the people; (3) the role of the Eastern States Government which has spearheaded agricultural transformation through its various agricultural development schemes.

Finally, all the changing features of land use have been outlined, and the possibility of further changes has been predicted. The potential of agriculture continuing to lead the economic activities of the region in decades ahead is made evident. The author has commented on the role of

by
Joseph Ibanga
June, 1971

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Ronald E. Nelson
Second Reader

In Partial Fulfillment
June 8, 1971

of the requirements ^{Date} for the Degree

Master of Arts

Joseph Ibanja

June, 1971