Training on Land Information Management Systems for Sustainable Development in Africa

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ABSTRACT:

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions can provide an avenue for training on Land Information Management Systems (LIMS) for sustainable development in Africa. A LIMS can be described as a computerized system for land ownership records that usually consists of an accurate, current and reliable map of the land and associated attributes. A well-functioning LIMS can provide multiple benefits to a society, some of which include: improving land ownership, enabling land to be used as collateral for credit, developing land markets, improving land taxation, reducing land disputes and enabling rural land reforms among others. These benefits when put together can contribute towards sustainable development, which can be described as the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Despite the possible benefits of LIMS, only thirty percent of land in Africa has been formally registered. Due to the low coverage of land registration, a majority of the people in Africa are unable to gain from the possible benefits of land registration. In the areas where registration has been introduced, the records are usually held in paper format, which is susceptible to wear and tear, and can also be misplaced. The lack of proper land records makes it very difficult to unlock wealth which is locked up in land. In order to remedy the situation, there is a need to implement computerized LIMS for effective and efficient use of land. The LIMS can be implemented only if there is a well trained workforce in a country. In this regard, training students in TVET institutions on how to implement LIMS can be one way of creating the required workforce. The main aim of this article is to propose principles of LIMS that should be taught in TVET institutions. In order to determine the key principles, grounded theory was used as the main methodology for this article. The results show that the training should cover technical, legal, organizational and financial aspects of LIMS.

Keywords:
Land Information Management Systems, Registration, TVET

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