

## ANOTHER COUNTRYSIDE?

### Policy Options for Land and Agrarian Reform in South Africa

Edited by Ruth Hall (2009)

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The redistribution of land in South Africa has been stymied for years both by policy failures and by bureaucratic obstacles. It has been caught between the competing priorities of deracialising commercial farming and providing access to land for large numbers of the rural poor. This book is a compilation of papers that explore the limits of the current approach and propose policy alternatives.

The book centres on three themes: how land is to be acquired (which land, and for whom), under what tenure arrangements it is to be held and how production is to be supported. The focus moves beyond debating alternatives to the 'willing-buyer, willing-seller' paradigm to the kind of agrarian change that land reform should pursue. Central to all this is reconfiguring the roles of state and market.

The papers include an assessment of the political parameters for more progressive policy alternatives; an analysis of the changing dynamics in the commercial farming sector; scenarios for future employment and self-employment in agriculture; and lessons from a participatory land reform planning initiative undertaken in partnership with a local landless people's organisation.

The book presents a set of policy recommendations that constitute an outline (and not a detailed blueprint) of an alternative policy direction, and elaborates some legal, financial and institutional implications.

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