Seminar 6

Question 1

- There are success stories and failures when it comes to land reform.
 - Can you list some examples of both?
 - Why do you think that there is such a variation in the results of attempts to redistribute land?

Question 2

- Discuss the importance of incorporating the two-ways links between income and input-productivity (strength, ability to work) and argue how it can be used to discuss the impact of land distribution on poverty, production and inequality.
- Consider a country that is land scare with high rental prices. Can you argue why all landless people may be excluded from agriculture when land is sufficiently scarce?
- How can a redistribution of land from big and rich land lords to landless people reduces poverty, increase agricultural output in such a land scare regime?
- Would a reform that redistributed land from land lords to small holders have similar effects?
- Can you explain how a more land rich regime can give rise to access demand for land? Why does not access demand lead to higher land rental prices?
- How would a land reform work in that case?
- Can you demonstrate how unequal ownership to land can give rise to unnecessary poverty in the sense that a more equal distribution of land would potentially feed everybody and eliminate poverty and malnutrition?
- Would it really matter whether i) land owners rent out their land to agricultural workers or ii) land owners (in stead) rent in workers on their land?

Question 3

- What might be the role of ethnic devisions for violent conflicts? What are possible arguments that the role is limited and often exaggerated in the debate? (see section 5 of Esteban and Ray 2017).
- If it is right that conflicts (defined broadly) decline with per capita income (see Esteban and Ray, 2017) why does it seem to go up with the availability of rich natural resources (see Mehlum, Moene and Torvik, 2006)?
- How would you argue that more valuable resources can be a blessing for the development in some countries, but a curse in others?