

Land Consolidation in Ethiopia

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SUMMARY

The Ethiopian highlands are characterized by a large fragmentation of agricultural land. They are densely populated and, depending on the region, the average farm size is between 1.5 and 2 ha with a trend towards even smaller farms. An analysis in the Amhara region shows, in some wards (kebeles), most households own between six and 15 plots. The farming of agricultural mini-plots is extremely inefficient, prevents an increase of agricultural productivity and undermines food security. As up to 70% of the Ethiopian population is dependent on agriculture, the fragmentation represents an enormous challenge for sustainable development.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has recognised the need to address the challenges of increasing land fragmentation and is seeking support to land consolidation (also as a new instrument to achieve the MoA objectives) by the German Development Cooperation. It aims to achieve greater agricultural productivity, more efficient management of natural resources, and therefore improved living conditions for the producers.

However, there are no laws, regulations or guidelines that regulate land consolidation procedures or stipulate their design. At the same time, there is a lack of capacity at national level to devise guidelines and legal regulations. Also, practical experience in the regional administration on how to organize voluntary land exchange and an active participation of the population are rare.

The presentation provides insights into a joint Ethiopian-German project on creating conditions necessary for implementing participatory land consolidation procedures in Ethiopia. It describes the approach of preparing land consolidation from the scratch and highlights lessons learned of the project. You'll learn, how the projects supports partners in land consolidation pilot projects in Amhara region to gather experience on raising awareness and preparing participatory LC process. It

explains how capacities at the authorities for land consolidation procedures and voluntary land exchange will be developed and Land Consolidation Committee (LCC) will be enabled to develop and adopt Plans of Common and Public Systems (including implementation of small scale infrastructure works).

On national level, the presentation describes, how the project advises MoA to develop guidelines and evaluation models for the implementation of land consolidation procedures based on the lessons learned and experience in the pilot projects. A crucial step will be the development of a roadmap for creating an legal and regulatory framework.