The Improvement of Land Consolidation in China: A Case Study of Hubei Province

Master’s Thesis by Yunqing Jiao (China)

Background of the study
Land Consolidation is an important tool to promote rural development and has achieved successful experience about rural development in Germany. The priority of land consolidation is shifted from increasing the area of arable land to improving quality of arable land, improving agricultural production conditions and rural ecological environment in China. Moreover, the village renewal is also part of land consolidation. However, success achieved in Germany through land consolidation cannot be replicated in China despite of the income of farmers has been increased greatly.

Hubei province is located in the central part of China, and the development level of economic of which is in the middle of east and west which represent the advanced and laggard. The situation of rural development in Hubei province can represent the reality of rural development in China. The research aimed at improving and optimizing land consolidation in the process of finding sustainable ways to management and support overall rural development in China through the use of land management and land policy such as land consolidation.

Objectives of the study

General objective
The research aimed at improving and optimizing the land consolidation in the process of finding sustainable ways to management and support overall rural development in China.

Specific objectives
- To evaluate the performance of land consolidation in rural areas in order to identify the positives and negatives effects of land consolidation in the study area.
- To evaluate the situation of rural development in Case study area.
- Examine the effect of land consolidation in process of improving rural development.

Research Methodology
After identifying the problems and reviewing theories for rural development and land consolidation and rural development policies implemented in China, some research questions were asked to explore the situation of land consolidation and rural development in the case study area. For the study, both qualitative and quantitative data were collected through committee of villager survey, key-informant interviews such as the staff of Land Consolidation Centre and the head of government, related publications and web research.

Study Area

Source: Xinhua News (2010)


Key Findings

Situation of Rural Development in Hubei Province
- Scientific planning is absent in rural development.
- Poor agricultural infrastructure.
- Poor land management.
- Low levels of literacy of farmers.
- Low rural investment.

Situation of Land Consolidation in Hubei Province
- Poor planning of Land consolidation.
- Illegal actions of construction units.
- Lack of effective supervision.
- Maintenance of agricultural infrastructure.
- Land fragment existed after land consolidation.
- Single investment channels.

Conclusion
The primary purpose of Land Consolidation in Hubei Province is to maintain the dynamic equilibrium of arable land in amount, however other measures employed in the project can bring the benefits to local people in the aspect of infrastructure improvement. The land consolidation implemented in the case study area is not enough to solve the problems of rural development.

Recommendations
- More attention should be given towards efficient rural land management.
- Secure Land Tenure. Insecurity of land tenure can’t achieve the goal of sustainable development in rural areas.
- Good rural spatial planning. Good spatial planning can maximum the effect of disperse investment provided by different sector for promoting rural development.