Introduction
Since land consolidation was introduced into China in late 1980s, it has contributed significantly to arable land protection and agriculture development. Recent years land consolidation has developed greatly in terms of scope and content. Current comprehensive land consolidation has been regarded as one effective instrument for rural development. But currently in some cases the role of local government in land is prone to weaken the benefits of land consolidation or even harm the welfare of related people. So this study focused on the local government role in land consolidation, in the intention to improve land consolidation in China.

Research Questions
- What are the problems of current land consolidation in China?
- What are the roles of local government in land consolidation?
- What is the contribution of local government role to land consolidation problems?
- How to adjust the local government role to improve land consolidation?

Research Framework
- Firstly, to identify the problems of land consolidation based on cases.
- Secondly, to analyze the role of local government in land consolidation and to analyze the causes.
- Thirdly, to find out the relationship between local government role and land consolidation problems.
-Fourthly, Based on German experience and government function reform analysis, to develop suggestions for local government role adjustment in land consolidation.

Land dilemma of local government

The situation of land consolidation in Europe, Germany and China, including concept, development, objectives, measures and procedure, were summarized and analyzed, as well as the government function and structure in China. Major problems of land consolidation in China were identified as:
- Absence of complete legal framework;
- Insufficient participation of related villages;
- Villagers were forced to resettle in multi-story apartments;
- Quality problems of land consolidation projects plan and implementation;
- Insufficient coordinate and cooperation between various departments.

The land dilemma of local government. On one side, they have strong interests in local economic growth characterized by rapid industrialization and urbanization which need huge amount of land for construction. On other side, they have to tackle the challenges of China’s most strict arable land protection policy, which not only limit amount of arable land for construction, but also require local government to supplement the same area of arable land for occupied ones. Land consolidation is the most effective instrument to tackle the land dilemma and is pretty attractive to local government.

Role of local government in land consolidation: onion model was adopted to theoretically analyze the desires, needs, interests and position of local government.

- Cases from Guizhou and Hubei province were studied to practically analyze local government role in land consolidation.
- The result showed that local government currently acts as decision-maker, financier, organizer, implementer and beneficiary in land consolidation.

The relationship between local government role and land consolidation problems was studied and local government role was founded to have great contribution to current land consolidation problems.

For example the quality problem.

Based on analysis and German experience learning, the suggestion of adjusting local government role to improve land consolidation include:
- Construction of service-centered government and government function reform; 
- Suggestion to tackle local government dilemma of construction land; 
- Encourage and really implement participation in land consolidation; 
- Clearly define and regulate parties’ responsibilities in land consolidation; 
- Improve legal basis of land consolidation.

References