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Conflicts over Property Rights on Collective Owned Agricultural Lands in China:

Current Situation, Causes, Consequences, and Options

Land conflicts are receiving increased attention in many quarters. In China, there is growing concern among peoples' organizations, governments, civil society networks and scholars about the rural land conflicts. Therefore, the purpose of this thesis is to provide a systematic analysis of the land conflicts and conflicts situation in China's rural areas. On this basis, the objective is to provide relevant recommendations for the management of land in the future.

The thesis focuses primarily on three overlapping elements: first, the nature of the land conflicts in China's rural areas (e.g. types, causes, consequences etc.), second, the state of affairs regarding the resolution of land conflicts and institutions, and third, the economic implications of land conflicts.

Additional comments are also provided regarding the risk that land conflicts could lead to widespread violence as well as social instability. Finally, the thesis highlights the importance of changing the current situation of poorly defined property rights into a well defined property right system, especially for the case of the farmers, and confronts the state institutional and administrative capacity as the main reasons for the generation of land conflicts in China.

Key words: Land conflicts, rural areas, conflict resolution, economic implications, violence, social instability, property rights, institutional and administrative capacity, China.