

New Trends in Development of Agricultural Land Consolidation in the Russian Federation

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SUMMARY

Agricultural Land Consolidation is a merging, enlargement, eliminating of mosaic land ownership and improvement of configuration as well as optimization of size of land plots in order to increase the efficiency of agricultural production via rational use of scarce resources: land, labor and capital based on reduction of transaction costs. The specific objectives of Agricultural Land Consolidation are the following: increasing the efficiency of agricultural production; providing sustainable development of agrarian sector; rational use of land, labor and capital in agriculture; optimization of agricultural production structures both in territorial and production aspects; increasing the competitiveness of agricultural producers in domestic and foreign markets; environmental protection; development of production and social infrastructure in agriculture. Agricultural Land Consolidation should be carried out based on the following principles: voluntariness; openness and transparency; financial and economic feasibility; taking into account the interests of the population groups involved including women and youth as well as indigenous people; step by step implementation; consideration of local conditions; state and NGO support. In theory, Agricultural Land Consolidation can be carried out as Voluntary Land Consolidation and Compulsory Land Consolidation. The present stage of Agricultural Land Consolidation Development in the Russian Federation is featured by appearance of agricultural holdings and increasing size of private farms. It was estimated 69.3 hectares in 2015. It increased by 61.5 % in 2015 compared to 1995. Development of Agricultural Land Consolidation in the Russian Federation is mostly depended on Regional Land Policies. In 2015, the average size of private farm in Orel Region was amounted 155.6 hectares. It increased by 3.1 times in 2015 compared to 1994. The following measures must be implemented to strengthen the organizational and institutional sustainability of Agricultural Land Consolidation in the Russian Federation: the Agricultural Land Consolidation Legislation must be revised and improved both at the federal and regional level; the institutional framework for implementation of Agricultural Land Consolidation must be improved both at the federal and at

regional level too; the training and retraining programs related to Agricultural Land Consolidation issues must be introduced; the public relation campaign to strengthen people's ability to understand the role and importance of Agricultural Land Consolidation Development must be initiated; the pilot projects focused on Agricultural Land Consolidation Development should be launched in some regions of the Russian Federation to make demonstration effect; the Agricultural Land Consolidation Development Experience should be collected, scrutinized and disseminated.

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