

A Tale of Two Countries: Assessing Land Consolidation in Germany & Land Use Consolidation in Rwanda and Their Contribution to Rural Development.

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Key words: Cadastre; Land management; Young surveyor; Land Consolidation; Land-Use Consolidation; Rural Development

SUMMARY

Over the past 20 years, several approaches to land consolidation have been developed in response to the Global Agenda towards No Poverty, No Hunger, and Sustainable Communities. This has especially been prominent in Central and Eastern Europe, Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. However, these land consolidation approaches, especially those in Sub-Saharan Africa, have mostly been developed with a focus on achieving food security and land tenure security. The development trajectory and current state of land consolidation in Western Europe has shown that though at its initial stages in the pre-WW2 era, land consolidation was developed with the goal of food security, the post-WW2 era saw the expansion of the goals of land consolidation to encompass other aspects of the rural landscape towards a total rural transformation. A similar trend can be recognized in the land consolidation's development in Sub-Saharan Africa, where Rwanda has developed the land use consolidation, a form of land consolidation different from its Western European counterpart, and the voluntary land consolidation in Ethiopia. While the Western European approaches of land consolidation have evolved over time to contribute to rural development, food security and land tenure security, the current approaches developed in Sub-Saharan Africa are aimed at land tenure and food security.

This study aims at comparing and assessing the two land consolidation approaches, the conventional Western European approach and SSA's land use consolidation to identify the factors needed to develop land consolidation as a rural development tool.

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FIG e-Working Week 2021
Smart Surveyors for Land and Water Management - Challenges in a New Reality
Virtually in the Netherlands, 21–25 June 2021