Lessons learned from 100 years land consolidation
Marije Louwsma and Jan van Rheenen
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Marije Louwsma and Jan van Rheenen
## Historical perspective in the Netherlands

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1890 – 1924: Start-up

Scientist W.C.H. Staring about land fragmentation:

“A malign phenomenon in agriculture exists that is hardly noticed, because it is so common and widespread, so widely accepted, and apparently so cureless, that eliminating it seems to be hopeless“.

Source:
Huisboek voor den landman in Nederland, 1862
Ameland, 190 hectares (1916): 4000 plots
Ameland, 190 hectares (1916): 219 plots
1924 - 1945: Initial land consolidation
Socio-economic developments

Heath reclamation, 1937

Big families

Drenthe, 1926

Land reclamation, Lemmer-Urk 1937
1950 – 1985: Reconstruction

Engineer F.W.G. Pijls:

“Practically, there is no unsuitable land for agriculture anymore. We only know different grades of suitability.”

3 January 1955
Modernisation of rural area by:

- Education & raising awareness
- Non-income support for agriculture
- National scheme for land consolidation
Long-term scheme for land consolidation, 1953
Typical land consolidation

Rationale:
- Rational reallocation for agriculture (food production)

Measures:
- Drainage
- Relocation of farms
- Reallocation of land
- Standardised housing
- Recreational facilities
- Road improvement
Tubbergen
1985 – now: Comprehensive approach

Clause 4

Land consolidation aims to improve the spatial arrangement of the rural area in accordance with the functions of that area, as described by spatial planning.
Typical land consolidation

Rationale:
- Emphasis on comprehensive and sustainable development

Measures:
- New nature
- Reallocation of land, less civil engineering
- Recreational facilities
- Water management
150.000 ha new nature in 25 years

Saasveld-Gammelke (2013)
2007 – now: Transition

Recent developments:
- Decentralization of power
- Voluntary approach popular
- Higher levels of public participation
- Flexible and fast processes
Climate change

Sea level rise
Subsidence

Total effect

Source: KNMI
Conclusions

Methodology of land consolidation did not change so much

Aims changed over time, and will continue to change, depending on socio-economic needs and policies

Popularity for form of land consolidation (formal or voluntary) fluctuates over time

Contemporary and future developments open up new applications for land consolidation and vice versa

Appropriate form and application of land consolidation is agile
Thank you