The Effectivity of Land Consolidation in Finland

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9 - 11 November 2016, Symposium on Land Consolidation and Land Readjustment for Sustainable Development
Land Consolidations in Finland

- Long history – first was completed in 1764
- Technical and process improvements in last two decades
- Agriculture and Forestry efficiency goal in subsidised Land Consolidations
- Also Project Land Consolidations for infrastructure and nature conservation projects
- Demands to cut government spending
Production of Land Consolidations in hectares per man-year in Finland
Government investigator for Land Consolidations

- In October 2015 director Timo Potka was appointed to be official investigator of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

- Task was to investigate following arguments and questions:
  - 1) Difficulties of synchronisation on national legislation and EU-legislation in state subsidies to Land Consolidations.
  - 2) Increase of crofting of fields in Finland and difficulties that this presents to Land Consolidations.
  - 3) Argument that Land Consolidations do not provide a long term solution to parcel fragmentation.
  - 4) Need to cut costs and bureaucracy in all government activities.
  - 5) How to improve parcel structure more with less government spending?
2) Increase of crofting of fields in Finland and difficulties that this presents to Land Consolidations

- Leased parcels are smaller than average. - Leased parcels would gain most in Land Consolidation.
- Difficulties to merge leased parcels in LC
- Difficulties to merge leased parcels without LC
  - Voluntary contracts don’t improve parcel structure
- 23 – 40 % of leased land in LC was sold to active farmer
  - Improvements could be done after purchase
Share of Leased fields in Finland
3) Argument that Land Consolidations do not provide a long term solution to parcel fragmentation
Development of average parcel size before land consolidation, right after and in the year 2015 in areas where land consolidations were completed between years 1996 and 2003
Average parcel size right after land consolidation and in year 2015 in four areas which land consolidation was completed 100 to 120 years ago
Average parcel size in all surveyed 23 areas before land consolidation, after land consolidation and in year 2015.

Columns from left to right: roughly 15 years ago completed land consolidations, no land consolidation and over 100-year-old land consolidation
Conclusion: Land Consolidations is a long term solution to parcel fragmentation
More information

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