

Land Consolidation and Agricultural Sustainability in Turkey

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Goals of land consolidation

- Improvement of agricultural structure
- Improvement of living conditions
- Protection of nature and culture areas

Land consolidation works are carried out in Turkey since the 1960s and only %10 of agricultural lands have been consolidated.

Expectations from Land Consolidation

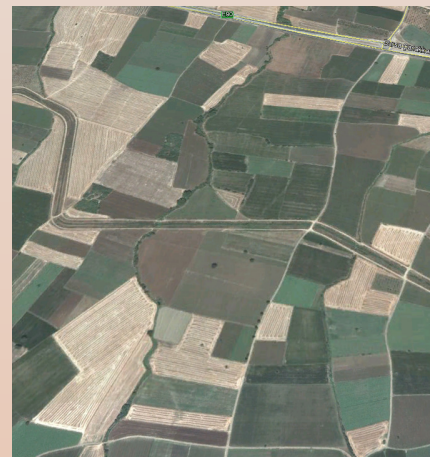
- Production expenses decrease
- Nourishment requirements is guaranteed
- Working times reduce
- Relationship between agriculture and nature are balanced
- Total income rises
- Costs of agricultural investments reduce and effectiveness raises
- Community consciousness and democratic behaviors develop
- Agricultural land, nature and the other rural resources conservation are provided
- Living conditions in the rural areas are improved and pressure on the urban settlements is reduce
- Problems about ownership are solved and cadastre updates

Problems after land consolidation

- Dividing of agricultural parcels continues.
- Demand for long-term investment is at very low level.
- Farmers are generally poorly educated and low-skilled
- A high rate of hidden unemployment has driven many young people to seek work in the cities.
- Lack organization of farming co-operatives and producers' unions
- Existing problems in marketing of products
- Insufficient landholding magnitude can cause economic problems in the long run.
- Shareholding parcels are common
- Fluctuations on producer income due to lack of annual production planning

Constraints on Sustainability

- Farmers who continue to live in rural areas try to sustain agricultural production on lands that become smaller on account of inheritance laws.
- There are no laws to ensure the continuity of landholdings.
- Inheritance law provides for an equal share of the land. For this reason, tendency of ownership of land holdings become weaker on next generation.
- Many farmers have insufficient size of land. Therefore the cost of production cannot be reduced sufficiently.
- Even if farmers apply modern agricultural techniques they do not use modern management methods.
- The uncertainty on ownership of parcels continues. It is not clear who will be owner of the lands after father died.



After the land consolidation has been finalized, by monitoring and evaluating the projects, the effects that occur will be able to be determined clearly and this will result in taking concrete measures that will be needed.