

The Relationship Between Land Administration, Land Consolidation and VGGT Implementation

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SUMMARY

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) were approved in 2012 by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The VGGT represent the first international instrument on the governance of tenure. They include a set of internationally accepted principles and standards and provide a framework that States can use when developing their own strategies, policies and legislation. The VGGT address public, private, communal, indigenous, customary and informal systems of tenure. Within the five years since their approval, the VGGT are being implemented in more than 60 countries.

Land consolidation is one of the topics addressed in the VGGT. Land consolidation is a concerted effort towards promoting sustainable rural development at the local level. Implementation of land consolidation projects could face some challenges related to land administration such as: unregistered land plots; complicated and expensive procedures for land registration; poor quality of registration and cadastral data; existence of non-formalized transactions; high level of absentees and lack of authorized individuals. The implementation of land consolidation project in accordance with the VGGT can lead to the identification of legal, regulatory and practical challenges of land administration and recommendations for streamlining the registration process.