

Creating a Safer Place to Live Through Land Consolidation

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SUMMARY

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ABSTRACT

The Netherlands is mainly shaped as it is nowadays because of disastrous floods. Many actions have been executed to adapt to the situation, creating a safer place to live. However, there are side effects of successfully implementing solutions to adapt to this situation. On one hand, natural floodplains are nowadays being used intensively for functions like housing and agriculture. On the other hand people are not fully aware of the flood risks, nowadays mainly due to river flooding, that are still here and are increasing due to climate change. At present time the Netherlands is still the most vulnerable country in Europe to a natural disaster. The last decade the national government started awareness campaigns and programs. On a more executing level she started developing new retention areas.

In the Netherlands every parcel has an owner and a designated function. In case of realization of water retention area's there is no or very little flexibility in choosing designated locations. So, to achieve water retention area's it's evident that ownership has to be re-divided and land use reassigned. The Dutch Cadastre participates, facilitates and advises in many multi-purpose projects to create or improve conditions for sustainable rural development. Instruments as land consolidation and voluntary reallocation are effective instruments for creating farm enlargement, increasing natural values of areas, but also to help achieve realization of retention areas. The complex playing field however makes it very important to use the right instrument at the right place at the right

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time.

In a voluntary reallocation landowners are invited to discuss the new allocation together. This method enhances public participation or even co-creation and creates a shared responsibility amongst participants for their own environment through mutual agreement. Formal land consolidation guarantees that every owner is involved because it has a mandatory character but its formal character can be perceived as undesired top-down decision-making.

“Land consolidation Peize” is an illustrative example of the use of both instruments in different phases of a dynamic project resulting in the successful realization of a water retention area keeping the city of Groningen dry and safe.