

# Meeting the 2030 Agenda: Responsible Consolidation of Ghana's Customary Lands

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**Key words:** Access to land; Cadastre; Geoinformation/GI; Land distribution; Land management

## SUMMARY

Land Consolidation on Sub-Saharan Africa's Customary Lands have generally failed for various reasons. However, with the prevalence of land fragmentation as a problem in the past two decades, there has been a new wave of land consolidation activities in the region. Land fragmentation on customary lands has two main causes—the nature of the customary land tenure system, and the somewhat linked agricultural system. Since attempts to increase food productivity on customary lands have involved fertilisation and mechanisation on the small and scattered farmlands, these approaches have fallen short of increasing food productivity. Land tenure security is further low on these lands. This study examines how a responsible land consolidation measure can be developed for customary lands to contribute to food security and land tenure security.

A design research approach is used to develop a land consolidation measure for customary lands and reported here. Based on a comparative study, it is found that three factors inhibit the development of a responsible land consolidation approach on customary lands—the coverage of a land administration system, a land valuation approach, and a land reallocation approach the fits the customary land tenure system. To fill these gaps, firstly, this study developed the participatory land administration that brought together traditional land administration approaches with emerging bottom-up approaches, as well as technological advances that drive these approaches together with the growing societal needs. Secondly, a valuation approach was developed to enable the comparison of the farmlands in rural areas that are without land markets. Finally, a land reallocation approach was developed based on the political, economic and social, as well as technical and legal characteristics of rural customary farmlands. This study concludes that though the land consolidation strategy developed is significantly able to reduce land fragmentation, both physical and land tenure, the local customs are an obstruction to the technical processes to achieve the best form of farmland structures. Hence the developed approach can contribute to land tenure and food security.

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Meeting the 2030 Agenda: Responsible Consolidation of Ghana's Customary Lands (11100)  
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FIG e-Working Week 2021

Smart Surveyors for Land and Water Management - Challenges in a New Reality  
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