

Sustainable Landscapes of the Future – an Approach to Multilateral Land Use in Rural Areas

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Key words: Land distribution; Land management; Land management, land consolidation, sustainability, property rights; rural development: climate and environmental protection; multilateral land use

SUMMARY

Denmark is an agricultural country, where about 60 percent of the land is intensively cultivated. A study of the expectations for the use of the rural areas in the future shows that the Danish landscape is under pressure – “there is a struggle for the space in the state of Denmark”.

In the report “Prioritization of future land use in Denmark”, the land requirement is estimated to be 140% of the Danish land area, if all ambitions and wishes for future land use must be fulfilled.

If there is to be space for everything, and the environmental impact of intensive agricultural production must be reduced, there is a need for both coexistence between the many different interests regarding multilateral land use and a need for “outsourcing” of less productive and nature-protected areas from agriculture.

To address these challenges, one tool in particular has been high-profiled – multifunctional land consolidation, where multiple societal considerations are managed in one solution in the same dialogue-based process ideally by including all interests. Another tool is binding agreements with landowners on the use and protection of the landscape and its resources.

This presentation outlines the Danish approach to a holistic and sustainable land use in rural areas – where multilateralism is created in a dialogue-based vision for landscape development and in a synergistic effect for environment, climate, nature, leisure, agriculture and rural development.