

Abstract:

Soil is an irreplaceable natural resource, a fundamental component of the environment and a source of livelihood. At present, however, urban sprawl is excessive and land cover is detrimental to the agricultural system; these are the leading contributors to soil damage and the loss of its function. The most serious type of soil degradation is “land grabbing”. Such land grabbing may be considered one of the major environmental problems of the Czech Republic. Development in greenfield sites has significant environmental impacts, such as the loss of good agricultural or forest land. Unlike tools to protect forests, tools to protect agricultural land resources (ALR) appear to be ineffective. The objective of the present thesis is to explain how such tools are applied in practice, and to analyze the tools and to answer the crucial question: ***How do tools to protect agricultural land resources work in practice and for what reasons do tools to protect ALR appear to be ineffective?*** The theoretical section of the thesis provides the legislative and theoretical background. This section is primarily based on Act No. 334/1992 Sb. on the protection of agricultural land resources and Act No. 289/1995 Sb. on forests. An analysis is made and the defined issues are assessed in practice. I used qualitative research, specifically institutional analysis in the form of actor analysis. The thesis includes semi-structured interviews with selected stakeholders from the public administration and self-administration.

Keywords: soil, land grabbing, soil sealing, protection of agricultural land resources and its tools, Act No. 334/1992 Sb., Act No. 289/1995 Sb., institutional analysis in the form of actor analysis, semi-structured interviews