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**Lessons of the Transformation of the Agricultural Administration and Associations in East  
Germany with the Collapse of the Socialist Regime**

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### **Initial task in all transition countries:**

Restructuring of the agricultural administration from a central planning to a market-economic and pluralistic democratic system which implies new functions and new tasks

Formation of organizations representing the farming population

### **General situation in Germany in 1989/90:**

- rapid adoption of West German monetary, economic and social system including integration in the EU (CAP) → **no adjustment period**
- early collapse of agricultural production sector → **emergency support measures**
- imminent collapse of East German economy during summer 1990 → **shortening of time horizon**, copy of West German model: **“institutional transfer”**

### **Administration: Dismantling the socialist one while setting up a new one**

- ❖ territorial reorganisation (national – regional districts – districts → federal state – (intermediary level) – districts)
- ❖ new role, tasks and functions (e.g. recruitment of new staff, restructuring of agricultural production cooperatives; implementation of CAP; support to parliaments and ministers)

### **Associations: Set-up of an organisation representing the farming population**

- both sides represented a complete different farming model:  
**East:** collective farmers; **West:** family farmers
- merger on a federated basis; gradually in 1991
- “ideological compromise”: private ownership on production factors and “multi-family” farming
- result: almost one voice of the farmers; only organization where East Germans got into decision-making positions

### **Conclusions:**

- ❖ restructuring accomplished in a very short period (new tasks, new structure)
- ❖ institutional transfer from West to East successful (“twinning model”), dedicated staff from the East and the West, training component
- ❖ restructured agricultural administration still oversized: plan more conservatively
- ❖ Farmers’ Union: very effective in shaping the future agrarian structure

→ **no model for other transition countries**, but may-be for the Korean Peninsular