

**Rural and agricultural development by land consolidation: a spatial production
analysis of Asturias' parishes**

Inmaculada Alvarez

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and *Oviedo Efficiency Group*

Luis Orea

University of Oviedo and *Oviedo Efficiency Group*

Jose Antonio Pérez

University of Oviedo and *Oviedo Efficiency Group*

This paper evaluates the impact of the land consolidation processes that have taken place in Asturias during the period 2001-2017. These processes have been received European funds because of their potential to improve the economic activity in rural areas and stabilize their population. In particular, land consolidation aims to increase farms' productivity as these processes involve public investment in infrastructures that favour accessibility and development in these and adjacent areas. To evaluate the effect of land consolidation processes on milk and meat production we treat the parishes in Asturias as production units and estimate a set of distance functions. Our preliminary results indicate that land consolidation contributes to increase farms production, although those processes not always are accompanied by an increase in the number of farms. Finally, it worth highlighting that the investment made in infrastructures is the most relevant feature of the land consolidation processes.