



# MEDIA DIGEST **THIS WEEK**



## Is Loosened Land Transfer Possible?

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As the Third Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the 18th Communist Party of China draws near, expectations are high that transfer of collectively owned rural land will be loosened.

However, according to the Ministry of Land and Resources, China's land management system won't undergo large reforms because on the one hand, transfer of collectively owned rural land will cause farmers to lose their land, leading to social unrest; on the other hand, local government opposes such reforms because free transfer of collectively owned rural land

will weaken local government dominance of land sales.

Despite these obstacles to reform, land transfer experience in south China's Guangdong Province has provided insight into how land transfer might become possible. In the 30 years since China's reform and opening-up drive kicked off, land transfer in the Pearl River Delta area has provided not only buildings for Hong Kong and Taiwan factories, but also homes to workers swarming the region. It is this illegal land transfer market that pushed forward industrialization and urbanization in the area.