

EU financial support for agricultural holdings in Poland in 2004–2006

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Accession to the European Union involves supporting the development of the food sector and rural areas in Poland by two programmes: the Sectoral Operational Programme “Restructuring and modernization of the food sector and rural development” (SOP for Agriculture) and Rural Development Plan (RDP) for 2004–2006. Both programmes include 25 different measures influencing not only structural changes in rural areas and agriculture but also improving the competitiveness of the Polish food sector.

The high level of funds utilisation offered by RDP and SOP for Agriculture programmes shows the great interest of Polish farmers in receiving support and undertakings farm investments or improving non-agricultural activities to diversify their income sources.

The paper presents a mid-term analysis of the most important measures of the SOP and RDP programmes and their impact on structural changes of rural areas in Poland. The analysis is based on a set of monitoring indicators, results of the most current survey conducted by IAFE-NRI, as well as a data of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture (which performs the role of a paying agency for support measures).

Key words: agricultural holdings, EU, investment, mid-term analysis, RDP, SOP, structural funds, support

INTRODUCTION

In Poland, agriculture represents an economic sector of major importance and determines not only the social and economic situation of the rural population, but also the condition of the environment, landscape structure and biodiversity. It differs from agriculture in most EU Member States. The main differences include a high share of agricultural employment, a large number of very small farms and a low labour productivity.

In Poland, there are 1.71 million holdings of over 1 ha of agricultural land, engaged in agricultural activities with the average farm size of approx. 10 ha. Small farms (1–5 ha) account for more than half of the total number of agricultural holdings and cover about 20% of agricultural land. Most family farms of over 1 ha have agricultural land in the so-called patchwork, with 18.1% divided into six or more parcels. Furthermore, labour productivity in agriculture is also low – mere 14% of the respective indicator in the EU. This partly results from excess labour in agriculture and the related high registered and hidden unemployment. Although the share of agricultural employment has been gradually decreasing, the process is very slow, primarily due to the lack of off-farm jobs. It adversely affects farming efficiency, being reflected in a low agricultural income and the under-utilisation of the production potential. Another barrier to the agricultural and rural development is an underdeveloped technical infrastructure in rural areas as well

as inadequate machinery and equipment in agricultural holdings.

Therefore, transfers from the EU budget were seen as a great opportunity. For Poland, the date of EU accession marked a positive change in the financing, modernisation and current activities of agriculture and rural areas.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POLISH SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

Although the Polish food economy benefited from EU funds under the PHARE programme as early as the 1990s, the first programme directly supporting agricultural and rural development was the pre-accession SAPARD programme implemented from 2002. It was aimed at contributing to the implementation of the *acquis communautaire* concerning the common agricultural policy (CAP), as well as at solving priority problems of the agricultural sector and rural areas in the applicant countries.

The SAPARD programme attracted considerable interest among Polish rural entrepreneurs, local governments and farmers. As regards farmers, the most popular scheme was the “Diversification of production of agricultural holdings”, which was primarily aimed at increasing the number of farms obtaining agricultural income in non-traditional sectors. Even though one consequence of the programme was that some farmers started rearing exotic fowl such as ostriches, or rabbit farming, only

of amateur character in Poland, the funds allocated for the diversification of production were mainly disbursed by farmers on tractors and agricultural machinery. The possibility to purchase a tractor or a machine at half the price is an obvious bargain for the buyer, but it fails to contribute to a sustainable improvement in the economic situation of the holding. At the same time, farmers showed only moderate interest in the scheme for the modernisation of animal production. Support for investments in agricultural holdings was mainly targeted at farmers wishing to improve product quality and animal welfare as well as to modernise production technology and invest in environmentally-friendly equipment. However, it appeared that not many farmers exploited the possibility to modernise animal production. There was marginal interest in the modernisation of sheep rearing and beef cattle farming, whereas the modernisation of pig and poultry farming as well as the restructuring of dairy cattle farming were much more popular.

Naturally, the SAPARD programme did not, and could not, solve the most pressing problems of Polish agriculture and rural areas, not only due to the limited scope and short implementation period, but primarily because of the backwardness of Polish agriculture lagging behind Western European agriculture by some 20–30 years, as well as on account of a severe underdevelopment of technical infrastructure in rural areas. Furthermore, it appears that farmers failed to fully exploit the possibilities to improve the economic situation of farms, especially the modernisation of animal production. Most probably, the underlying cause was the prevailing belief that agriculture, even after Poland's accession to the EU, would not be an attractive occupation ensuring an appropriate living standard. Furthermore, the modernisation was frequently prevented by the lack of one's own resources and the problems with raising bridging loans. Nevertheless, it turns out that many farmers seek an opportunity to improve their financial situation.

Poland's accession to the EU involved increased possibilities for farm development on account of the launch of two new programmes co-financed from the EU budget, namely the Rural Development Plan (*Plan Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich* – PROW) and the Sectoral Operational Programme for “Restructuring and Modernisation of the Food Sector and Rural Development” (*Restrukturyzacja i modernizacja sektora żywnościowego i rozwój obszarów wiejskich* – SOP for Agriculture). The programmes have two objectives: sustainable rural development and improving the competitiveness of the food economy. Both programmes included a total of 25 different measures (10 in the PROW, with the total appropriations of €3.59 billion, and 15 in the SOP for Agriculture, with the total appropriations of €1.78 billion). Due to the high number of measures, funds were spread too thinly,

but at the same time such an approach resulted in a multidirectional influence on rural structures.

The choice of specific measures by farmers largely depended on the social and economic situation of holdings. The simplest CAP and structural policy instruments were most popular due to their availability and easy access to financial resources. Nevertheless, investment subsidies also attracted considerable interest. The conditions, limitations and requirements significantly reduced the number of applicants, but it was still higher than expected. It reflected the active approach on the part of agricultural producers, but also the elitism of both programmes and the competitive character of applications.

Within the framework of the PROW, the most popular measures included “Support for semi-subsistence farms”, “Adjustment of agricultural holdings to EU standards” and “Structural pensions”. Under the SOP, the highest number of applications concerned “Investments in agricultural holdings”, “Setting up of young farmers” and “Diversification of agricultural activities”.

The measure “Support for semi-subsistence farms” was targeted at a clearly defined group of agricultural holdings whose economic size measured by standard gross margin ranged between 2 and 4 ESU (European Size Unit). In 2002, there were some 280000 holdings in this size class (14% of the total number of farms in Poland). Financial assistance to semi-subsistence farms amounted to €1,250 annually per farm, and it was paid for five years. Financial support was supposed to encourage and stimulate the restructuring of holdings characterised by a limited economic potential, mostly producing for their own consumption. The measure was launched at the beginning of 2005 (1 February 2005) and attracted great interest among farmers from the outset. As a result, farmers submitted 172000 applications, which means that 61% of all semi-subsistence farms in Poland applied for assistance.

The popularity of this instrument among farmers may result from a relatively easy access to co-financing. Despite the fact that an application had to be accompanied by a business plan for a semi-subsistence farm where the farmer needed to declare one of several intermediate objectives, in case of failure to carry out work specified in the plan during the first three years there are no sanctions other than the discontinuation of payments for the subsequent two years. Most farmers declared the purchase of farm animals, the purchase of agricultural machinery and equipment or the purchase of land. However, the appropriations for this measure are insufficient to make economically viable holdings. Farms characterised by the economic strength of 2 ESU are very small and weak, so the minor investment projects implemented under this measure could not make them viable.

Undoubtedly, support for a total of 9% of agricultural holdings in Poland will improve their income situation and thus

Table 1. Financial resources by programme and objective

Objective	PROW	SOP	Total
1. Improving the competitiveness of the food economy, %	23	75	57
2. Sustainable rural development, %	54	23	34
3. Other, %	23	1	9
Total, €, billion	3,6	1,7	5,3

Source: “Plan Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich 2004–2006” and “Sektorowy Program Operacyjny ‘Restrukturyzacja i modernizacja sektora żywnościowego oraz rozwój obszarów wiejskich’”, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

the conditions for restructuring. How the co-financing for a beneficiary farm is used will primarily depend on the farmer. Appropriations under the programme will help holdings wishing to benefit from structural funds and struggling with the barrier of the lack of their own resources. Farmers oriented towards farm development will exploit the opportunity to make investment, but in most cases support will be used for consumption.

The PROW includes a typical investment-oriented measure, the "Adjustment of agricultural holdings to European Union standards". The financial aid is expected to contribute to the implementation of required EU standards in assisted holdings. The aim of financial support is to cover the cost of projects bringing farms into compliance with European Union standards. Assistance is an annual payment, and an eligible expenditure includes the main investment costs if the investment project is necessary for the farm to meet a standard, but the payment cannot exceed the equivalent of €25,000 per farm.

The measure was launched at the beginning of 2005 (2 February 2005). Due to its similarity to investments in agricultural holdings within the framework of the SAPARD programme, it was expected to attract many farmers. As regards the SAPARD programme, approx. 2000 holdings specialised in animal production benefited from assistance. Within the framework of the PROW, more than 73,000 farms applied for support. This widespread desire to bring agricultural holdings into compliance with EU standards reflects a better understanding of the EU support system in the rural community as well as the fact that a number of farm holders are willing to continue farming in the future. Farmers wishing to stop agricultural activities would not be interested in adjusting their farms to EU standards.

Most applications concerned support for storage of farm manure (nearly 90% of investment projects). At the same time, farmers showed marginal interest in financial assistance in the modernisation of poultry production (less than 1% of investment projects, as shown in Fig. 1). The reason is that applications for support for chicken farms could only be submitted by the 44 farms listed in the Treaty of Accession, i. e. those that had been allowed a transitional period (for the use of battery cages) by the European Commission. Investment projects in agricultural holdings (chicken farms) not included in the list were eligible for assistance under the measure "Investments in agricultural holdings" within the framework of Sectoral Operational Programme for the "Restructuring and Modernisation of the Food Sector and Rural Development".

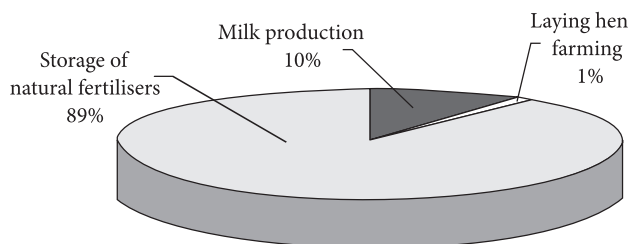


Fig. 1. Adjustment of agricultural holdings to EU standards by scheme (% of applications)

Source: Our own study based on data of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of 29 September 2006.

Significant farmers' interest in building storage facilities for liquid manure shows that storage conditions for fertilisers in agricultural holdings are inappropriate and cause the contamination of the environment. Such investment is frequently beyond the means of farm owners. Public support provides an opportunity to make such investment and – under the cross-compliance requirements, i.e. farm compliance with sanitary, environmental and animal welfare standards – to be entitled to receive direct payments in the future.

This measure is of vital importance from the point of view of adjusting Polish farms to the EU and national standards, particularly in terms of storage of natural fertilisers. Furthermore, it is well correlated with the measure "Investments in agricultural holdings" under the Sectoral Operational Programme where the precondition for receiving support is bringing the farm into compliance with the above-mentioned EU standards.

Another interesting example resulting from the specific structure of available measures are farmers' efforts to receive structural pensions and benefit from once-for-all payments for starting agricultural activities at the same time. Those complementary measures allow a situation where a parent transfers the farm in return for a structural pension, whereas the transferee receives start-up assistance. The measure "Structural pensions" was launched in mid-2004 (1 August) and attracted considerable interest. A great number of applications under this measure were anticipated, if only for easy eligibility criteria and relatively high pensions, set at 210% of the lowest monthly pension under pension regulations. However, it is rather doubtful whether early retirement in Poland is not aimed primarily at social protection, particularly that pensioners frequently continue agricultural activities. Nevertheless, it may be presumed that even if initially the position of pensioners remains virtually unchanged, over time young successors will start introducing their own ideas of farming. The premium of PLN 50,000 under the "Young farmer" scheme can be a major incentive. According to data of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, young farmers were interested in applying for support, but the actual number of applications was three times lower than in the case of older farmers. It may imply that sometimes there was no successor to take over the farm. This is directly related to the purpose of farm transfers. It appears that roughly the same, even slightly more agricultural land was transferred for the expansion of another holding than to be taken over by a successor (53%), whereas there were very few cases of transfers to the Treasury, for the purpose of environmental protection or afforestation (a total of less than 1%) (Fig. 2).

Most applicants intended to transfer the whole farm, which prevented fragmentation and contributed to the improvement of land structure. A high share of transferees aged under 40 and not successors indicates that young farmers running their own farms are interested in expansion.

Therefore, the measure can be considered successful in achieving the goal of pushing ahead generational change in the Polish countryside, but it has had no apparent effect in terms of improving the agrarian structure. This primarily results from the limited scale of the measure which covered a marginal share of agricultural holdings in Poland (approx. 56,000 farms accounting for some 3% of the total number).

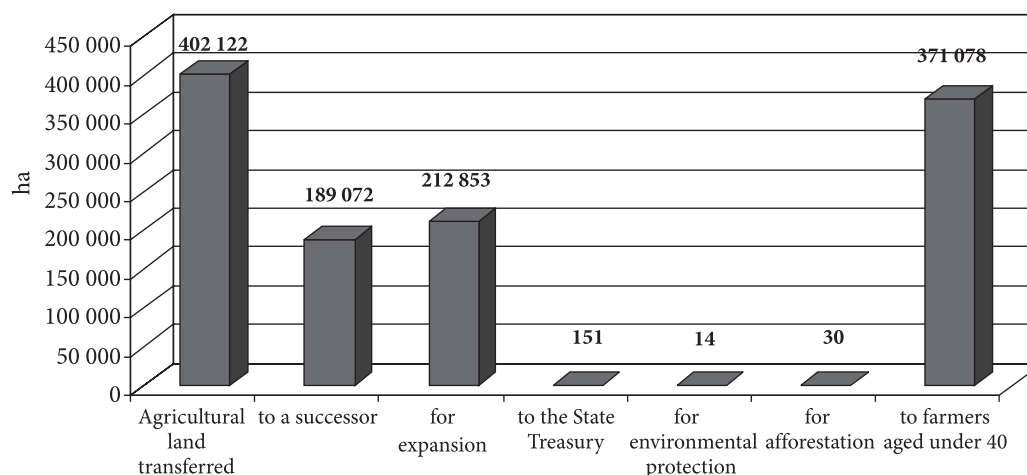


Fig. 2. Agricultural land transferred under "Structural pensions" by purpose

Source: Our own study based on data by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of 22 September 2006.

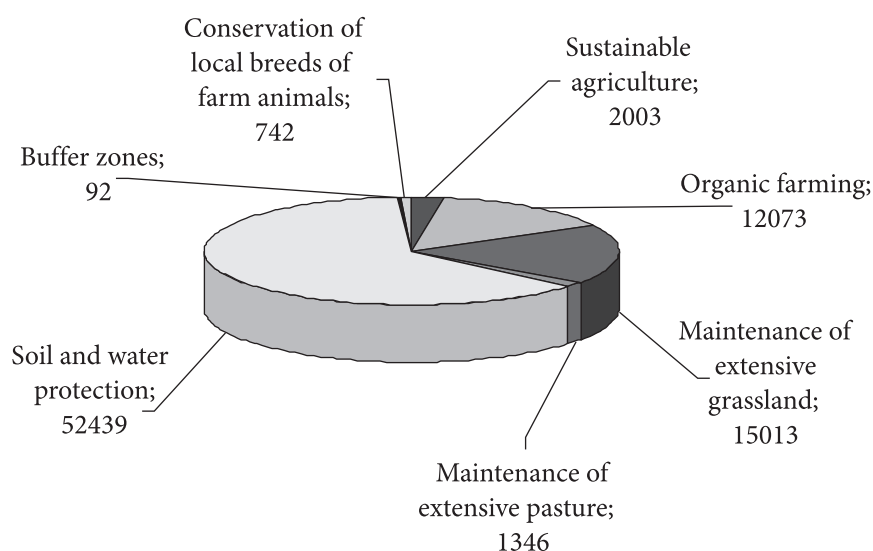


Fig. 3. Schemes declared for implementation under "Support for agri-environmental undertakings and improving animal welfare"

Source: Data of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of 30 September 2006.

Other measures available to farmers within the framework of the PROW included "Afforestation" and "Agricultural producer groups", but they were less relevant than those discussed above. However, one more PROW instrument deserves notice, namely "Support for agri-environmental undertakings and improving animal welfare", since it is the most important PROW measure from the point of view of environmental protection and the preservation of the rural landscape. The measure was originally intended as part of the SAPARD programme for 2000–2003, but eventually the Polish authorities excluded it as its accreditation prior to accession was considered impossible. Furthermore, the preparation of good agri-environmental projects was difficult and time-consuming. The implementation of the measure was also problematic between 2004 and 2006. However, the programme is important not only in financial terms, but mostly from the point of view of environmental protection, particularly that farms failing to meet EU standards will be faced with the reduction in direct payments. The measure includes seven agri-environmental schemes (sustainable agriculture, organic farming, the maintenance of extensive grassland, the maintenance of

extensive pasture, soil and water protection, buffer zones and the conservation of local breeds of farm animals). Each scheme is characterised by a set of clearly defined requirements going beyond the usual good farming practice and may be implemented by a farmer according to an agri-environmental plan. A total of 72,000 applications were submitted under this measure.

Most farmers were interested in "Soil and water protection" (Fig. 3). Intercrops enrich the soil with nutrients and provide moisture which is often highly relevant to the yield of poor soils. Furthermore, the payments frequently cover the cost of the undertaking, or even result in a certain surplus for the farmer. The participation in a scheme offers most benefits to those who have used intercrops or companion crops as a normal agrotechnical practice for years and become eligible for support on joining the agri-environmental programme. "Organic farming" represents another very popular scheme. The effect of this increased interest in the scheme is difficult to assess since the processing industry and distribution are at a very early development stage compared to other countries, whereas prices for organic products do not always cover production costs, considering a much lower yield

during the first years. Nevertheless, EU funds triggered a rapid expansion of organic farming. More and more farmers switch to organic methods of production, which is reflected in more than threefold increase in the number of such farms in Poland in 2005 in comparison with 2003 (from 2,286 to 7,183).

The scope of the SOP for Agriculture is much more limited compared to the PROW. At the same time, the programme is much more difficult for the beneficiaries, although the achievement of its objectives may contribute to restructuring and improving the competitiveness and profitability of agricultural holdings. Unlike the PROW, the SOP is investment-oriented, which is reflected in the allocation of appropriations between specific programme priorities. The allocation indicates that 75% of the total appropriations for the implementation of the programme were earmarked for priority I, "Support for changes and adjustments in the agri-food sector", which includes measures such as "Investments in agricultural holdings", "Setting-up of young farmers", "Training", "Support for agricultural advisory services" and "Improving the processing and marketing of agricultural products". Under this priority, nearly 46% of financial resources were allocated to "Investments in agricultural holdings". This measure also accounts for a highest share of funds (35% of the total appropriations) within the framework of the Sectoral Operational Programme for Agriculture.

An analysis of the agricultural sector in Poland reveals the insufficient technical equipment of farms and the lack of capital for investment in Polish agriculture. The strengthening of the agricultural sector represents one essential element of ensuring social and economic stability in rural areas. Investment support is necessary, particularly with regard to adjusting agricultural production to EU standards, improving the quality of agricultural products, introducing new technologies and the compliance of agricultural production with the environmental requirements. Therefore, the measure "Investments in agricultural holdings" plays a prominent role among all the measures implemented within the framework of the SOP for Agriculture. It includes activities aimed at improving the profitability and competitiveness of farms, adjusting the production profile, scale and quality to market needs, improving food safety, animal welfare, the environmental protection and occupational safety.

The measure was launched on 16 August 2004 and from the outset attracted considerable interest. It is reflected in the fact that the number of applications submitted under this measure significantly exceeded the number of beneficiaries anticipated in the programme. According to prior assessment, 17,000 applications had been expected, but the actual number exceeded 29,000. It partly resulted from the fact that the measure was a continuation of the SAPARD measure 2, "Investments in agricultural holdings". Since the beneficiaries had been familiarised with the form of structural support, it was much easier for them to overcome barriers, both institutional and psychological, resulting from fear and prejudice, and to apply for support. Most investment projects implemented under this measure concerned the purchase of machinery and equipment for agricultural holdings. On the one hand, such investment is undoubtedly necessary as analyses of the agricultural sector indicate insufficient capital assets in Polish agriculture. On the other hand, the purchase of machinery represents the easiest and fastest investment

and does not involve meeting so many formal requirements as other types of investment (such as construction). According to surveys carried out by the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute in October and November 2006, most investment projects concerned the purchase of a tractor. The same surveys revealed that a significant share of investment was aimed at restoring the previous production capacity rather than actual modernisation and innovativeness. Therefore, in the next programming period, in the PROW for 2007–2013, the applicant for financial aid under the measure "Modernisation of agricultural holdings" will have to demonstrate that the investment project has an effect on general farm performance and that it is not oriented towards reconstruction. The second most popular type of investment (in terms of the number of applications) in agricultural holdings is the construction or modernisation of farm buildings. According to the 2002 agricultural census, approx. 1.89 million family farms in Poland owned ca. 4.83 million stock and farm buildings. Those included cowsheds, stables, piggeries, barns, multipurpose buildings. However, the standard and technical condition of those buildings was low. Nearly half of them were built before 1960. By 1996, only 15% of stock and farm buildings were modernised. Such a limited number of modernised facilities results from the fact that the modernisation of stock buildings mostly takes place on large farms specialised in the rearing of animals or oriented towards a specific type of production.

Rural unemployment and limited job opportunities in rural areas pose the most relevant and severe problems in the Polish countryside. The fight against rural unemployment, through measures such as easier access to the labour market and creation of off-farm jobs in rural areas represents one of the most important challenges. For this reason, another essential instrument within the framework of the SOP for Agriculture is the measure "Diversification of agricultural activities and activities close to agriculture to provide multiple activities or alternative incomes".

This measure should contribute to creating alternative jobs, promoting a positive image of rural areas and agriculture in society, preserving the environment in rural areas, facilitating access for farmers and the rural population to services, improving the profitability of production and services on farms.

"Diversification of agricultural activities and activities close to agriculture to provide multiple activities or alternative incomes" is primarily targeted at the smallest and poorest holdings. Under this measure, farmers and members of farming families can invest in additional agricultural activities or activities close to agriculture. Taking up or expanding additional activities oriented towards market needs, on the basis of the existing farm and local resources, will provide conditions for the development of multifunctional and economically viable agricultural holdings. Projects eligible for co-financing under this measure include rural tourism and related services, services for agriculture and forestry, small-scale processing of agricultural products and edible forestry products, direct sale of articles mostly produced on the farm, activities connected with the production of energy producing materials from biomass, craft and handicraft, small services for the rural population, the sale or promotion of agricultural products via the Internet.

According to the 1996 and 2002 agricultural censuses conducted by the GUS, the number of farms taking up additional activities improving the income situation increased rapidly – from 249,000 in 1996 to 363,400 in 2002, i. e. by 46%. The GUS classifies such activities as: services based on the use of own equipment, rural tourism, accommodation services, the processing of agricultural products, wood processing, handicraft, aquaculture, commercial production of renewable energy and other activities (including the rearing of fur-bearing animals).

On farms characterised by small-scale production and significant labour resources there are limited possibilities to reduce hidden unemployment. “Diversification of agricultural activities and activities close to agriculture to provide multiple activities or alternative incomes” represents one of them. Therefore, farmers are willing to use this instrument. The number of applications for financial assistance under this measure exceeded the number of beneficiaries projected in the Programme. The receipt of applications started in September 2004. In some voivodships it ended as early as June 2005 due to the fact that the appropriations had been exhausted. In four voivodships (Dolnośląskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Lubelskie and Mazowieckie) the receipt of applications continued until April 2006. A total of more than 7,000 applications were submitted, whereas the number initially projected was 6,500. It should be emphasised that nearly 82% of undertakings carried out in agricultural holdings under this measure are aimed at creating alternative income sources. Within the framework of this measure, most applications, almost 50% of the total number, were submitted by farms characterised by the economic strength of less than 2 ESU. This results from the fact that the diversification of agricultural and non-agricultural activities aimed at increasing income is mostly needed by small farms with a low income and no opportunities to improve their financial situation through current activities.

According to the surveys conducted by the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Food Economy – National Research Institute in October and November 2006, most beneficiaries of “Investments in agricultural holdings” and “Diversification of agricultural activities” declared that they would be willing to make further investment in the next programming period. The projects would continue ongoing investment activities or start a new investment. This suggests a permanent change in the way of thinking of farmers who want to pursue agricultural activities or non-agricultural activities in rural areas in the future. Furthermore, the willingness to continue ongoing investment projects proves that these are not “one-off” undertakings and may contribute to structural changes in the Polish countryside. It should be also added that according to data of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, ca. 20% of contracts within the framework of the SOP for Agriculture were signed with previous beneficiaries of the SAPARD programme. It reflects the role of the programme and proves the relevance of structural support.

CONCLUSIONS

The Programmes accurately identified the most important problems of Polish agriculture such as high rural unemployment, poor technical equipment and the highly fragmented land

structure. The measures implemented within the framework of these programmes were specifically designed to alleviate, and to eliminate in the long term, the disadvantages of Polish agriculture in order to make it competitive in the Community market. However, since permanent improvement involves generational change, it necessarily takes time to materialise. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that most of the discussed measures will be continued in the next programming period 2007–2013.

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ES FINANSINĖ PARAMA ŽEMĖS VALDŲ PLĖTRAI LENKIJOJE 2004–2006 METAIS

S a n t r a u k a

Lenkijai įstojus į ES, šalyje parama žemės ir maisto ūkio sektoriaus plėtrai teikiama pagal dvi programas: sektorinę programą „Maisto sektoriaus ir kaimo plėtros restruktūrizavimas ir modernizavimas“ (SP žemės ūkiui) ir Kaimo plėtros planą (KPP) 2004–2006 metams. Šios programos apima 25 priemonės, kurios turi įtakos ne tik žemės ūkio struktūriniais pokyčiams, bet ir Lenkijos maisto sektoriaus konkurencingumo didinimui.

Aukštas KPP ir SP žemės ūkiui lėšų naudojimo lygis rodo didelį Lenkijos ūkininkų susidomėjimą galima parama ir investavimu į ūkius ar ne žemės ūkio veiklų diversifikavimą, siekiant įvairinti ūkių pajamų šaltinius.

Straipsnyje pateikiama svarbiausių SP žemės ūkiui ir KPP programų analizė bei jų poveikis struktūriniais pokyčiams kaimo vietovėse Lenkijoje. Analizuojat remtasi monitoringo rodikliais, naujausio IAFE-NRI atlikto tyrimo rezultatais, Žemės ūkio ir kaimo plėtros ministerijos bei Agentūros žemės ūkiui restruktūrizuoti ir modernizuoti (kuri atlieka paramą administruojančios mokėjimo agentūros vaidmenį) duomenimis.

Raktažodžiai: analizė, ES, investicijos, KPP, parama, SP žemės ūkiui, struktūriniai fondai, žemės ūkio valdos

Малгожата Булковска, Катажина Хмужиньска

ФИНАНСОВАЯ ПОМОЩЬ ЕС В РАЗВИТИИ ЗЕМЕЛЬНЫХ ВЛАДЕНИЙ В ПОЛЬШЕ В 2004–2006 ГГ.

Р е з ю м е

После вступления Польши в ЕС в стране помощь на развитие сельскохозяйственного и продовольственного секторов предоставляется по двум программам: по секторной программе „Реструктуризация и модернизация продовольственного сектора и развития села“ (СП для СХ) и на основе Плана развития села (ПРС) на 2004–2006 гг. Эти программы охватывают 25 мероприятий, имеющих значение не только для структурных изменений в сельскохозяйственном производстве, но и для увеличения конкурентоспособности продовольственного сектора Польши.

Высокий уровень освоения средств по программам СП для СХ и ПРС подтверждает большую заинтересованность польских крестьян возможной помощью и инвестированием средств в хозяйства или на диверсификацию несельскохозяйственных промыслов в целях видоизменения источников хозяйственных доходов.

Рассмотрены программы СП для СХ и ПРС и оценено их влияние на структурные изменения сельской местности Польши. Анализ строится на основе показателей мониторинга, новейших итогов исследований IAFE-NRI, данных Министерства сельского хозяйства и развития села, а также Агентства по реструктуризации и модернизации сельского хозяйства (агентство, выполняющее функцию администрирования помощи).

Ключевые слова: анализ, ЕС, земельные владения, инвестиции, помощь, ПРС, СП для СХ, структурные фонды