

## AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS IN POLAND – AN ATTEMPT TOWARDS A TYPOLOGY\*

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**Abstract.** Agricultural organizations play an important role in political decision-making at the local, national, and EU levels. However, it is difficult to estimate to what extent the size of public transfers to the Polish countryside is a direct effect of these organizations' activity. The same question applies to farming privileges, which are much more numerous than those for other social groups in rural areas. One of the reasons for this stems from the fact that agricultural organizations in Poland have rarely been examined. The aim of this article is therefore to obtain a structured picture of agricultural organizations in Poland and to search for relations between their legal forms and statutory goals. The main types distinguished here include farmers' trade unions, employers' organizations, agribusiness organizations (agribusiness federations and unions), and associations. Taking into consideration the number of members and the thrust of activities, including impact on agricultural policy, the most important agricultural organizations in Poland seem to be the trade unions and agribusiness organizations. The substantive difference between them lies in their stated goals. Trade unions primarily indicate goals of a social nature. Federations of agribusiness organizations strive to support their members and promote policy changes, while agribusiness organizations work for the development of specialized farms.

**Key words:** agricultural organizations, typology, goals, trade unions, agribusiness organizations, employers' organizations

### INTRODUCTION

Agricultural organizations, as the experience of other countries shows (e.g. Halamska, 1998; Pappi and Henning, 1999), play an important role in political decision-making at the local, national, and EU levels. The efficiency and effectiveness of agricultural organizations is evidence of ability of farmers to organize themselves, which affects the developmental potential of the agricultural sector. However, it is difficult to estimate the extent to which the size of public transfers to the Polish countryside is a direct effect of these organizations' activity. The same question goes for farming privileges, which are much more numerous than those for other social groups in rural areas. Answering this question is impeded by the fact that agricultural organizations in Poland have rarely been examined (e.g. Halamska, 2008; Michna, 2010; Milczarek-Andrzejewska, 2014). The present article is an attempt to fill this gap by description and creation of a typology of agricultural organizations in Poland.

Typologies allow for the division of a set into subsets which, unlike classifications, do not have to comply with the requirements of fullness and severability (Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, 2008). Moreover, such a typology allows us to reduce the number of

\* The project was funded by statutory research of the Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development, Polish Academy of Sciences (IRWiR PAN) and funds of the National Science Center (the decision no EC-2013/11/B/HS4/01691).

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classes distinguished (Nowak, 2012). The researchers have undertaken to create a typology of organizations with the use of various criteria, although an analysis of the literature in this aspect indicates no single and generally accepted typology (e.g. Bielski, 2004; Puchalski, 2008). Therefore, an inductive approach to developing a typology based on empirical material has been chosen in this article. Because we have taken in consideration variables related to the legal form and goals presented in the statutes of organizations, the proposed typology is a division based on the formal point of view. A formal division informs, among other things, about methods of funding, possible goals, the possible spectrum of action, and organizational structure. Analysis of goals indicates what a particular organization wants to achieve with its actions (Griffin, 2008). In this way, organizations can be divided according to their areas of activities and perceived problems.

The aim of this article is not only to obtain a structured picture of agricultural organizations in Poland, but also to search for relations between the main variable, which is the basis for the creation of a typology (i.e. legal form), and the second variable included in the study (the statutory goals of organizations).

## METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH AND DATA SOURCES

Our analysis was limited to formal organizations, the ones which represent the interests of farmers in accordance with applicable laws. In our field of interest were those organizations which could potentially affect the development of agricultural policy (including the Common Agricultural Policy, as well as national measures)<sup>1</sup>. For the purpose of this article, our research included organizations which unite members engaged in agricultural production, regardless of the legal form<sup>2</sup>. In addition, our study included only those organizations in which farmers can join together voluntarily. Therefore, agricultural chambers (*izby rolnicze*) were excluded due to

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the study excluded organizations of fish producers, who are covered by the Common Fisheries Policy, supported by other funds (from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund).

<sup>2</sup> The ones that unite not only individual farmers, but also groups of agricultural producers, agricultural cooperatives, and enterprises conducting agricultural production.

the fact that they are agricultural self-government bodies with a compulsory membership<sup>3</sup>.

Based on the materials of agricultural organizations (data from websites, as well as published materials), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, lower house of parliament (the Sejm), and other sources, a detailed database of empirical data was created. The starting point was the division of agricultural institutions and lists of organizations presented on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development<sup>4</sup>, as well as the list of non-governmental organizations, to which the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development heads for opinions about legislative proposals<sup>5</sup>. In addition, the database included such variables as: the branch of agribusiness in which the organization operates, year of establishment, territorial scope of activity, running a website and activity in social media. In total, based on the comparison of different sources, this analysis covers 286 agricultural organizations<sup>6</sup> of various types.

As mentioned above, the typology was constructed primarily on the basis of legal form: the different types of the organizations analyzed are created on the basis of separate laws<sup>7</sup>. The main types distinguished include: farmers' trade unions (*związki zawodowe rolników*), employers' organizations (*organizacje pracodawców*), agribusiness organizations (*agribusiness federations and unions (związki i zrzeszenia branżowe)*) and associations (*stowarzyszenia*). This article focuses on two

<sup>3</sup> Membership in agricultural chambers is "automatic": members of the economic self-government are all agricultural tax payers, taxpayers for special branches of agricultural production and members of agricultural cooperatives having land contributions in these cooperatives. Agricultural chambers are financed by 2% allowance from the revenues obtained from the agricultural tax (Law of 14 December 1995 on the agricultural chambers, Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland of 2014 pos. 1079).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.minrol.gov.pl/Informacje-branzowe/Katalog-instytucji>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.sejm.gov.pl/sejm7.nsf/InterpelacjaTresc.xsp?key=0EA623D3>.

<sup>6</sup> This list includes more organizations than those indicated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, because it also includes regional associations (with legal entity). The list was developed by bringing together the following sources: the list of agricultural organizations on the websites of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Court Register base and LEX base.

<sup>7</sup> More on this topic in the subsequent parts of the article.

issues. The next section presents the characteristics of agricultural organizations while taking into account their legal form. Thereafter an analysis of their goals has been conducted.

## TYOLOGY OF AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS BY THEIR LEGAL FORM

### Farmers' trade unions

Trade unions of individual farmers operate on the basis of the Law of 7 April 1989 on the trade unions of individual farmers<sup>8</sup>. Currently there are twelve trade unions of farmers in Poland. The most important are: Niezależny Samorządny Związek Zawodowy Rolników Indywidualnych (NSZZ RI) “Solidarność” (“Solidarity” trade union) and Związek Zawodowy Rolnictwa “Samoobrona” (“Self-Defense” trade union). Another major trade union should also be considered, namely Krajowy Związek Rolników, Kółek i Organizacji Rolniczych (KZRKiOR) (national union of farmers, agricultural circles and organizations), which – although according to the statute<sup>9</sup> it operates under the Act on the socio-occupational organizations of farmers – declares that it functions as a trade union of individual farmers<sup>10</sup>. Another central trade union representing the interests of farmers is Ogólnopolskie Porozumienie Związków Zawodowych Rolników i Organizacji Rolniczych (alliance of trade unions of farmers, and agricultural organizations). In addition, there are eight smaller (in terms of the estimated number of members) trade unions: Polski Związek Zawodowy Rolników (Polish trade union of farmers), Związek Zawodowy Centrum Narodowe Młodych Rolników (trade union of young farmers), Związek Zawodowy Pracowników Rolnictwa w RP (trade union of agricultural workers), Związek Zawodowy Rolnictwa i Obszarów Wiejskich “REGIONY” (trade union “Regions”), Związek Zawodowy Rolników “Ojczyzna” (trade union of farmers “Homeland”), Związek Zawodowy Rolników Ekologicznych (trade union of ecological farmers), Związek Zawodowy

Rolników Rzeczpospolitej “Solidarni” (trade union of farmers “Solidary”), and Związek Zawodowy Wsi i Rolnictwa “Solidarność Wiejska” (trade union “Rural Solidarity”).

According to the Central Statistical Office (GUS, 2015), in 2014 members of the trade unions of individual farmers made up 4% of the 1.6 million members of all trade unions in Poland, i.e., approx. 64 thousand people. Most of the farmers' trade unions did not charge a membership fee, therefore only approx. 4% of the members (approx. 2.5 thousand people) paid membership fees in 2014<sup>11</sup>.

The oldest organization is the Krajowy Związek Rolników, Kółek i Organizacji Rolniczych (KZRKiOR)<sup>12</sup>. It has also the largest and most complex structure. According to available data, 22.5 thousand agricultural circles (kółka rolnicze) operate within the structure, in which approx. 249 thousand members are associated<sup>13</sup>. However, these data have not been updated for over a dozen years<sup>14</sup>. According to Halamska (2008), the network of agricultural circles is in fact quite sparse and very unevenly distributed across the regions of Poland. An decrease in the importance of agricultural circles has been also indicated by Kamiński (2008).

The second major farmers' trade union is the Niezależny Samorządny Związek Zawodowy Rolników Indywidualnych “Solidarność”. It was founded in 1981 and then, after a period of delegalization, it was re-registered in 1989. According to the information from the headquarters of the Trade Union obtained in 1990, the structures of the Union functioned in each municipality and voivodeship, and the number of members amounted to approx. 400 thousand. However, these estimates may well be deemed overly optimistic (Halamska, 2008). Currently it is also difficult to obtain reliable information concerning the number of members.

<sup>11</sup> For comparison, among all the surveyed trade unions in 2014 up to 86% of members paid membership fees (according to the declarations of trade unions).

<sup>12</sup> The origins of the organization of agricultural circles date back to the nineteenth century (<http://kolkarolnicze.eu/O-nas/Historia-Kolek-Rolniczych-/Historia-Kolek-Rolniczych>).

<sup>13</sup> Within the organization also operate 25.8 thousand rural women clubs associating 857 thousand people (<http://kolkarolnicze.eu/O-nas/Struktura-KZRKiOR>).

<sup>14</sup> The same data have been recalled in a publication by Halamska (as at 29.01.2008); such data were also presented in the publication of FDPA in 2002 (FDPA, 2002).

<sup>8</sup> The Law of 7 April 1989 on the trade unions of individual farmers (Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland No. 20, item. 106; correction of an error in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland of 1989. No. 21, item 115).

<sup>9</sup> <http://kolkarolnicze.eu/O-nas/statut-kzrkior>.

<sup>10</sup> <http://kolkarolnicze.eu/O-nas/Historia-Kolek-Rolniczych-/Historia-Kolek-Rolniczych>.

Another considerable farmers' trade union is the Związek Zawodowy Rolnictwa "Samoobrona". It was established in 1991 as a movement of indebted farmers who had fallen into a credit trap and demanded debt reduction for farms. In 1992, when the Trade Union was registered, the political party "Samoobrona Rzeczpospolitej" was registered as well. The parallel activity of the trade union, political party, and social movement causes the mix of organizational structures and difficulties in comparing ZZR "Samoobrona" with other trade unions (Halamska, 2008). This leads to a lack of reliable data on the number of members, circles, and field structures of ZZR. Currently, the estimated number of members is 7,000.

Due to its activity at the international arena, the Związek Zawodowy Centrum Narodowe Młodych Rolników (CNMR) is also worth mentioning. This trade union brings together young farmers (up to 40 years of age). The Vice-President since 2015 of the European Council of Young Farmers – CEJA – is a member of this organization.

It is important to note that some trade unions, such as Związek Zawodowy Rolnictwa "Samoobrona" ("Self-defense" trade union) or Niezależny Samorządny Związek Zawodowy Rolników Indywidualnych "Solidarność" ("Solidarity" trade union) are strongly associated with political parties<sup>15</sup>.

### Employers' organizations

The Federacja Związków Pracodawców – Dzierżawców i Właścicieli Rolnych (federation of employers – tenants and agricultural owners) is considered the most important organization of employers<sup>16</sup> operating in the agricultural sector. It was established in 1993, as a result of the concentration of regional organizations. Currently 14 organizations belong to the Federation. The Federation is the publisher of the monthly magazine "Przedsiębiorca Rolny" (Farmer businessman) (formerly "Rolnik Dzierżawca", Farmer tenant<sup>17</sup>) intended for tenants and owners of ag-

ricultural land, the edition of which exceeds 5 thousand copies. According to estimates of the publisher for 2012, the magazine's subscribers possessed approx. 3 million hectares of land (i.e., approx. 20% of agricultural lands); on average approx. 450 ha in the form of ownership or lease (with the nation-wide average size of a farm of approx. 10 hectares<sup>18</sup>) and produced approx. 25% of agricultural output in Poland<sup>19</sup>. Therefore the organization represents farmers with large land resources and high production potential.

Other important organizations operating on the basis of the Law of 23 May 1991 on employers' organizations are: the Krajowy Związek Pracodawców – Producentów Trzody Chlewnej (national union of employers – producers of pigs) and Unia Producentów i Pracodawców Przemysłu Mięsnego UPEMI (union of producers and employers of meat industry). The amount of contributions paid by members indicates the considerable resources of these organizations<sup>20</sup>.

### Agribusiness organizations

Agribusiness organizations and their unions (federations) operate on the basis of the Law of 8 October 1982 on the socio-occupational organizations of farmers<sup>21</sup>. Some of them are organizations with a long tradition, whose history dates back even to the beginning of the twentieth century<sup>22</sup>, and which possess developed re-

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wrote: "When 17 years ago we started the release of "Rolnik Dzierżawca", its subscribers were only those who took over lands of the former state collective farms. Our recent study showed that the group of tenants among subscribers has strongly decreased – yet only 30 percent declare that they are tenants. Most bought utilized lands and became their owners. Only customarily and due to the acreage they own they are called tenants" (<http://przedsiębiorcarolny.pl/?switch=redakcja>).

<sup>18</sup> For farms with an area exceeding 1 ha of agricultural land (GUS, 2011).

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.rolnikdzierzawca.pl/?switch=redakcja>.

<sup>20</sup> According to information provided by the website of the Krajowy Związek Pracodawców – Producentów Trzody Chlewnej, the membership fee depends on the declared size of a herd or type of an object, and since 2014 the minimum annual fee is 750 PLN, and the maximum 22,500 PLN (<http://www.kzpz-ptch.pl/>).

<sup>21</sup> Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland of 1982, No. 32, item 217.

<sup>22</sup> For example, the Wojewódzki Związek Pszczelarzy in Kraków cites 1916 as the beginning of its activity (<http://wzpz-krakow.pl/aktualnosci.html>), and Krajowy Związek Plantatorów Buraka Cukrowego was established in 1921 (<http://www.kzpzbc.com.pl/>).

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<sup>15</sup> The chairman of Niezależny Samorządny Związek Zawodowy Rolników Indywidualnych "Solidarność" Jerzy Chróścikowski is now a senator and member of the political party Prawo i Sprawiedliwość – PiS ("Law and Justice").

<sup>16</sup> Established on the basis of the Law of 23 May 1991 on the employers' organizations (Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland of 1991, No. 55, item 235 with amendments).

<sup>17</sup> The change of the magazine's name also reflects changes which have occurred over the last two decades on farms associated in this organization. As the chief editor Zbigniew Studniarski



gional structures (such as associations of beekeepers and associations of sugar beet growers). Currently there are more than forty nationwide agribusiness organizations and unions.

Most agribusiness organizations are concentrated in three nationwide federations: Federacja Branżowych Związków Producentów Rolnych (FBZPR) (federation of agricultural producers' organizations), Polska Federacja Hodowców Bydła i Producentów Mleka (PFH-BiPM) (federation of cattle breeders and dairy farmers), and Krajowa Federacja Hodowców Drobiu i Producentów Jaj (KFHDiPJ) (federation of poultry breeders and egg producers). The largest federation is the Federacja Branżowych Związków Producentów Rolnych, to which 29 organizations affiliating unions of different branches of agribusiness currently belong. The Federation was established in 1991, but was active informally since 1982 as the Społeczna Rada Konsultacyjna Krajowych Związków Rolniczych Zrzeszeń Branżowych<sup>23</sup> (social consultative council of the national union of agricultural organizations). The members of the FBZPR are unions uniting further agribusiness organizations. One of them is the Polski Związek Pszczelarski (PZP) (union of beekeepers). It consists of 43 voivodeship, regional, and county associations. Another example of a large organization belonging to FBZPR is the Polski Związek Owczarski (union of sheep breeders), which unites 11 regional associations.

The next largest federation is Polska Federacja Hodowców Bydła i Producentów Mleka, created in 1995, currently encompassing 20 organizations. These organizations unite manufacturers specializing in the dairy sector. PFH-BiPM has developed an expanded organizational structure, which includes 18 regional breeders' associations and two breed unions<sup>24</sup>. The third federation – Krajowa Federacja Hodowców Drobiu i Producentów Jaj – is the youngest (founded in 2011) and unites six agribusiness organizations in the poultry sector of agricultural production<sup>25</sup>.

However, it is difficult to estimate the number of members affiliated to these organizations. Some agribusiness organizations provide such information, but the vast majority does not. For example, under the Krajowy Związek Plantatorów Tytoniu (union of tobacco

growers) fall tens of members<sup>26</sup>. On the other hand, in a large organization such as the Krajowy Związek Plantatorów Buraka Cukrowego (union of sugar beet growers), consisting of 32 regional unions, 35,000 Polish sugar beet growers are affiliated<sup>27</sup>. Due to the lack of complete data it is not possible to perform a reliable analysis of the number of farmers affiliated in agribusiness organizations (e.g. in the sectional and spatial profile). The majority of organizations also do not publish information regarding membership fees.

### Associations of agricultural producers

The legal form, which is increasingly used by farmers to represent their interests, is that of an association. Associations are created on the basis of the Act on associations of 7 April 1989<sup>28</sup>. The organizations examined included mainly associations of: soft fruit growers, vine growers, beekeepers, and organic farmers. Most of them were founded after Poland's accession to the European Union.

## GOALS OF AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Due to the availability of data, analysis of the goals of agricultural organizations covered: trade unions, employers' organizations, federations of agribusiness organizations, and other nationwide agribusiness organizations. Our analysis was based on the goals stated in the statutes of these organizations. However, it is worth noting that some of the statutes (e.g. in the case of Samoobrona) were very brief and general, and many organizations either do not have websites (up to approx. 60% of the organizations analyzed) or do not share their statutes.

Table 1 presents the main goals of trade unions. As is apparent from the table, the most important goal of agricultural trade unions is attending to social issues and employment relationships. Other important goals are: protection and support of family farms and promotion of cooperation and integration of the farmers' community within the country.

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.fbzpr.org.pl>.

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.pfhb.pl>.

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.hodowcydrobiu.pl>.

<sup>26</sup> <http://kzpt.org/>.

<sup>27</sup> <http://kzpb.com.pl>.

<sup>28</sup> Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland of 1989, No. 20, item 104 with amendments.

**Table 1.** Three main goals of trade unions (according to their statutes)\*

**Tabela 1.** Trzy główne cele działania związków zawodowych (zapisane w statutach)\*

Name of the trade union Nazwa związku	Goal 1 Cel 1	Goal 2 Cel 2	Goal 3 Cel 3
National union of farmers, agricultural circles and organizations Krajowy Związek Rolników Kółek i Organizacji Rolniczych	7	3	5
“Solidarity” trade union Niezależny Samorządny Związek Zawodowy Rolników Indywidualnych „Solidarność”	1	3	7
Polish trade union of farmers Polski Związek Zawodowy Rolników	1	2	5
Trade union of young farmers Związek Zawodowy Centrum Narodowe Młodych Rolników	5	6	3
Trade union of agricultural workers Związek Zawodowy Pracowników Rolnictwa w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej	1	7	–
“Self-Defense” trade union Związek Zawodowy Rolnictwa „Samoobrona”	7	–	–
Trade union of ecological farmers Związek Zawodowy Rolników Ekologicznych (Serce ekoziemi)	3	9	–

\* 6 out of 12 unions do not publish their statutes. Therefore the analysis covers only 6 statutes.

1 – social aspects, labour relations, farmers as occupational group

2 – competitiveness and profitability of agricultural production

3 – protection/support for family farms

4 – support for commercial/specialized farms

5 – influence on agricultural policy

6 – international activities (including EU)

7 – promotion of cooperation between farmers, integration of the community within the country

8 – professional education

9 – natural environment protection

Source: own compilation based on the analysis of the statutes of organizations.

\* 6 z 12 analizowanych związków nie upublicznia swoich statutów. Analiza obejmuje więc jedynie 6 statutów.

1 – kwestie socjalne, stosunki pracy, rolnicy jako grupa zawodowa

2 – konkurencyjność i opłacalność produkcji rolniczej

3 – ochrona/wspieranie gospodarstw rodzinnych

4 – wspieranie gospodarstw towarowych/specjalistycznych

5 – wpływ na politykę rolną

6 – działanie na arenie międzynarodowej (w tym UE)

7 – wspieranie współpracy rolników, integracja środowiska w kraju

8 – edukacja zawodowa

9 – ochrona środowiska naturalnego

Źródło: opracowanie własne na podstawie analizy statutów organizacji.

Goals appear differently in the case of agribusiness federations and employers’ organizations (Table 2). Firstly or secondly, all of these organizations indicate their impact on agricultural policy. Another important goal is the integration of the farmers’ community, including organizations, which are members of

a particular federation. Each organization also stated as its goal the improvement in the competitiveness of Polish agriculture, especially in the sector represented by the members affiliated in the particular federation. In the case of one federation, international activities were indicated as its goal.

**Table 2.** Three main goals of federations of employers' organizations and agribusiness organizations (according to their statutes)  
**Tabela 2.** Trzy główne cele działania federacji związków branżowych i organizacji pracodawców (zapisane w statutach)

Name of the federation Nazwa federacji	Goal 1 Cel 1	Goal 2 Cel 2	Goal 3 Cel 3
Federation of agricultural producers' organizations Federacja Branżowych Związków Producentów Rolnych	7	5	2
Federation of poultry breeders and egg producers Krajowa Federacja Hodowców Drobiu i Producentów Jaj	5	6	2
Federation of cattle breeders and dairy farmers Polska Federacja Hodowców Bydła i Producentów Mleka	2	5	7
Federation of employers – tenants and agricultural owners Federacja Związków Pracodawców – Dzierżawców i Właścicieli Rolnych	7	5	2

Description of the goals as in Table 1.

Source: own compilation based on the analysis of the statutes of organizations.

Opis celów jak w tabeli 1.

Źródło: opracowanie własne na podstawie analizy statutów organizacji.

**Table 3.** Three main goals of the nationwide agribusiness organizations (according to their statutes)  
**Tabela 3.** Trzy główne cele działania ogólnopolskich organizacji branżowych (zapisane w statutach)

Name of the organization Nazwa organizacji	Goal 1 Cel 1	Goal 2 Cel 2	Goal 3 Cel 3
1	2	3	4
Organization of grain producers Krajowa Federacja Producentów Zbóż	7	5	2
Organization of poultry and feed producers Krajowa Izba Producentów Drobiu i Pasz	7	2	6
Organization of rapeseed and protein plants producers Krajowe Zrzeszenie Producentów Rzepaku i Roślin Białkowych	2	7	8
Organization of sugar beet growers Krajowy Związek Plantatorów Buraka Cukrowego	7	2	8
Organization of hops growers Krajowy Związek Plantatorów Chmielu	7	2	5
Organization of tobacco growers Krajowy Związek Plantatorów Tytoniu	7	8	2
Organization of fruit and vegetables growers Krajowy Związek Zrzeszeń Plantatorów Owoców i Warzyw	8	7	2
Organization of simmental cattle breeders Polski Związek Hodowców Bydła Simentalskiego	7	4	6
Organization of pigeons and small livestock breeders Polski Związek Hodowców Gołębi Rasowych i Drobrego Inwentarza	7	4	8
Organization of cattle breeders and meat producers Polski Związek Hodowców i Producentów Bydła Mięsnego	4	7	8

**Table 3 cont. – Tabela 3 cd.**

	1	2	3	4
Organization of pigs breeders and producers Polski Związek Hodowców i Producentów Trzody Chlewnej POLSUS		7	4	8
Organization of horse breeders Polski Związek Hodowców Koni		7	4	8
Organization of ostrich breeders Polski Związek Hodowców Strusi		7	6	4
Organization of beef cattle producers Polskie Zrzeszenie Producentów Bydła Mięsnego		4	8	7

Description of the goals as in Table 1.

Source: own compilation based on the analysis of the statutes of organizations.

Opis celów jak w tabeli 1.

Źródło: opracowanie własne na podstawie analizy statutów organizacji.

**Table 4.** Main characteristics of agricultural organizations

**Tabela 4.** Główne charakterystyki organizacji rolniczych

Type of organization Typ organizacji	Number of organizations Liczba organizacji	Main goals Główne cele
Farmers' trade unions Związki zawodowe rolników	12	Goals of a social nature Cele o charakterze socjalnym
Nationwide agribusiness organizations Ogólnokrajowe organizacje branżowe	40	Development of specialized farms Działają na rzecz rozwoju specjalistycznych gospodarstw rolnych
Federations of agribusiness unions and employers' organizations Federacje związków branżowych i organizacji pracodawców	4	Change in agricultural policy and increase in competitiveness of agricultural production Działają na rzecz zmian w polityce rolnej i wzrostu konkurencyjności produkcji rolniczej
Associations of agricultural producers Stowarzyszenia zrzeszające producentów rolnych	12	Development of highly specialized commercial farms Działają na rzecz rozwoju wysoko specjalistycznych gospodarstw towarowych

Source: own compilation.

Źródło: opracowanie własne.

In analyzing the goals of nationwide agribusiness organizations<sup>29</sup> (Table 3), it can be noticed that they are focused on three main priorities, occurring in various combinations: issues related to the integration of the community within a particular branch; support for specialized production; and – relatedly – raising the competences of farmers, particularly through vocational education. The influence on agricultural policy, both at the

national and EU level, does not fall within the scope of the planned activities.

In general, the analyzed organizations differ significantly in terms of the goals they endeavour to carry out. Only agribusiness and employers' organizations state directly that one of their main goals is influencing the agricultural policy.

The following table summarizes the most important information about the types of agricultural organizations in Poland.

<sup>29</sup> The analysis covered only 14 accessible statutes of the national agribusiness organizations.



## SUMMARY

In this attempt to create a typology of Polish agricultural organizations based on the legal form, four main types have been distinguished: farmers' trade unions; employers' organizations; agribusiness organizations; and associations. Taking into consideration the number of members and the goals of action, including impact on agricultural policy, the most important agricultural organizations in Poland are trade unions and agribusiness organizations. At the same time, a large number of differences can be observed between these two types. Trade unions are significantly larger than the agribusiness organizations in terms of the number of members and operating scope. However, information on them is incomplete and unverifiable in practice. Information that is more precise can be obtained on agribusiness organizations of various types. They usually have fewer members, although some (e.g. Polski Związek Pszczelarski) also have the nationwide scope with many agencies and sections throughout the country. Typically, they integrate farmers with a similar type of agricultural production. Trade unions and agribusiness organizations are also different in terms of activity goals. Trade unions mainly indicate goals of a social nature. Federations of agribusiness organizations try to support its members and promote policy changes, and agribusiness organizations work for the development of specialized farms.

The two dimensions presented are insufficient to talk about a full typology. To create one, not only should goals be taken into account, but also the ways and thrusts of actions, detailed information about members, geographic area covered by these organizations, etc. However, bearing in mind that the available information on organizations is incomplete or outdated, it seems that the creation of a full typology is extremely difficult.

The article is an attempt to create a typology of agricultural organizations. This is very important, as the agricultural organizations are numerous and can potentially represent a large and important social group studied very seldom. The analysis conducted herein is only a starting point for further in-depth analysis, among other matters in terms of the power of these organizations and their impact on agricultural policy.

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## ORGANIZACJE ROLNICZE W POLSCE – PRÓBA TYPOLOGII

**Streszczenie.** Organizacje rolnicze odgrywają ważną rolę w tworzeniu polityki na poziomie lokalnym, narodowym i unijnym. Trudno jednak oszacować, w jakim stopniu wielkość transferów publicznych trafiających na polską wieś oraz dużo liczniejsze – w porównaniu z innymi grupami społecznymi na wsi – przywileje rolnicze są bezpośrednim efektem działania tych organizacji. Jednym z powodów jest fakt, że organizacje rolnicze są w Polsce badane sporadycznie. Celem artykułu jest uzyskanie uporządkowanego obrazu organizacji rolniczych w Polsce oraz poszukiwanie zależności między ich formą prawną a celami zapisanymi w statutach. Do wyróżnionych głównych typów organizacji należą: związki zawodowe rolników, organizacje pracodawców, organizacje branżowe (związki i zrzeszenia branżowe) oraz stowarzyszenia. Biorąc pod uwagę liczbę członków oraz cele działania obejmujące wpływ na politykę rolną, najistotniejszymi organizacjami rolnymi w Polsce są związki zawodowe i organizacje branżowe. Główna różnica między nimi dotyczy przedstawionych celów działania. Związki zawodowe wskazują przede wszystkim cele o charakterze socjalnym. Federacje organizacji branżowych starają się wspierać swoich członków oraz działać na rzecz zmiany polityki, natomiast organizacje branżowe działają na rzecz rozwoju specjalistycznych gospodarstw rolnych.

**Słowa kluczowe:** organizacje rolnicze, typologia, cele organizacji, związki zawodowe, organizacje branżowe, organizacje pracodawców

Accepted for print – Zaakceptowano do druku: 08.11.2016