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FARMS FROM AREAS OF HIGH NATURE VALUE (HNV) AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF OTHER FARMS

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Abstract

The study shows a comparative analysis of areas (communes) with a varying level of saturation with high nature value utilised agricultural area (HNV UAA) and assessed the functioning of farms from these areas in Poland. Firstly, three groups of communes differing in terms of the share of HNV UAA in the total area were identified. The first group were communes with the share of HNV UAA in the total area amounting to less than 10% (1st group communes), the second – communes with the share of HNV UAA equal to or higher than 10% and lower than 40% (2nd group communes), and the third – communes with the share of HNV UAA of at least 40% (3rd group communes). In these communes, the assessment covered the average number of farms along with their average UAA, percentage (%) of communes with farms having the average UAA equal to or higher than the Polish average, as well as the change in % in the population and the share in % in the communes where the population decreased by at least 5% in 2004-2017 and their average agricultural production area valorisation index (APAV). Then, the assessment of functioning covered 2878 farms with crop, livestock and mixed (crop and livestock) production from those communes which have continuously kept accounts for the Polish FADN system in 2014-2016. This assessment took account of their production potential, production organisation, land and labour productivity and income per 1 FWU. The study used the data from the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agricul-

ture (ARiMR), the Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation State Research Institute (IUNG-PIB), data from farms keeping accounts for the Polish FADN in 2014-2016 as well as literature data.

Keywords: High Nature Value utilised agricultural areas (HNV UAA), landscape, biodiversity, farm, income per 1 FWU.

JEL codes: Q15, Q57, Q59.

Introduction

According to the European Commission (EC), the European Union Common Agricultural Policy (EU CAP) post-2020, will strengthen the contribution of the agricultural sector to the conservation of landscape and biodiversity in rural areas (EC, 2017). In this context, the role of the agricultural sector in the conservation of landscape and biodiversity of high nature value rural areas becomes essential. The more that adverse changes in these areas are progressive. It is estimated that in the European Union (EU) the state of 39% of valuable natural habitats is still deteriorating, and the number of farmland birds and the wild bee population are still decreasing (EC, 2014b; 2015; OECD data)¹.

In the EU, the conservation of the landscape and biodiversity of rural areas should be served, in particular, by farms in particularly high nature value agricultural utilised area, i.e. (HNV UAA)². In this context, it must be stressed that the EC in all EU Member States has identified the need to designate and monitor HNV UAA for the purpose of assessing the effects of the measures implemented under the RDP 2014-2020 (EC, 2014a; 2016; 2017).

In 2018, the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute (IERiGŻ-PIB), the Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – State Research Institute (IUNG-PIB), the Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment of the Polish Academy of Sciences (ISrIL-PAN), the Institute of Technology and Life Sciences (ITP) and the Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP), upon request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MRiRW) and the European Commission, put forward three proposals for the potential HNV UAA in Poland (Matyka i in., 2019; Zieliński i in., 2017). It was determined that these areas should be characterised by a high saturation of farms with extensive production organisation and operating in the surroundings of high nature value areas, i.e. permanent grassland, forests, inland waters and other areas not subjected to anthropopressure. This study analysed only the proposal (one of three) covering the largest area of potential HNV UAA in Poland.

Taking into account the EC findings on the need to strengthen, in the EU financial perspective after 2020, the role of the agricultural sector in the conservation of landscape and biodiversity of rural areas and the diversified distribution of areas with

¹ In the EU, about 189 species of wild bees are threatened with extinction (EC, 2014).

² In the EU, the term HNV has been used since 1993 with respect to the agricultural production systems conducive to the conservation of landscape and biodiversity of rural areas (Baldock et al., 1993).

the varied landscape and conducive to the conservation of biodiversity in regional terms of Poland, it is, therefore, appropriate to carry out a comparative analysis of areas (communes) with a varying level of saturation with HNV UAA and to assess the functioning of farms from these areas.

Method

In order to achieve the objective of the analysis, the structure of the study is organised in two resulting subchapters. The first subchapter described the communes with the different share of HNV UAA in the total area in Poland based on the data from the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture (ARiMR), Statistics Poland (GUS) and IUNG-PIB. To this end, the analysis used the selected data from 2478 1st group communes in Poland, including 1363 communes where the share of HNV UAA in the total area was lower than 10% (1st group communes)³, 768 communes with the share of HNV UAA equal to or higher than 10% and lower than 40% (2nd group communes) and 347 communes with the share of HNV UAA of at least 40% (3rd group communes)⁴.

The comparative analysis of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group communes took account of:

- The average number of farms and their average UAA, as well as the percentage (%) of communes with farms that have the average UAA equal to or higher than the Polish average⁵,
- The change in % in the population and share in % of the communes where the population decreased by at least 5% in 2004-2017,
- The average agricultural production area valorisation index (APAV)⁶.

On the other hand, the second subchapter contained the comparative assessment of 2878 farms from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group communes, which have continuously kept accounts for the Polish FADN in 2014-2016. Among the farms from the 1st group communes, the following were separated: 744 farms with crop production, 447 with mixed (crop and livestock) production and 171 with livestock production. In contrast, among the farms from the 2nd group communes, there were, respectively, 412 farms with crop production, 301 with mixed production and 431 with livestock production, and in the case of the 3rd group communes – 106 farms with crop production, 101 farms with mixed production and 165 with livestock production.

The identified groups of farms did not include the farms with intensive production organisation whose impact on the conservation of landscape and biodiversity of rural areas is often negative and the impact of high nature value areas on their production

³ The 1st group also includes the communes without HNV UAA.

⁴ In Poland, there are 2478 communes as of January 1, 2016.

⁵ In Poland, the average area of the farm in 2016 amounted to 10.3 ha of UAA (GUS, 2017).

⁶ The APAV index includes factors affecting the quality of natural farming conditions such as: soil quality, hydrographic conditions, land relief and agroclimate. Each of them has been attributed the weight proportional to its impact on the crop yield (GUS, 2013).

and economic effects is usually small⁷. In this type of farms, livestock production is often conducted with a large share of purchased feed, while crop production (horticultural and permanent crops) is often conducted under covers and irrigated.

The comparative analysis of the farms took account of their:

1) production potential:

- UAA expressed in ha and consisting of: own land, land leased for one year or more, land used based on harvest sharing with the owner, as well as fallow and set-aside land,
- total labour inputs per 1 ha of UAA, covering total human labour inputs as part of the operating activities of the farm, expressed in hours,
- value of capital (PLN thousand);

2) production organisation:

- share of arable land (AL) in utilised agricultural area (%),
- share of permanent grassland (PG) in utilised agricultural area (%),
- stocking density in livestock units per 1 ha of UAA (LU/ha of UAA);

3) productivity and economic situation:

- land productivity specified as a ratio of total production value on the farm to utilised agricultural area (PLN thousand/ha of UAA),
- labour productivity specified as a ratio of total production value to the number of fully employed persons (AWU) (PLN thousand/AWU),
- farm income per own work unit of the farm manager and his family members in Family Work Unit (FWU) (PLN thousand/FWU).

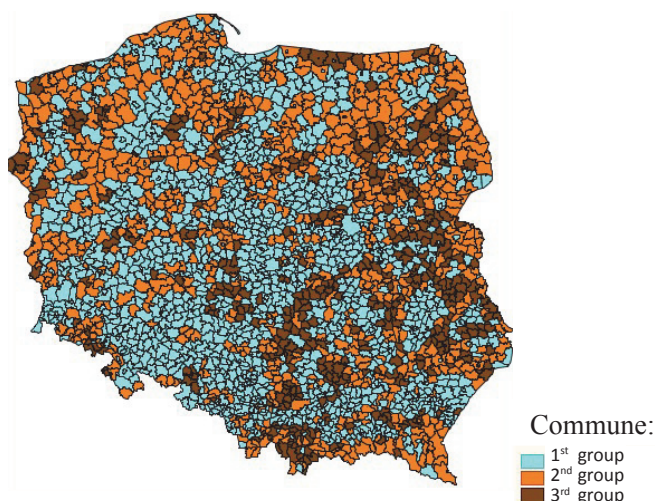
Characteristics of the communes with different share of HNV UAA in the total area in Poland

As indicated in the introduction, this study contains results only for proposal (one of three) with the largest area of potential HNV UAA in Poland. According to the findings of the IERiGŻ-PIB, IUNG-PIB, IŚRiL-PAN, ITP, OTOP from 2018, in Poland in this variant the area of potential HNV UAA is 4.1 million ha⁸.

In Poland, 55.0% (1363) of the communes are in the 1st group, 31.0% (768) in the 2nd group and the remaining 14.0% (347) in the 3rd group. The communes with the largest share of HNV UAA in the total area are particularly in the Lubelskie, Małopolskie, Mazowieckie, Podlaskie and Świętokrzyskie Voivodeships (Map 1). It must be added that in Poland there are 10 communes with the share of HNV UAA in the total area amounting to at least 70.0%.

⁷ Farms with intensive production organisation are those which exceeded the threshold value of at least one of three identified technical and organisational indicators (stocking density equal to or higher than 0.9 LU per 1 ha of UAA, share of permanent crops in UAA equal to or higher than 35.7%, share of horticultural crops in UAA equal to or higher than 15%). The method of selecting farms with intensive production organisation has been described in detail in the study entitled *Description and results of the fine-tuning procedure's application in Poland* (IERiGŻ – PIB and MRiRW 2017) and *Aktualizacja metody wyznaczania gospodarstw i obszarów o ekstensywnej produkcji rolnej w ramach HNV wraz z obszarami charakterystycznymi dla HNV* (wariant II) (Zieliński, Sobierajewska and Kagan, 2017).

⁸ In this variant the area of potential HNV UAA (Matyka et al., 2019).



Map 1. Distribution of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group communes in Poland.

Source: own study based on the data from IERiGŻ-PIB, IUNG-PIB, ÍSRiL-PAN, ITP, OTOP of 2018.

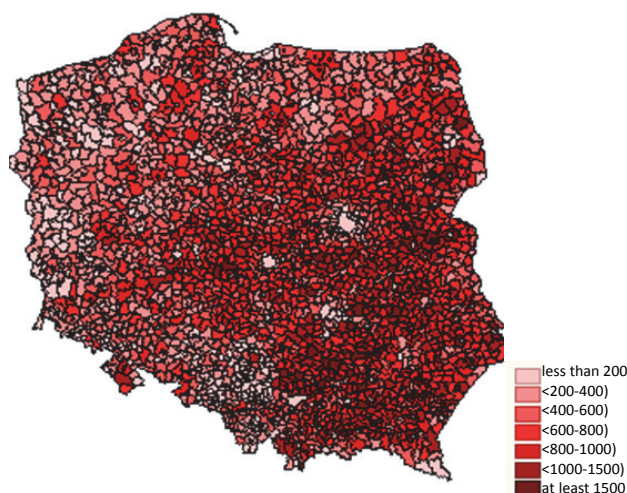
In Poland, at the level of communes, there are clear differences in the average number of farms and their average UAA (Map 2 and Map 3). It was found that the average number of farms increased in the communes with the increase in the share of HNV UAA in the total area. In the 1st group communes, their number amounted to 466, in the 2nd group communes – 525, and in the 3rd group communes – 675 (data from ARiMR, status as of 31.12.2017).

In addition, in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group communes, there were differences in the average area of farms. In the 1st and 2nd group, the average area of farms amounted to 12 and 12.1 ha of UAA, respectively, while in the 3rd group communes – 8.5 ha of UAA. Moreover, in the 1st and 2nd group, the share of the communes with the average area of farms equal to or higher than the national average was 48.1% and 50.9%, respectively. In the 3rd group, the share of such communes was considerably smaller and amounted to 24.4% (Table 1).

Important elements differentiating the analysed communes are also the change in % in the population and the share in % of the communes where the population decreased by at least 5% in 2004-2017. It was found that in the 1st and 2nd group there was an average increase in the population by 3.0% and 2.5%, respectively, while the share in % of the communes where the population decreased by at least 5% in both groups of the communes was identical and amounted to 22.0%. In this respect, the 3rd group communes were in a much worse situation. In the case of these communes, the population decreased by 1.2% and the share of the communes where the population decreased by at least 5% amounted to 39.0%.

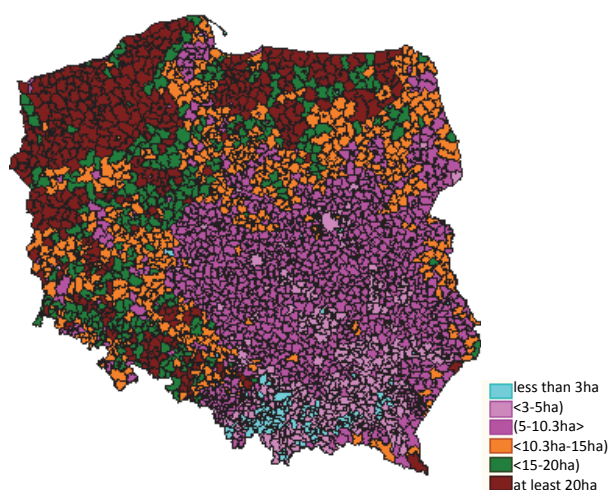
Among the factors which have a strong impact on the functioning of farms from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group, we should mention their natural farming conditions. These conditions were described using the APAV index. In Poland, the average APAV in-

dex is 66.8 points, although in the communes it is highly diversified (Map 4). In the case of the communes from the 1st group, it was the largest and amounted to 70.1 points, whereas in the communes from the 2nd and 3rd group it was clearly smaller and amounted to 59.7 and 61.8, respectively. In the case of the 2nd and 3rd group, this index was lower than the national average (Table 1).



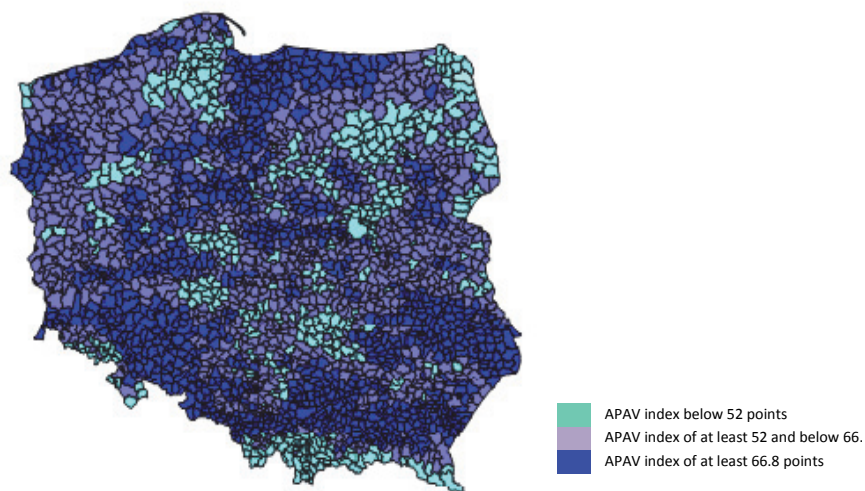
Map 2. Number of farms in the communes in Poland in 2017.

Source: own study based on the data from ARMiR, status as of 31.12.2017.



Map 3. Average UAA of farms in the communes in Poland in 2017.

Source: own study based on the data from ARMiR, status as of 31.12.2017.



Map 4. Average value of the APAV index (points) in the communes in Poland.

Source: own study based on the data from IUNG-PIB.

Table 1
Selected characteristics for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group communes in Poland

Specification	Communes from		
	1 st group	2 nd group	3 rd group
Share in % of communes in Poland	55.0	31.0	14.0
Average number of farms per commune	466	525	675
Average area of the farm (ha of UAA)	12.0	12.1	8.5
Share in % of communes with the average area of the farm equal to or higher than the national average	48.1	50.9	24.4
Change in % in the population in 2004-2017 (2004=100%)	103.0	102.5	98.8
Share of the communes where the population decreased by at least 5% in 2004-2017 (%)	22.0	22.0	39.0
Average agricultural production area valorisation index (APAV) (points)	70.1	59.7	61.8

Source: own study based on the data from ARMiR – as of 31.12.2017, GUS and IUNG-PIB.

Characteristics of the farms from the communes with the different share of HNV UAA in the total area in Poland

As it results from the figures in Table 2, the farms from the 3rd group when compared to the similar farms from the 1st and 2nd group communes had smaller UAA. On the farms with crop production, it was lower by, respectively, 29.0% and 22.1%, on the farms with livestock production by 17.0% and 12.1%, respectively, and on the farms with mixed production by 29.9% and 19.1%, respectively.

As regards labour inputs per 1 ha of UAA, the farms from the 3rd group communes had the largest inputs. On the farms with crop production, they were larger than those of similar farms from the 1st and 2nd group communes by 40.4% and 26.7%, respectively, on the farms with livestock production by 11.9% and 8.9%, respectively, and on the farms with mixed production by 37.4% and 25.3%, respectively. On the farms from the 3rd group communes, irrespective of the farming type analysed, lower labour inputs per 1 ha of UAA were affected by the lower value of capital which prevented them from limiting labour inputs in the agricultural production process (Table 2).

Table 2

Production potential of the farms with crop, livestock and mixed production from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group communes in Poland in 2014-2016

Specification	Farms from communes from:		
	1 st group	2 nd group	3 rd group
Farms with crop production			
UAA (ha)	60.7	55.3	43.1
Labour input per 1 ha of UAA (hours)	56.5	62.6	79.3
Value of capital (PLN thousand)	420.3	386.1	352.1
Farms with livestock production			
UAA (ha)	37.7	35.6	31.3
Labour input per 1 ha of UAA (hours)	106.6	109.5	119.3
Value of capital (PLN thousand)	308.0	274.9	258.5
Farms with mixed production			
UAA (ha)	33.8	29.3	23.7
Labour input per 1 ha of UAA (hours)	110.9	121.6	152.4
Value of capital (PLN thousand)	269.8	239.2	194.0

Source: own study based on the data from the Polish FADN for 2014-2016.

Production organisation on the farm may be described by a number of indicators. For the purposes of this analysis, three of them were included, namely the share of AL in UAA, share of PG in UAA and the stocking density per 1 ha of UAA. The figures in Table 3 show that on the farms with livestock and mixed production from the 3rd group communes, when compared to the similar farms from the 1st and 2nd group, the share of AL in UAA was lower while the share of PG in UAA was higher. The situation was slightly different in the case of the stocking density per 1 ha of UAA. On the farms from the 2nd and 3rd group communes, it was identical and, at the same time, smaller than on the similar farms from the 1st group communes. This means that the farms from the 2nd and 3rd group communes were characterised by less intensive organisation of livestock production. It should also be added that, in the case of the farms with crop production compared to the farms with livestock and mixed production, irrespective of their location, the share of AL in UAA was significantly higher, in turn the share of PG in UAA and the stocking density per 1 ha of UAA were of marginal importance in their case (Table 3).

Table 3

Selected characteristics of production organisation on the farms with crop, livestock and mixed production from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group communes in Poland in 2014-2016

Specification	Farms from communes from:		
	1 st group	2 nd group	3 rd group
Farms with crop production			
Share of AL in UAA (%)	95.9	93.0	93.5
Share of PG in UAA (%)	2.3	3.2	3.6
Stocking density per 1 ha of UAA (LU)	0.05	0.05	0.05
Farms with livestock production			
Share of AL in UAA (%)	64.1	50.9	46.9
Share of PG in UAA (%)	35.5	48.3	52.9
Stocking density per 1 ha of UAA (LU)	0.7	0.6	0.6
Farms with mixed production			
Share of AL in UAA (%)	84.3	79.9	78.4
Share of PG in UAA (%)	14.4	18.6	21.0
Stocking density per 1 ha of UAA (LU)	0.6	0.5	0.5

Source: own study based on the data from the Polish FADN for 2014-2016.

The farms from the 3rd group when compared to similar farms from the 1st and 2nd group communes had lower land and labour productivity. The biggest difference to their disadvantage in the land productivity occurred on farms with livestock production and amounted to 20.5% and 8.8%, respectively, and in the labour productivity on the farm with mixed production, amounting to 35.6% and 21.9%, respectively (Table 4).

Table 4

Land and labour productivity on farms with crop, livestock and mixed production from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group communes in Poland in 2014-2016

Specification	Farms from communes from:		
	1 st group	2 nd group	3 rd group
Farms with crop production			
Land productivity (PLN thousand/ha of UAA)	3.9	3.8	3.7
Labour productivity (PLN thousand/AWU)	144.9	120.2	94.3
Farms with livestock production			
Land productivity (PLN thousand/ha of UAA)	3.9	3.4	3.1
Labour productivity (PLN thousand/AWU)	79.0	64.6	54.5
Farms with mixed production			
Land productivity (PLN thousand/ha of UAA)	4.2	3.9	3.7
Labour productivity (PLN thousand/AWU)	80.9	66.7	52.1

Source: own study based on the data from the Polish FADN for 2014-2016.

Income per 1 FWU was used to assess the economic situation of the farms from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group communes. It was found that the farms from the 3rd group communes had this income lower than similar farms from the 1st and 2nd group communes. On the farms with crop production, it was lower by 36.6% and 28.9%, respectively, on the farms with livestock production by 21.9% and 11.6%, respectively, and on the farms with mixed production by 34.2% and 30.3%, respectively. It should be added that the worst situation in terms of income per 1 FWU applied to farms with mixed production from the 3rd group, where it amounted to PLN 20 thousand. This means that on those farms that income provided labour payment for the owner and his/her family members only at the level of 63.9% of the parity payment corresponding to the annual average net remuneration in the national economy in 2014-2016⁹ (Fig. 1).

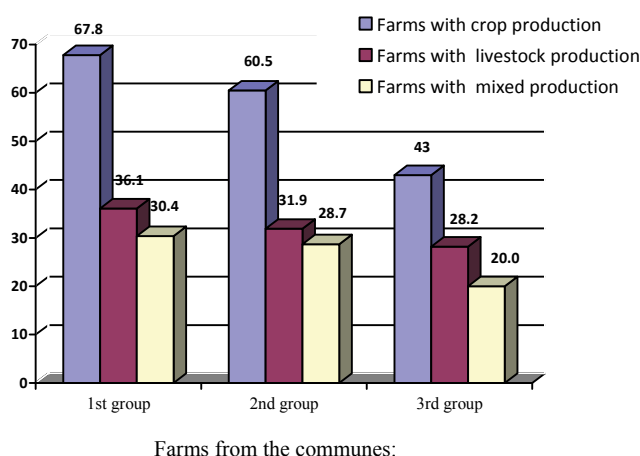


Fig. 1. Income per 1 FWU on the farms with crop, livestock and mixed production from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group communes in Poland in 2014-2016.

Summary and conclusions

The study shows a comparative analysis of the communes with a varying level of saturation with HNV UAA in Poland based on the data from the ARiMR, GUS and IUNG-PIB as a comparative assessment of the farms from these communes based on the Polish FADN for 2014-2016.

In the first resulting subchapter, three groups of communes differing as regards the share of HNV UAA in the total area were identified as part of the total number of communes in Poland. The first subgroup consisted of 1363 communes with the share of HNV UAA in the total area of less than 10% (1st group communes),

⁹ In 2014-2016, the average net remuneration in the national economy was PLN 31.3 thousand (Abramczuk et al., 2016; 2017 and 2018).

the second – 768 communes with the share of HNV UAA equal to or higher than 10% and lower than 40%, and the third – 347 communes with the share of HNV UAA of at least 40% (3rd group communes). The comparative analysis took into account the average number of farms and their average UAA, the share in % of the communes with the farms having the average UAA equal to or higher than the Polish average, the change in % of the population and the share in % of the communes where the population decreased by at least 5% in 2004-2017 and the average agricultural production area valorisation index (APAV).

In the second resulting subchapter, the comparative assessment covered 2878 farms with crop, livestock and mixed (crop-livestock) production from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group communes, which have continuously kept accounts for the Polish FADN in 2014-2016. This assessment took into account their production potential, production organisation, land and labour productivity and income per 1 FWU.

The following conclusions result from the findings made based on the analysis:

- Poland has great potential of HNV UAA. Area of potencial HNV UAA is 4,1 mln ha.
- The communes with the largest share of HNV UAA in the total area are located particularly in the Lubelskie, Małopolskie, Mazowieckie, Podlaskie and Świętokrzyskie Voivodeships.
- The data of ARiMR, GUS and IUNG-PIB show that the communes with the largest share of HNV UAA in the total area compared to other communes are characterised by the average higher number of farms and their lower average UAA. In addition, these communes have, on average, worse natural conditions for conducting agricultural production and are more likely to be characterised by a decrease in the population.
- It is apparent from the Polish FADN data that the farms from the communes with the largest share of HNV UAA in the total area compared to the similar farms from other communes have smaller UAA, incur more labour inputs per 1 ha of UAA and have lower value of capital. In addition, they are characterised by the lower land and labour productivity which co-determines their worse economic situation. However, it must be stressed that the data of the Polish FADN relate to the farms with the higher production potential and being economically stronger against a background of all farms in Poland. It should, therefore, be assumed that the presented economic situation of the farms does not fully reflect the situation of all farms in Poland – especially those from the communes with the largest share of HNV UAA in the total area.

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GOSPODARSTWA ROLNE Z OBSZARÓW O SZCZEGÓLNIIE DUŻEJ WARTOŚCI PRZYRODNICZEJ (HNV) NA TLE GOSPODARSTW POZOSTAŁYCH

Abstrakt

W opracowaniu dokonano analizy porównawczej obszarów (gmin) o różnym nasyceniu użytkami rolnymi High Nature Value (UR HNV) oraz oceny funkcjonowania gospodarstw rolnych z tych obszarów w Polsce. W pierwszej kolejności wydzielono trzy grupy gmin różniących się udziałem UR HNV w powierzchni ogółem. Pierwszą grupę stanowiły gminy o udziale UR HNV w powierzchni ogółem wynoszącym poniżej 10% (gminy I), drugą gminy o udziale UR HNV równym bądź większym od 10 i mniejszym od 40%, a trzecią gminy o udziale UR HNV co najmniej 40% (gminy III). W gminach tych ocenie poddano przeciętną liczbę gospodarstw rolnych wraz z ich przeciętną powierzchnią UR, udział procentowy (%) gmin z gospodarstwami rolnymi o przeciętnej powierzchni UR równej bądź większej od średniej dla Polski, a także zmianę % liczby ludności i udział % gmin o spadku liczby ludności o co najmniej 5% w latach 2004-2017 oraz ich przeciętny wskaźnik waloryzacji rolniczej przestrzeni produkcyjnej (WRPP). W następnej kolejności ocenie funkcjonowania poddano 2878 gospodarstw z produkcją roślinną, zwierzęcą i wielostronną (roślinno-zwierzęcą) z tych gmin, które prowadziły nieprzerwanie rachunkowość dla Polskiego FADN w latach 2014-2016. W ocenie tej wzięto pod uwagę ich potencjał produkcyjny, organizację produkcji, produktywność ziemi i pracy oraz dochód w przeliczeniu na 1 FWU. W opracowaniu wykorzystano dane Agencji Restrukturyzacji i Modernizacji Rolnictwa (ARiMR), Instytutu Uprawy Nawożenia i Gleboznawstwa – PIB (IUNG-PIB), dane z gospodarstw rolnych prowadzących rachunkowość dla Polskiego FADN w latach 2014-2016, a także dane literaturowe.

Słowa kluczowe: użytki rolne High Nature Value (UR HNV), krajobraz, bioróżnorodność, gospodarstwo rolne, dochód na 1 FWU.

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