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No. 49.

HUNGARIAN LECTURES ON THE THIRD EUROPEAN  
CONGRESS OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS  
/Belgrade, 31 August - 4 September 1981./  
and  
ON THE CONFERENCE OF JUSTUS LIEBIG UNIVERSITY  
/Giessen-Rauisch-Holzhausen, 5-8 June 1981./

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## P R E F A C E

The Third Congress of European Association of Agricultural Economists held between 31 August and 4 September 1981 in Belgrade was of remarkable professional and scientific importance. It was devoted to deal with the agriculture and regional development in Europe. Hungary was represented by scientists and experts of numerous institutions /National Planning Office, Central National Statistical Office, Institute of Geography and Institute of Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, University of Economics "Karl Marx", University of Agronomy at Gödöllő, Research Institute for Agricultural Economics/. The Hungarian representatives through their lectures and discussions strengthened further the advantageous foreign judgement concerning the political, social and economic situation in Hungary.

Conferences, generally, provide publicity only for a narrow professional circle. Therefore, we think it is useful to publish in the Bulletin the lectures of our agricultural economists in their whole extent. The Bulletin 49, in such a way, provides useful information on recent scientific findings of agricultural economic research activities and, at the same time, it suits our endeavour to develop the international scientific ties and the exchange of the scientific publications. Furthermore, this Bulletin number reflects the firm cooperation among the above mentioned domestic institutions.

Similarly, the lecture dealing with the Hungarian food production delivered by the deputy director of the Research Institute for Agricultural Economics /Budapest/ on the conference, discussing the present stage of Soviet and East-European agriculture and the future development prospects, held in Giessen at the Justus-Liebig University may arouse the experts' interest.

Budapest, November 1981

The Editor

Hungarian lectures on  
the Third European Congress of Agricultural Economists  
/Belgrade, 31 August - 4 September 1981/

The theme of Congress:  
Agriculture and regional development in Europe

Mrs. Irén Pálovics  
titular University associate professor  
Karl Marx University of Economics, Budapest, Hungary

THE ROLE OF SOCIALIST AGRICULTURE IN RURAL EMPLOYMENT\*

Summary

The average per capita income of peasants in Hungary has reached that of the workers by the mid-seventies and since that time both have increased by and large at the same rate. During the second half of the seventies the decrease in number of those working in agriculture first slowed down, stopped in 1978, then a moderate increase began.

During the seventies two new tendencies emerged in Hungarian agriculture whose fast spreading could not be foreseen then years ago. They widen agricultural employment in two ways:

- On the one hand, large agricultural firms have developed and expanded their non-agricultural - industrial, construction and service-activities at a smart pace.

- On the other hand household agricultural production has been spreading among villagers as a second source of income.

The last decade can be considered the so far most prosperous one in Hungarian agriculture. Large agricultural firms produced 88 % of agricultural production growth, partly by agricultural, partly by non-agricultural activity:

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\* The whole text in French language.



Distribution of agricultural production growth in Hungary,  
in 1970-72 and 1980, comparable price, percentage

	large scale production	household production	together
Plant cultivation	27	1	28
Animal husbandry	17	11	28
Agricultural production	44	12	56
Non-agricultural production	44	-	44
Total	88	12	100

As the supplementary and auxiliary activity of large scale firms proved to satisfy objective social needs, it is beneficial to promote both from local and national economy's point of view. This activity not only added to the income of villagers, but made a contribution to the extension of resources at large agricultural firms as well.

The volume of auxiliary activity increases by an average of 8-9 % a year. This activity gives employment to one fourth of those working at large agricultural enterprises. Its share in production is even greater than one fourth.

Household production in agriculture has developed, strengthened and steadily increased under the right economic policy, on a good material and financial foundation. The character of household production has changed: production, once subsistence, has become production for the market. During the last decade the household agricultural production increased by an average of 2 % a year, while the same datum for large agricultural firms was 3,4 %. Agriculture in this way gives opportunity of utilising the labour reserves of various social strata to increase national income.

However these two successful tendencies did not contribute considerably to the levelling of income differences among regions with different natural resources and different states of industrial development. The auxiliary activity of large agricultural firms has mainly boomed in well-developed industrial regions and only in rare cases could it compensate for disadvantageous natural conditions. Whereas regions on a higher level of agricultural production have better conditions to advance household production in agriculture.

In regions among disadvantageous natural conditions the heavy subsidy for the development of large agricultural firms should be given to the development of their auxiliary activity much rather than to the development of their agricultural production.

Hungarian lecture on  
the Conference of Justus Liebig University  
/Giessen-Rauisch-Holzhausen, 5-8 June, 1981/

The theme of Conference:  
The situation and perspectives of the Soviet and  
East-European agriculture

