

**DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC FARMING
VS THE SUPPORT FROM THE RDP 2004-2006
(RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME)
AND RDP 2007-2013**

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Abstract. Changes in organic farming between 2004 and 2010 in relation to the support under the RDP 2004-2006 and RDP 2007-2013 organic farming schemes were presented in the paper. While analysing the changes, the reports on the state of organic farming in Poland published by MAFQI were used. The conducted analysis proves that introducing the support under the RDP 2004-2006 and RDP 2007-2013 resulted in high dynamics of organic farms area and amount growth. The support system under the RDP 2004-2006 and RDP 2007-2013 has been a basic factor stimulating the dynamic organic farming development since 2004. The system based on high payment rates has become an efficient financial instrument strengthening the organic farming attractiveness, which reflected in growth of its quantitative characteristics. Under the RDP 2004-2006, orchards with the highest payment rates and low requirements were more popular than the other crops, which reflected in the fact that they absorbed the biggest part of organic farming support. In turn, the revised payment rates under the RDP 2007-2013 resulted in positive changes in distribution of support quotas for particular crops, especially in growth of quotas paid for agricultural and vegetable crops. One can expect that the change of the rates may cause a growth of supply and improvement of assortment offer on organic food market in future.

Key words: European Union, RDP, support, organic farming

INTRODUCTION

Since 2004, i.e. since Poland's accession to the European Union there have been new regulations concerning organic farming and new financial instruments stimulating the development of this type of farming and the market for its products. The integration with the EU created greater possibilities of financial support given to agricultural producers who are oriented to pro-environmental activities and who meet higher standard requirements. One of the elements of the strategy of the organic farming development in Poland was the Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming accepted in 2007. The Council of the European Union commissioned all the member states to make the plan. According to the document, Poland's goal is to achieve a rapid increase in the number of organic farms (...), i.e. to reach the average level in the European Union, where these farms make 3% of the total number of farms [Plan Działań... 2007]. Poland successively pursues this goal, which is proved by the fact that since 2004 there has been high dynamics of increase in the basic quantitative characteristics of organic farming related with the new support system [Marcysiak 2006, Mickiewicz and Zuzek 2012].

The main premise to provide support to organic farming, which started in 2004, was to stimulate the activities oriented to the development of sustainable agriculture in order to guarantee food security and environmental security [Dembek et al. 2004]. What speaks in favour of supporting organic farming is the fact that it has influence on the maintenance and increase in the biodiversity and natural values of rural areas, minimises the application of external means of production and increases the quality of food and in consequence, it increases the competitiveness of its producers. Therefore, the basic argument which speaks in favour of supporting organic farming is to provide numerous priceless public goods related with the natural environment [Maciejczak 2009]. However, the amount of support given to organic farming is often insufficient from the point of view of the private risk of the agricultural producer, who provides public goods [Bołtromiuk 2005]. Various activities performed on organic farms increase environmental security, which all society takes advantage of. This involves an increase in the private risk of business activity. Therefore, what speaks in favour of supporting organic farming is the need to minimise the risk related with the following elements:

- bearing extra costs related with transformation of the farm,
- loss caused by lower yield,
- consumers' low acceptance of the prices of organic food.

When Poland joined the European Union, the system of direct support given to organic farming comprised two essential instruments:

1. The Rural Development Programme 2004-2006, Action 4 "Supporting farming and environmental projects and improving animal welfare". As one of 7 packages, 8 variants of organic farming received support (the version without the certificate of conformity, i.e. during the period of transformation, and the version with the certificate): 1/ agricultural plantations, 2/ permanent grassland, 3/ vegetable plantations, 4/ orchard plantations [Rozporządzenie... 2004]. In 2011 organic farmers last received support from the Rural Development Programme 2004-2006.

2. The Rural Development Programme 2007-2013, Axis 2 (Improving the natural environment and rural areas). As one of 9 packages of Action 214 "Agri-Environmental Programme" 12 variants of organic farming receive support (the version without the

certificate of conformity, i.e. during the period of transformation, and the version with the certificate). Apart from that, organic farming is supported within Axis 1 (Improvement of the Competitiveness of the Agricultural and Forestry Sector) from two actions, i.e. 1/ "Participation of Farmers in Food Quality Schemes", 2/ "Information and Publicity".

RESEARCH MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY

The analysis of changes in the basic characteristics of organic farming, i.e. in the number of farms and area of cultivated land and in the level of support provided to this type of farming was made on the basis of the data published by the GIJHARS (Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection) in a report on the state of organic farming in Poland in each year. The period of 7 years of changes in organic farming was subject to investigation, i.e. from 2004 to 2010. A period of 7 years, i.e. 2004-2010, was assumed for analysis of the support that organic farming received from the agri-environmental programme financed from the RDP 2004-2006. A period of 3 years, i.e. 2008-2010, was assumed for analysis of the support from the RDP 2007-2013 (subsidies began to be paid in 2008). Certain payment rates changed in the RDP 2007-2013, e.g. the rates for agricultural plantations and vegetable plantations increased, whereas they remained the same for some orchard plantations but they decreased for others. Due to this fact the comparative analysis specified if and how strongly it influenced changes in the support structure from the aspect of land use.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

After 2004 there was high dynamics of increase in the number of organic farms and organically farmed area. The key factor responsible for the increase was the support of organic farming received from the RDP 2004-2010 and RDP 2007-2013. During the period under investigation, i.e. from 2004 to 2010, the number of farms increased more than 5 times, from 3,760 in 2004 to 20,582 in 2010, whereas the area of farmland increased more than 6 times, from 82,730 ha to 519,068 ha. These figures point to the fact that there was a considerable acceleration of increase processes in organic farming after 2004. It is worth remembering that in 2004 the number of those farms increased by 64.5%, as compared with the previous year, whereas the area increased only by 25%. However, from 2004 to 2010 the dynamics of increase in the area of organic plantations was greater than the increase in the number of farms. This was due to the fact that the payments depended on the area of organic plantations.

During the period under analysis there were changes in the ranking of voivodeships according to the number of organic farms. In 2004 the largest number of those farms was in Lesser Poland (Małopolskie) (697), Świętokrzyskie (547), Mazovian (Mazowieckie) (434), Subcarpathian (Podkarpackie) (430) and Lublin (Lubelskie) (393) Voivodeships. For several years these voivodeships were successively building a stronger and stronger position in organic farming. Some of them were oriented towards vegetable and orchard plantations. For example, in 2004 65% of the area of organic vegetable

plantations was only in three voivodeships, i.e. Świętokrzyskie, Lublin and Mazovian Voivodeships, which had a considerable share in the supply of vegetables.

Therefore, one could assume that after 2004 the process of strengthening these voivodeships on the map of organic farming would continue. However, the support given to organic farming from the RDP 2004-2006, which started in 2004, contributed to a high increase in the number of new organic farms in many voivodeships, especially in West Pomeranian (Zachodniopomorskie) and Warmian-Masurian (Warmińsko-Mazurskie) Voivodeships, where so far there has not been such a strong tradition of this type of farming as in other regions, e.g. in Lesser Poland and Świętokrzyskie Voivodeships. Another factor which favoured the development of organic farms in West Pomeranian and Warmian-Masurian Voivodeships was the fact that it was easier for new farm owners to lease or purchase land there than in other areas. In 2010 the largest number of organic farms was found in West Pomeranian (2373), Warmian-Masurian (2279), Lesser Poland (2156), Subcarpathian (2091) and Podlaskie (2033) Voivodeships (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of organic farms between 2004 and 2010
Tabela 1. Liczba gospodarstw ekologicznych w latach 2004-2010

Voivodeship Województwo	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Multiple Krotność 2010/2004
Dolnośląskie	197	395	481	652	879	1 021	1 227	6.2
Kujawsko-pomorskie	89	145	173	217	258	279	327	3.7
Lubelskie	393	774	1 072	1 402	1 566	1 710	1 962	5.0
Lubuskie	66	188	256	361	480	579	833	12.6
Łódzkie	71	171	218	261	314	366	420	5.9
Małopolskie	697	1 187	1 363	1 627	2 100	2 197	2 156	3.1
Mazowieckie	434	852	1 028	1 215	1 481	1 673	1 935	4.5
Opolskie	26	38	46	53	62	63	79	3.0
Podkarpackie	430	855	1 164	1 577	1 892	2 014	2 091	4.9
Podlaskie	207	482	628	847	1 160	1 528	2 033	9.8
Pomorskie	66	180	222	273	392	494	648	9.8
Śląskie	47	92	116	143	176	199	228	4.9
Świętokrzyskie	547	785	892	995	1 165	1 170	1 243	2.3
Warmińsko-mazurskie	244	432	586	773	1 059	1 514	2 279	9.3
Wielkopolskie	70	202	264	415	516	588	748	10.7
Zachodniopomorskie	176	404	678	1 059	1 396	1 696	2 373	13.5
Total Razem	3 760	7 182	9 187	11 870	14 896	17 091	20 582	5.5

Source: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2007, 2009, 2011].
Źródło: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2007, 2009, 2011].

The smallest number of farms was in Opole (Opolskie) (79), Silesian (Śląskie) (228) and Kuyavian-Pomeranian (Kujawsko-Pomorskie) (327) Voivodeships.

The average area of organic farms revealed an increasing tendency during the whole period under analysis. In 2010 it was 25.2 ha and in comparison with the total number of farms in Poland it was four times larger. As results from the analysis of the changes taking place in the structure of the area of organic farms, there is a relatively high share of small farms, where the area is not larger than 5 ha. There were 23.7% of such farms in 2010. However, in comparison with the total number of farms in Poland, which made 56%, this share was smaller. Among organic farms there is a higher share of the farms whose area exceeds 50 ha. In 2010 they made 13.5% vs 1.6% of the total number of farms in Poland (Table 2).

Table 2. Structure of the size of organic farms between 2004 and 2010
Tabela 2. Struktura wielkości gospodarstw ekologicznych w latach 2004-2010

Size of farm Wielkość gospodarstwa (ha)	2004		2010	
	number liczba	share udział (%)	number liczba	share udział (%)
< 5	699	18.6	4 876	23.7
5-10	962	25.6	4 996	24.3
10-20	1 009	26.8	4 532	22.0
20-50	668	17.8	3 391	16.5
50-100	247	6.6	1 851	9.0
> 100	175	4.6	936	4.5
Total Razem	3 760	100.00	20 582	100.0

Source: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2011].
Źródło: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2011].

During the period under investigation there were also changes in the ranking of voivodeships according to the area of organic plantations (Table 3). In 2010 the largest area of such plantations was in West Pomeranian (98.000 ha), Warmian-Masurian (75.200 ha) and Mazovian (46.200 ha) Voivodeships. The lowest increase in those areas was noted in Świętokrzyskie and Lesser Poland Voivodeships. However, it is noteworthy that in Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, where the area of organic plantations is relatively small (13.100 ha) about one-fifth of Polish organic vegetables is produced, including three quarters of onions and garlic and a quarter of carrots.

Between 2004 and 2010 there were some changes in the structure of the type of organic plantations. In general, there is a relatively high share of permanent grassland in organic farms. In 2004 it made 51%, which was caused by the appearance of a large number of farms with large areas of extensive meadows and pastures, which were easier to manage than arable land [Możliwości... 2007, p. 13]. Agricultural plantations had the share of 43.7% and they took the second place in the structure of land use. They were

Table 3. Organic agricultural land between 2004 and 2010 (thous. ha)
 Tabela 3. Powierzchnia ekologicznych użytków rolnych w latach 2004-2010 (tys. ha)

Voivodeship Województwo	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Multiple Krotność 2010/2004
Dolnośląskie	8.8	16.5	19.3	22.0	28.5	33.3	39.7	4.5
Kujawsko-pomorskie	1.7	3.6	4.8	5.9	5.9	6.8	7.7	4.5
Lubelskie	5.7	11.1	20.0	23.9	26.9	30.8	34.9	6.1
Lubuskie	2.3	7.4	12.1	18.2	18.2	30.4	35.8	15.6
Łódzkie	1.2	2.5	3.4	3.6	4.8	5.3	7.7	6.4
Małopolskie	7.6	11.2	13.8	14.5	22.7	18.1	22.0	2.9
Mazowieckie	6.1	16.6	20.9	23.2	27.7	23.2	46.2	7.6
Opolskie	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.9	1.6	1.6	3.2	7.1
Podkarpackie	10.7	16.0	20.6	27.0	28.7	30.9	31.9	3.0
Podlaskie	3.9	8.7	11.7	15.4	20.4	31.0	42.9	11.1
Pomorskie	1.8	7.2	8.0	11.0	11.4	18.7	22.6	12.7
Śląskie	0.5	1.8	2.3	3.1	3.9	2.9	5.7	11.8
Świętokrzyskie	5.0	7.6	9.0	9.8	10.8	12.0	13.1	2.6
Warmińsko-mazurskie	9.5	15.3	24.0	28.8	28.8	62.5	75.2	7.9
Wielkopolskie	4.8	12.0	14.5	21.1	20.4	24.1	32.5	6.8
Zachodniopomorskie	12.7	28.1	42.4	59.1	54.2	84.6	98.0	7.7
Total Razem	82.7	166.3	228.0	287.5	314.9	416.3	519.1	6.3

Source: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2007, 2009, 2011].
 Źródło: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2007, 2009, 2011].

followed by orchard and blueberry plantations, which made 4.2%, and by vegetable plantations with the share of 1.0%. In 2010 the share of permanent grassland decreased to 42.3%, whereas the share of orchard and blueberry plantations increased to 13.3%. In 2010 the area of orchard plantations was 54.000 ha (10.4% of the area of organic plantations), including 31.800 ha of walnut plantations, which made 59% of orchard plantations. However, the production from this plantation was low and amounted to 242 t.

As far as the RDP 2004-2006 is concerned, the payment rates for 8 variants of organic plantations were as follows: from the lowest rate of 260 zlotys per ha (with the certificate) and 330 zlotys per ha (during the period of transformation) for permanent grassland to the highest rates of 1540 zlotys per ha and 1800 zlotys per ha, respectively, for orchard plantations, which require very high labour intensity (Table 4). During the period of transformation to organic methods farms are entitled to receive greater support because of the risk of lower yield and income. In the RDP 2007-2013 the number of variants was extended from 8 to 12, because herbal plantations were included into the

Table 4. Payment rates under the RDP 2004-2006 and RDP 2007-2013 organic farming scheme
 Tabela 4. Stawki płatności w ramach pakietu rolnictwa ekologicznego PROW 2004-2006 i PROW 2007-2013

Name of variant Nazwa wariantu	Payment rate (zlotys per ha) Stawka płatności (zł/ha)	
	2004-2006	2007-2013
Agricultural plantations during transformation period Uprawy rolnicze w okresie przestawienia	680	840
Agricultural plantations with certificate Uprawy rolnicze z certyfikatem	600	790
Permanent grassland during transformation period Trwałe użytki zielone w okresie przestawienia	330	330
Permanent grassland with certificate Trwałe użytki zielone z certyfikatem	260	260
Vegetable plantations during transformation period Uprawy warzywne w okresie przestawienia	980	1 550
Vegetable plantations with certificate Uprawy warzywne z certyfikatem	940	1 300
Herbal plantations during transformation period Uprawy zielarskie w okresie przestawienia	–	1 150
Herbal plantations with certificate Uprawy zielarskie z certyfikatem	–	1 050
Orchard and blueberry plantations during transformation period Uprawy sadownicze i jagodowe w okresie przestawienia	1 800	1 800
Orchard and blueberry plantations with certificate Uprawy sadownicze i jagodowe z certyfikatem	1 540	1 540
Other orchard and blueberry plantations during transformation period Pozostałe uprawy sadownicze i jagodowe w okresie przestawienia	–	800
Other orchard and blueberry plantations with certificate Pozostałe uprawy sadownicze i jagodowe z certyfikatem	–	650

Source: Plan rozwoju... [2004, p. 125], Program... [2007, p. 249].
 Źródło: Plan rozwoju... [2004, s. 125], Program... [2007, s. 249].

programme and orchard plantations were divided so that other orchard plantations and blueberry plantations were separated. Apart from that, new requirements concerning the purpose of crops, agrotechnical procedures and the quality of use of the nursery material were introduced. The payment rates ranged from 160 zlotys per ha to 1800 zlotys per ha; the rates for agricultural and vegetable plantations increased, whereas the rates for some of the orchard plantations remained the same but the rates for other orchard plantations decreased (including walnut plantations). There were relatively high rates introduced for herbal plantations, which do not require high outlay, as opposed to other variants of organic farming.

In order to execute the organic farming scheme under the RDP 2004-2006 830 million zlotys' worth of subsidies was paid until 2010, i.e. within 7 years. From 2008 to 2010 389 million zlotys was paid under the RDP 2007-2013. Altogether this gives the total amount of subsidies of 1.2 billion zlotys. In the RDP 2004-2006 the average amount of subsidies per 1 ha grew systematically from 511 zlotys per ha in 2004 to 782 zlotys per ha in 2010, whereas in the RDP 2007-2013 it remained at a similar level, i.e. it amounted to more than 600 zlotys per ha. The greatest beneficiaries of the subsidies were farmers from West Pomeranian voivodeship. They had the greatest share in both RDPs, i.e. 24% and 18%, respectively, which totalled to the absolute value of 265 million zlotys. This means that during that period every fourth zloty from the payments went to beneficiaries from West Pomeranian voivodeship. In the RDP 2007-2013 the

Table 5. Spatial differentiation in the support for execution of the organic farming scheme under the RDP 2004-2006 and RDP 2007-2013 between 2004 and 2010 (million zlotys)

Tabela 5. Przestrzenne zróżnicowanie poziomu wsparcia za realizację pakietu rolnictwa ekologicznego w ramach PROW 2004-2006 i PROW 2007-2013 w latach 2004-2010 (mln zł)

Voivodeship Województwo	RDP 2004-2006 PROW 2004-2006 2004-2010		RDP 2007-2013 PROW 2007-2013 2008-2010		Total Razem 2004-2010	
	amount kwota	%	amount kwota	%	amount kwota	%
Dolnośląskie	56.7	6.8	26.8	6.9	83.5	6.8
Kujawsko-pomorskie	27.1	3.3	8.0	2.1	35.1	2.9
Lubelskie	78.0	9.4	23.8	6.1	101.8	8.4
Lubuskie	43.6	5.3	24.3	6.2	67.8	5.6
Łódzkie	19.1	2.3	7.2	1.9	26.3	2.2
Małopolskie	38.6	4.6	15.4	3.9	53.9	4.4
Mazowieckie	75.2	9.1	39.2	10.1	114.5	9.4
Opolskie	3.0	0.4	2.0	0.5	5.0	0.4
Podkarpackie	53.1	6.4	20.0	5.1	73.1	6.0
Podlaskie	41.8	5.0	36.2	9.3	78.1	6.4
Pomorskie	22.7	2.7	19.6	5.0	42.3	3.5
Śląskie	11.6	1.4	3.9	1.0	15.5	1.3
Świętokrzyskie	29.3	3.5	12.7	3.3	42.0	3.4
Warmińsko-mazurskie	57.8	7.0	59.4	15.3	117.2	9.6
Wielkopolskie	76.3	9.2	21.5	5.5	97.8	8.0
Zachodniopomorskie	196.2	23.6	69.0	17.8	265.2	21.7
Poland Polska	830.0	100.0	389.0	100.0	1219.1	100.0

Source: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2007, 2009, 2011].

Źródło: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2007, 2009, 2011].

variation in the share of the support received by individual voivodeships was diversified; the share of half of the voivodeships decreased, whereas the share of the other half increased. Apart from West Pomeranian voivodeship, the share of Warmian-Masurian (15%) and Mazovian (10%) voivodeships was also considerable. Both in the RDP 2004-2006 and RDP 2007-2013 the farmers from the voivodeships where the percentage of organic farms was low had the smallest share in the absorption of subsidies, i.e. Opole (0.5%), Silesian (1%) and Łódź (1.9%) voivodeships (Table 5).

The total area of organic plantations which received support between 2004 and 2010 was 1,861,730 ha, where two thirds of the area received support from the RDP 2004-2006 and one third received it from the RDP 2007-2013. As results from the analysis of spatial differentiation in the support, the owners of the farms located in three voivodeships, i.e. West Pomeranian, Warmian-Masurian and Mazovian voivodeships, were the greatest beneficiaries. Those three voivodeships had the share of 39% in the area supported from the RDP. On the other hand, the total share of the three voivodeships with the smallest area supported from the RDP was 3%. Due to the fact that the amount of payments strictly corresponds to the farm area, large and very large farms located in West Pomeranian and Warmian-Masurian voivodeships had a larger share in the subsidies than smaller farms located in other voivodeships, e.g. in Świętokrzyskie voivodeship (Table 6).

The distribution of funds into individual types of plantations in two financial perspectives under comparison is a particularly important problem related with the support of organic farming [Brodzińska 2009]. The payment rate per 1 ha and the range of requirements set to potential beneficiaries have decisive influence on the distribution of subsidies. Therefore, the dominant variant of support from the RDP 2004-2006 was orchard plantations because of the highest payment rates and minimal requirements (a small number of cuttings without the need to show the yield). The share of orchard plantations in the total amount of support received between 2004 and 2010 was the highest, i.e. 46.2%, whereas the share of vegetable plantations was minimal, i.e. 0.7%. These data point to certain bipolarity of interest in organic farming, i.e. high interest in orchards and low interest in vegetables. Presumably, as far as organic vegetable plantations are concerned, the payment rates of 980 zlotys per ha and 940 zlotys per ha did not sufficiently compensate for the loss of profit and for the costs farmers had to bear in comparison with other variants of subsidised plantations. On the other hand, the highest payment rates of 1800 zlotys per ha and 1540 zlotys per ha for orchard plantations (they were twice as high as those for vegetable plantations) were an attractive encouragement to establish new farms, the owners of which were usually motivated by financial rather than environmental aspects. In hindsight, it is possible to say that the high rates contributed to excessive interest, especially in low-cost plantations. As a result, there was high absorption of funds by the owners of organic orchards, especially by walnut planters, who did not have to show their yield during the five-year period of support. This fact spoke in favour of the need to distinguish the variant of orchard plantations and the variant of other orchard and blueberry plantations (including walnut plantations) in the RDP 2007-2013. The payment rates assumed for these plantations were lower than before, i.e. from 160 zlotys per ha to 800 zlotys per ha. On the other hand, the low interest in vegetable plantations, which can be seen in their minimal share in the structure of subsidies paid, also spoke in favour of the need to increase the payment rates for these plantations in the RDP 2007-2013.

Table 6. Spatial differentiation in the organic farming area receiving support for execution of the organic farming scheme under the RDP 2004-2006 and RDP 2007-2013 between 2004 and 2010 (thous. ha)

Tabela 6. Przestrzenne zróżnicowanie powierzchni upraw ekologicznych objętych wsparciem za realizację pakietu rolnictwa ekologicznego w ramach PROW 2004-2006 i PROW 2007-2013 w latach 2004-2010 (tys. ha)

Voivodeship Województwo	RDP 2004-2006 PROW 2004-2006 2004-2010		RDP 2007-2013 PROW 2007-2013 2008-2010		Total Razem 2004-2010	
	area powierzchnia	%	area powierzchnia	%	area powierzchnia	%
Dolnośląskie	103.0	8.3	46.8	7.6	149.8	8.1
Kujawsko-pomorskie	27.7	2.2	11.9	1.9	39.6	2.1
Lubelskie	106.5	8.5	33.1	5.4	139.6	7.5
Lubuskie	77.3	6.2	38.6	6.3	115.8	6.2
Łódzkie	19.1	1.5	8.2	1.3	27.3	1.5
Małopolskie	71.8	5.8	29.2	4.8	101.0	5.4
Mazowieckie	110.4	8.8	60.3	9.8	170.6	9.2
Opolskie	3.9	0.3	2.4	0.4	6.4	0.3
Podkarpackie	105.0	8.4	37.2	6.1	142.2	7.6
Podlaskie	67.6	5.4	60.6	9.9	128.2	6.9
Pomorskie	41.8	3.4	31.2	5.1	73.0	3.9
Śląskie	16.8	1.4	6.0	1.0	22.8	1.2
Świętokrzyskie	43.6	3.5	17.2	2.8	60.7	3.3
Warmińsko-mazurskie	105.0	8.4	93.5	15.2	198.5	10.7
Wielkopolskie	97.3	7.8	31.8	5.2	129.1	6.9
Zachodniopomorskie	251.5	20.1	105.6	17.2	357.0	19.2
Poland Polska	1 248.2	100.0	613.5	100.0	1 861.7	100.0

Source: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2007, 2009, 2011].
Źródło: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2007, 2009, 2011].

As results from the analysis of the subsidies paid from the RDP 2007-2013 between 2008 and 2010, the changes in the payment rates and in the requirements the beneficiaries had to meet were partly reflected with the distribution of subsidies to individual types of plantations (Table 7). In comparison with the RDP 2004-2006, during that period there was a higher share in the amount of subsidies paid to those plantations where the payment rates had increased. This fact is proved by the increase in the amount of subsidies paid to agricultural plantations (64%) and vegetable plantations (2.3%). On the other hand, the share of subsidies paid to orchard plantations was 16.8%.

Table 7. Share of individual variants of payments in the organic farming scheme according to the support received from the RDP 2004-2006 and RDP 2007-2013 between 2004 and 2010 (million zlotys)

Tabela 7. Udział poszczególnych wariantów płatności w pakiecie rolnictwa ekologicznego według poziomu wsparcia w ramach PROW 2004-2006 i PROW 2007-2013 w latach 2004-2010 (mln zł)

Specification Wyszczególnienie	RDP 2004-2006 PROW 2004-2006 2004-2010		RDP 2007-2013 PROW 2007-2013 2008-2010		Total Razem 2004-2010	
	amount kwota	%	amount kwota	%	amount kwota	%
Agricultural plantations Uprawy rolnicze	299.0	36.0	250.0	64.2	548.9	45.0
Permanent grassland Trwałe użytki zielone	141.9	17.1	64.5	16.6	206.5	17.0
Vegetable plantations Uprawy warzywne	5.7	0.7	8.8	2.3	14.5	1.2
Herbal plantations Uprawy zielarskie	0.0	–	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.0
Orchard plantations Uprawy sadownicze	383.4	46.2	65.4	16.8	448.9	36.8
Total Razem	830.0	100.0	389.0	100.0	1219.1	100.0

Source: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2007, 2009, 2011].

Źródło: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2007, 2009, 2011].

The introduction of diversified payment rates for these plantations, including lower payment rates for walnut plantations, was only partly reflected with a change in the share of the amounts of money paid to such plantations. This situation was caused by the fact that until 2011 the beneficiaries were able to continue receiving support from the RDP 2004-2006, which offered higher rates to these plantations.

Although in the last financial perspective the payment rates for vegetable plantations were raised to 1300 zlotys per ha and 1500 zlotys per ha, they still do not seem to be sufficiently encouraging to potential beneficiaries, as can be seen from the area of such plantations and variation in the dynamics of its growth. Due to the fact that vegetables occupy a small area in the structure of plantations, in the future it would be necessary to use the organic farming support system to a greater extent as an instrument stimulating the growth of such plantations in order to improve the supply on the domestic market and to increase the export potential. It is even more justified by the fact that in most organic farms vegetables are produced only for the farms themselves or for a small local market [Szafirowska-Walendzik 2007]. It is noteworthy that the organic food market in Poland does not satisfy the demand for organic vegetables and food products from processed organic vegetables, whereas simultaneously the price level is relatively high. As results from many studies, fruit and vegetables are the group of organic products that consumers prefer most [Żakowska-Biemans and Gutkowska 2003, Łuczka-Bakuła

2007]. Although the support provided to organic farming creates the potential to improve the supply of its products on the market, it is not used sufficiently as an instrument stimulating increase in the supply of organic food according to consumers' expectations and preferences.

As far as the area receiving subsidies from the RDP 2004-2006 is concerned, there was the highest percentage of agricultural plantations (43.6%) and permanent grassland (41.6%) (Table 8). The share of orchard plantations reached 14.1%, whereas the share of vegetable plantations was the smallest and amounted to 0.7%. In comparison with the RDP 2004-2006, in the RDP 2007-2013 there were relatively significant changes in the share of the subsidised area of two types of plantations, i.e. agricultural and orchard plantations, which corresponded to the changes in the payment rates. As far as agricultural plantations are concerned, the share increased from 39.3% to 52.2%, whereas the share of orchard plantations dropped from 17.8% to 6.6%. The bipolarity of the changes was caused by the increase in the payment rates for agricultural plantations, on the one hand, and by the decrease in the payment rates for certain types of organic orchards (including walnut orchards).

Table 8. Share of individual variants of payments in the organic farming scheme according to area supported from the RDP 2004-2006 and RDP 2007-2013 between 2004 and 2010 (thous. ha)

Tabela 8. Udział poszczególnych wariantów płatności w pakiecie rolnictwa ekologicznego według powierzchni wsparcia w ramach PROW 2004-2006 i PROW 2007-2013 w latach 2004-2010 (tys. ha)

Specification Wyszczególnienie	RDP 2004-2006 PROW 2004-2006 2004-2010		RDP 2007-2013 PROW 2007-2013 2008-2010		Total Razem 2004-2010	
	area powierzchnia	%	area powierzchnia	%	area powierzchnia	%
Agricultural plantations Uprawy rolnicze	490.3	39.3	320.5	52.2	810.8	43.6
Permanent grassland Trwale użytki zielone	528.9	42.4	245.9	40.1	774.8	41.6
Vegetable plantations Uprawy warzywne	5.9	0.5	6.3	1.0	12.2	0.7
Herbal plantations Uprawy zielarskie	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.0
Orchard plantations Uprawy sadownicze	223.1	17.8	40.5	6.6	263.6	14.1
Total Razem	1 248.2	100.0	613.5	100.0	1 861.7	100.0

Source: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2007, 2009, 2011].

Źródło: Rolnictwo... [2005], Raport... [2007, 2009, 2011].

The observed consequences of changes in the payment rates in the RDP 2007-2013 prove that certain negative trends related with orchard plantations were stopped, e.g.

trees bearing no fruit. These observations point to the fact that it is necessary to monitor changes in organic farming which occur in consequence of receiving support and to quickly react to the behaviours which contradict the ethos of an organic farmer.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The support provided to organic farming should be strictly related with the supply of organic food on the market, where consumers show the growing demand for cereal products, fruit, vegetables and processed products. Therefore, the rapid increase in the number of organic farms requires that a wide range of parallel actions should be taken in order to stimulate the development of the internal organic food market. Otherwise the high dynamics of its growth will not result in the corresponding dynamics of growth in the food market and the market of food products, which is of high significance to the social acceptance of taxpayers', i.e. consumers' supporting organic farming.

The following conclusions result from the analysis of the distribution of funds for supporting organic farming from the RDP 2004-2006 and the RDP 2007-2013:

1. The high dynamics of development of organic farming during the years under study chiefly resulted from the support it received from the agri-environmental programme.

2. The greatest beneficiaries of the support were the owners of farms located in three voivodeships, i.e. West Pomeranian, Warmian-Masurian and Mazovian voivodeships.

3. The dominant variant of support received from the RDP 2004-2006 was orchard plantations because of the highest payment rates and minimal requirements that beneficiaries had to meet.

4. The changes in the payment rates and requirements, which were introduced in the RDP 2007-2013 were partly reflected with the distribution of subsidies into individual types of plantations. There was a particular increase in the share of subsidies paid to those plantations where the payment rates had increased, i.e. agricultural and vegetable plantations, whereas there was a drop in the share of subsidies paid to certain types of plantations with lower payment rates, i.e. orchard plantations.

5. In the future it would be necessary to consider the possibility to stimulate the development of organic farming in closer relation with the market and commodity production. Otherwise, the support may favour the establishment of pseudoorganic farms, which poorly meet the demands of the market.

6. The continuation of support given to organic farming in the years to come points to the need to continue comparative studies on organic farming and to monitor the changes taking place in the basic characteristics of organic farming and on the market of its products. Also, it would be recommended to carry out studies in order to answer the question about the role of financial motivations resulting from the support system in the establishment of organic farms.

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ROZWÓJ ROLNICTWA EKOLOGICZNEGO NA TLE WSPARCIA W RAMACH PROW 2004-2006 I PROW 2007-2013

Streszczenie. W opracowaniu przedstawiono zmiany w rolnictwie ekologicznym obejmujące lata 2004-2010 w powiązaniu ze wsparciem w ramach pakietu rolnictwa ekologicznego finansowanego z PROW 2004-2006 i PROW 2007-2013. W analizie tych zmian posłużono się danymi źródłowymi pochodzącymi z raportów GIJHARS. Z przeprowadzonej analizy wynika, że system wsparcia w ramach PROW 2004-2006 i PROW 2007-2013 skutkował wysoką dynamiką wzrostu liczby gospodarstw i powierzchni upraw ekologicznych. Podstawowym czynnikiem stymulującym dynamiczny rozwój rolnictwa ekologicznego od 2004 roku jest systemem wsparcia w ramach PROW 2004-2006 i 2007-2013. System ten oparty na wysokich stawkach płatności okazał się skutecznym instrumentem

finansowym wzmacniającym atrakcyjność rolnictwa ekologicznego, co znalazło odzwierciedlenie we wzroście jego ilościowych charakterystyk. W PROW 2004-2006 uprawy sadownicze o największych stawkach płatności i niskich wymaganiach cieszyły się większym zainteresowaniem beneficjentów niż pozostałe uprawy, w rezultacie czego absorbowwały one największą część wsparcia przeznaczonego na uprawy ekologiczne. Natomiast skorygowane stawki płatności w PROW 2007-2013 skutkowały pozytywnymi zmianami w rozkładzie kwot wsparcia na poszczególne rodzaje upraw, zwłaszcza wzrostem wypłacanych kwot na uprawy rolnicze i warzywne.

Słowa kluczowe: Unia Europejska, PROW, wsparcie, rolnictwo ekologiczne

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