

Popular and scientific summary of project

With Poland's accession to the structures of the European Union, undoubtedly the greatest benefits were seen for Polish agriculture. The interest in obtaining support from the EU has grown to such proportions that there were definitely more people willing than the financial resources in the budget. This in turn caused that the Agency for Restructuring and Modernization of Agriculture (an entity responsible for the distribution of aid funds for Polish agriculture), began to introduce the so-called "Queuing" the granting of aid based on previously assumed indicators. The criteria for assessing applications could be - depending on the aid measure - the age of the farmer, education, farm size or milk production level. Additionally, in the case of the aid measure "Modernization of agricultural holdings" a higher priority was introduced for farms maintaining dairy cattle and these farms could apply for aid in the first term.

The previously mentioned dairy direction of agricultural production - as the only one - was subject in the European Union to the production restrictions of the so-called quotation. The policy of high guaranteed prices for agricultural products conducted in the 1970s, aimed at encouraging farmers to stay in the countryside, resulted in high overproduction, mainly butter, in a short period of time. Hence, the need to introduce production limits that were imposed on individual EU member states in 1984. Milk quotas also included Polish farmers and for 10 years they were forced to function in the system of production limits. Ultimately, dairy quota was liquidated in 2015 and being aware that the milk production market will be released, the main aid stream of the Rural Development Program for 2007-2013 was directed to supporting dairy farms - so as to strengthen them adequately and prepare to compete in market conditions.

Research so far has focused on investment and distribution channels for dairy farms. Little attention was paid in the literature to the issues of investment efficiency and public financial support and logistics activities. The proposed approach by the applicants complements the subject literature on the issues of effectiveness.

The aim of the study is to assess changes in the integration and logistical aspects of the milk market in Poland against the EU and the US.

The studies will use the following test methods: questionnaire, direct interview, regression and correlation, Ward and factor analysis.

The results of this research will be made available to various institutions, including Agricultural Advisory Centres, chambers of agriculture, farmers and will be used for the preparation of at least one doctoral dissertation and scientific publications in domestic and foreign publications and the organization of at least one scientific conference.

Understanding the factors in the development of farms will contribute to the growth of non progressive households. Observations made in the EU will serve as models for Polish households, especially those that have a chance of development and whose owners cannot cope with the common barriers. Some of the solutions used in the EU are selling many organizational capabilities at the disposal of modern farms in Poland and their understanding and implementation will allow increasing the pace of development of national entities.

To sum up, the result of the project will be a comprehensive, multifaceted, methodologically comprehensive examination of the effectiveness of investment activities in dairy farms in Poland and related logistics activities.