

The main objective of the project is to examine the role of regional innovation systems functioning in the agri-food sector in adapting Polish agriculture and food production to the requirements of counteracting climate warming and the requirements of European Union policies relating to environmental protection.

The four sets of factors shaping innovation processes, usually examined separately, will be studied in their mutual relationships and networks of cooperation: the role of institutions (the European Union, government and local government authorities, advisory and knowledge transfer centres), the research activities of scientific and academic institutions conducting research used by entities from the agri-food sector, and also the social attitudes of farmers and agricultural producers.

Due to the fact that agriculture and the food industry in Poland are strongly spatially differentiated, analyzes in regional systems will constitute an important dimension of research. The project will be carried out in the form of field research in four selected voivodships (Podlaskie, Podkarpackie, Wielkopolskie and Zachodniopomorskie), which will enable the deeper insights into phenomena and processes studied. These regions represent the most important types of Polish agriculture. The research will concern the role of EU policies, activities of public authorities (regional governments and their regional innovation strategies), research and development institutions, and agricultural advisory network institutions, as well as farmers' and agricultural producers' attitudes towards innovation and technological progress.

The research refers to the theory of regional development, the theory of innovation and institutional economics. The last theoretical approach is particularly important because public policies play an important role in shaping innovation systems (national and regional), in promoting technological progress and developing innovation potential, thanks to the development and application of appropriate financial and regulatory instruments. In the research, special attention will be paid to the role of the European Union policies and their national and regional specifications, because these policies provide a significant part of the funds for research and development activities, and to a large extent shape the programmes of strengthening the innovative potential and technological change aimed at counteracting climate warming and negative impact on the natural environment.

The research will use various methods: analysis of documents, in-depth interviews, surveys, methods of statistical analysis and network analysis of the collected empirical material.