

## **The Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics**

The Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics (IAFE) was established in Warsaw in 1983 as a result of a merge between the Institute of Agricultural Economy (in operation since 1950) and the Institute of Food Industry Economics.

The Institute conducts mainly empirical research concerning the analysis and forecasts of the development of the food economy, including its particular branches, the agricultural input market and the market of agricultural products. The Institute research interest also concerns the possible outcome of EU enlargement as well as the economics of farms and enterprises operating in the food sector, results of ownership changes, spatial concerns of the food economy and social changes taking place among agricultural and rural people.

The research and expert reports carried out at the Institute are largely a result of the analysis of internal data collected within the framework of external research. The database containing bookkeeping information provided by farms is of particular importance. The database supplies original and unique primary data allowing for the broad analysis of processes taking place on private farms in Poland and for monitoring the outcome of agricultural policy.

Research materials collected by the Institute are the basis for degree theses at universities throughout Poland. The Institute is entitled to confer academic degrees in the Economic Sciences. It employs 157 staff including 12 professors, 23 senior researchers and 13 research assistants.

The Institute works in cooperation with many science departments in Poland and abroad, such as ERS of the USDA in the USA; IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) in Austria; SAC (Scottish Agricultural College) in the United Kingdom; ASA Institute (Institut für Sektoranalyse und Politikberatung GmbH) in Bonn; Humboldt University in Berlin; Algarve University in Faro, Portugal; the Agricultural University in

Plovdiv, Bulgaria; the Research Institute for Agricultural Economics in Helsinki; University of Ghent, Belgium; ENSA (Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique), Montpellier, France; Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan and others.

Within the framework of international cooperation the participation in a research scheme of the EU Vth Frame Programme, 'The Influence of Small and Medium Enterprises of Food Industry on the Dynamics of Local Development' and common elaboration (with IIASA) of the assumptions for an international research programme, 'The Development of European Agriculture' should here be stressed.

IAFE researchers publish the results of their studies in the Institute press, the professional Polish and international press, such as: *The Economist*, *The Concerns of Agricultural Economics*, *Countryside and Agriculture*, *Bank and Credit*, *Food Industry*, *Yearbooks of Agricultural Sciences*, *Statistical News* and others. The Institute also publishes the following book series:

— *Studia i Monografie* (Studies and Monographs) – regular publications providing a synthesis of research, monographs and studies, considered for high scientific standard;

— *Analizy Rynkowe* (Market Reports) – issued twice a year. They give an outlook of the markets of agricultural commodities, agricultural input and services, foreign trade in agricultural commodities and the land market;

— *Komunikaty, Raporty, Ekspertyzy* (Communiqués, Reports, Expert Reports) – regular publications about preliminary information on research carried out;

— *Materiały Źródłowe* (Source Information) – regular publications concerning primary data resulting from empirical research;

— *Materiały Szkoleniowe* (Training Materials) – regular publications concerning methodological and training elaborations, particularly presentations of research methods and techniques, handbooks, lecture handouts;

— *Rynek Rolny* (Agricultural Market) – a monthly bulletin presenting tendencies and an evaluation of processes on the domestic and foreign markets of agricultural commodities, food and agricultural input.

The beneficiaries of IAFE scientific publications have been about 380 institutions in Poland. Government decision-making bodies, lawmakers, scientific units, agricultural extension services and schools also consider the results of the research carried out in the Institute's following seven departments:

— Department of General Agricultural Economics, headed by Professor Augustyn Woś;

— Department of Farm Economics, headed by Professor Wojciech Józwiak;

— Department of Food Industry Economics, headed by Professor Roman Urban;

— Department of Market Research, headed by Professor Jan Małkowski;

— Department of Social and Regional Policies, headed by Professor Alina Sikorska;

— Department of Agricultural Accountancy, headed by Dr. Lech Goraj;

— Department of Horticulture Economics, headed by Dr. Bożena Nosecka.

The Institute's most important scientific achievements in recent years can be listed as follows:

— elaboration of theoretical framework of the food sector operation in a social market driven economy,

— elaboration of practical guides concerning aims, scope and methods of government intervention,

— elaboration of new management methods in micro- and macro-scale,

— elaboration of theoretical framework and implementation of regular analysis of agricultural markets (situation and outlook reports) since 1993 and inserting them into the system of economic market information,

— preparation of annual analysis of production and economic performance of agricultural and food economy.

The results of the above listed research are mirrored in the shape of economic and social policies implemented in agricultural and rural areas. Appreciation of the results of IAFE work is confirmed by many prizes and distinction awarded to researchers. The researchers of the Institute take an active part in scientific life elaborating opinions on theses at all levels, as well as scientific publications of researchers applying for professorship.

Active participation at scientific conferences is another important aspect of the Institute's activities. In 2000 Institute researchers presented over 100 papers at conferences in Poland and abroad. The Institute pays much attention to the implementation of research results, e.g. in 2000 Institute researchers elaborated over 100 expert reports for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Council of Ministers, the Office of the President of Poland, the Office for European Integration, the Central Statistical Office, the Ministry of Finance, the Council for Socio-Economic Strategy, the Central Auditing Office (NIK), other government agencies, courts of justice, etc. The Institute also elaborates expert reports for private companies, research institutions, Polish and foreign consulting companies and agricultural producers.

Scientific publications, lectures disseminating knowledge, participation in TV and radio broadcasts are other forms of implementing research results. In 2000 Institute researchers published over 300 scientific studies in 35 various press releases, gave 80 lectures for various institutions and conducted 70 interviews for the press, radio and TV.

The Institute disseminates research results directly and by post as well as conducting a subscription of its publications. The Institute is present at several annual fairs and exhibitions such as POLAGRA, Open Doors of Extension Services etc. where its publications are on sale.

The Institute is managed by:

The Director, Professor Andrzej Kowalski,

The Deputy Director for Scientific and Research Affairs, Professor Grzegorz Dybowski,

The Deputy Director for Administration, Lech Drzewiecki.

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