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POSITION OF POLISH AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS IN THE LIGHT OF THE WORK OF CONGRESSES OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

Abstract

Polish agricultural economists take part in the works of the Congresses of the European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) from the very beginning of their convening. It is especially necessary to research their contribution in the last 5 congresses, i.e. after the change in the political system in Poland, and to determine on this basis the standing of the Polish agricultural economics in Europe. The paper presents the intensity of contributions of papers to the congresses by Polish authors as well as their structure given the type of session, place of paper development and the formal academic position of Polish researchers, measured with the frequency of chairing the congress sessions. The measures of presentation of research findings were indices of intensity of contributions to a congress, synthetic indices of the academic level as well as the structure indices. The analysis of findings shows that the position of the Polish agricultural economics in Europe as seen through the prism of participation in the EAAE congresses does not correspond to the level of research conducted nationally and abroad. Thus, some measures are needed to change this situation.

Keywords: Congress of the European Association of Agricultural Economists, contribution, session, paper.

Congresses of the European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE), which address crucial rural development and rural economy issues as well as a wide spectrum of social and organization problems in this socio-economic sphere, are of special importance for the development of agricultural economics

theory. At EAAE Congresses, problems of general economic theory are debated alongside the problems of the functioning of global economy[9].

The EAAE Congresses look into major developmental problems of agriculture and rural development. Since 1999, they have discussed: global challenges facing European agriculture at the dawn of the 21st century (Warsaw), the diversity of European agri-food system (Zaragoza), the future of rural Europe in the global agri-food system (Copenhagen), building European agricultural strategy in the context of global trends in relations between people, food and environments (Ghent), and managing risk and uncertainty (Zurich).

Papers presented at the said congresses are a good reference point for establishing the scientific position for researchers and universities, and also countries. The above applies also to the place of Polish agricultural economics on the map of economic thought in Europe, since Polish economists have participated in the EAAE congresses from the very beginning. However, only since 1989 there have existed greater opportunities for Polish scholars to participate in international scientific cooperation. Thus, a question arises: what is the role of Polish scientists in the development of European economic thought; do they make use of the existing research opportunities; and what are constraints for developing agricultural economics in Poland?

Examining the position of Polish agricultural economics at the EAAE Congresses is consistent with recent important scientific and bibliometric analysis [7, 13, 18], used in categorisation of scientific units or in financing research. The beginnings of science studies in Poland go back to the 1920s and 1930s [8, 20]. Already at that time, efforts were made to classify knowledge, assess the value of scientific studies and evaluate scientific achievements of researchers. Such methodological approach remains valid today. It allows to analyse the structure of articles published in scientific journals as well as publication record of individual authors, and it is useful in development diagnosis for Polish science [16], as well as economic sciences [4, 15].

The published analyses presenting the condition of Polish science reveal that scientific productivity in Poland is not high [16, 18]. Also the number and quality of publications in the field of agricultural economics is not among the highest in Europe [9, 10, 15, 19]. Thus, it is necessary to verify such assessments and also to look into the structure of articles presented by the Polish authors at European congresses of agricultural economists, as such congresses serve as important fora for exchanging scientific ideas.

The aim of the research was to define the scientific position of Polish agricultural economics against the background of achievements of European economic thought in the field of agricultural economy and rural development. Detailed objectives were to examine changes in the problem and session structure of congresses, as well as to define the role of Polish agricultural economics against European and world achievements.

The study covered the scientific achievements of the EAAE Congresses participants (universities and countries) contributing their papers to the event. The analyses cover 5 latest Congresses held in: Warsaw, Zaragoza, Copenhagen, Ghent and Zurich. The research lasted for 15 years, thus making it possible to identify development tendencies for agricultural economics in Poland.

The object of research was to analyse authors' publication intensity as well as the structure of congresses in terms of sessions, problems and participating nations, including contribution of the Polish economists. Structure of presented papers was examined, in terms of their origin (Poland, other countries), as well as the scope of cooperation with foreign universities and the role of Polish economists in chairing sessions.

Research methods and materials

For the analysis, the authors used congress materials, including in hard and electronic copies, listed in the bibliography. All the studies and articles are covered by the analysis, however, moderator's addresses as well as organizational and welcoming speeches were eliminated.

Some congress materials were faulty in terms of their affiliation, thus hampering the research in institutional terms. The analyses focused on the intensity of contributing studies and articles to the Congress as well as on the structure of congresses in terms of sessions, problems and participating nations. The collected material was analysed in terms of Congress venue, form of sessions, country of origin of the university, and university affiliation (town where the university is based).

Studies of the Polish authors were divided into 3 groups: authors conducting research in Poland, authors preparing their papers in cooperation with foreign scholars, and authors of Polish origin working abroad. These 3 groups were referred to jointly as "Polish economists" [10, 12].

Papers were analysed based on the country where a given university is based. The formal scientific position of researchers, universities and countries was measured using indicators showing the intensity of contributing papers to the congress (per 1 author, 1 university and 1 country), as well as by measures related to the structure of active congress participants and the number of papers presented.

The following indicators were used as measures of the position of the Polish economists in Europe:

- the intensity of contributing papers to the congress;
- the intensity of contributing papers to sessions that are more highly valued (plenary, problem and organized sessions);
- session structure of contributed papers;
- the intensity of contributing papers prepared jointly with foreign economists;
- employment of economists having Polish origin in foreign institutions;
- chairing sessions [10].

Contribution of the Polish economists to the Congress work

The intensity and structure of papers presented at individual EAAE Congresses is a proof of Polish scholars' contribution to Congress work. The analyses performed indicate that the number of papers presented by Polish authors at subsequent congresses kept growing irregularly – from 239 in Warsaw to 667 in Ghent, dropping slightly at the congress in Zurich (Table 1)¹.

Hanf [5], and quoting him Woś [17] and Zawojńska [19] point out that following the second World War, the agricultural sector in economically developed countries is shrinking, while the research potential of agricultural economics is expanding. Such phenomenon (dichotomy) resulted from the importance of problems emerging in agricultural sectors of national economies as well as from contradictions of such process and the need for research (including searching for ways to address emerging difficulties), and also from the need to extend the scope of such research. However, based on the current trends it should be pointed out that the number of papers contributed to Congresses reached its apogee at the Congress in Ghent, as noticed also by Zawojńska [19]. Thus, it may be assumed that the number of contributed papers will keep falling. As a result, we will witness a process of adjusting research intensity to the importance of agricultural sector for national economies.

The proceedings of the EAAE Congresses may be divided into two parts – a pre-congress and congress proper. The former is dedicated to scientific workshops, agri-business events and occasional meetings, and the latter to plenary, organised, joint, problem and poster sessions. An analysis of papers in terms of session structure revealed that the share of pre-congress speeches in the analysed period was growing irregularly – at the Copenhagen congress it was equal to 4.9%, and in Zurich it dropped to 4.6%.

¹ The numbers of papers presented at congresses in Ghent and in Zurich differ slightly from those given in an article entitled “Potencjał naukowy uniwersytetów w obszarze ekonomii rolnej w świetle prac XIII. kongresu ESER w Zurychu” (Scientific potential of universities in the field of agricultural economics in the light of the work of the 13 EAAE Congress in Zurich [9], which results from changes in qualifying criteria for papers to be analysed.

Table 1
Structure of Congress work (sessions, group sessions and papers) according to the form of proceedings

Structure of sessions and papers	Pre-conference and official part – sessions				Conference part – sessions				Total		
	Pre-conference	Agri-Business Event	Euro-Choices	total	opening/closing	plenary	Of the hosting country	Organised and joint		Problem Poster total	
Number of papers	-	-	-	-	2	6	2	26	105	98	239
- structure	-	-	-	-	0.8	2.5	0.8	10.9	44.0	41.0	100.0
Congress in Warsaw											
Number of papers	7	-	1	8	2	6	3	55+12=67a	204	133	415
- structure	1.7	-	0.2	1.9	0.5	1.4	0.7	15.8	48.3	31.4	98.1
Congress in Zaragoza											
Number of papers	17	-	-	17	2	5b	5	40	181	99	332
- structure	4.9	-	-	4.9	0.6	1.4	1.4	11.5	51.9	28.4	95.1
Congress in Ghent											
Number of papers	24	3	-	27	1	6	5	141	260	227	640
- structure	3.5	0.5	-	4.0	0.1	0.9	0.7	21.1	39.1	34.1	96.0
Congress in Zurich											
Number of papers	21	6	3	30	2	6	2	96	224	286	616
- structure	3.3	0.9	0.5	4.6	0.3	0.9	0.2	14.9	34.7	44.4	95.4

^a + 11 speeches of panellists

^b + 5 speeches of panellists

Source: materials from congresses in Warsaw, Zaragoza, Copenhagen, Ghent and Zurich.

However, a vast majority of papers was published in the congress-proper part. Papers delivered at the last three congresses accounted for 95-96% of all presentations. In an analysis broken down by sessions, poster works were of greatest importance, followed by problem papers. The said two categories accounted respectively for 85.0% and 79.1% of works presented at congresses in Warsaw and in Zurich. The number of plenary, organised, joint and problem papers increased from the level recorded in Warsaw to that noted in Zaragoza and Copenhagen, and then it dropped. On the other hand, the number of poster works was dropping until the congress in Copenhagen, and then it increased. It may be assumed that this trend will continue.

What was then the contribution of the Polish economists to the work of the EAAE Congresses? To answer this question, first, one has to define the “Polish economist” category. Theoretically, 4 groups of authors making up this category can be distinguished, namely: (a) persons working (studying) in Polish scientific institutions and affiliating their work with institutions based in Poland; (b) persons working (studying) in Polish universities and preparing their papers in cooperation with economists from other countries²; (c) Polish nationals working (studying, on contracts) abroad and conducting their research abroad; (d) Polish economists with citizenship of their country of residence³. Group (c) and (d) may be combined into a single, wider group and analysed jointly, as has been the case in this study.

Considering the research aim – establishing the position of the Polish economy on the international science market – the first group of authors should be considered as being of primary importance. However, limiting the scope of analysis to this group would diminish the contribution of economist having Polish background to the development of world agricultural economics, and thus the second group of authors is also important. Also the authors from the third and fourth group cannot be eliminated from the analyses. Yet, their papers are created abroad. Thus they should be treated as a separate group, different than people working in national institutions.

Assigning people to the “Polish economist” set, in particular scientists from groups two-four, is to a certain extent subjective, which is caused by difficulties in establishing whether authors are Polish nationals. Assigning those people to the analysed category was based on the author’s knowledge, on consultations with researchers having broad international contacts, and on bibliographies of published papers of such persons as well as information found on web pages.

² At the Zurich congress, such work was formally affiliated to foreign scientific institutions.

³ Theoretically, 2 additional groups of economists with Polish background may be distinguished, i.e. people cooperating with Polish scientific institutions and people with Polish ethnic origin. The first group is currently non-existent in Poland, but it is likely to emerge soon on the international forum. Representatives of the second group may frequently be encountered at the EAAE congresses. However, many representatives of this group cannot be accounted for in any analyses, unless additional research is performed.

Table 2
Numerical structure of authors and papers submitted by the Polish economists to the last 5 EAAE Congresses

Papers	Sessions			Number of authors of Polish papers/total		Number of authors per 1 paper submitted to sessions			% of papers at plenary problem and organised sessions			
	Plenary	Organised	Problem	Poster	Total	Plenary	Organised	Problem		Poster	Total	
Congress in Warsaw												
National, affiliated nationally	2	-	1	2	5	7	1.0	-	1.5	2.0	1.4	60.0
National, affiliated abroad	-	-	1	-	1	1/2	-	-	2.0	-	2.0	100.0
Created nationally, total	2	-	2	2	6	8/2	1.0	-	1.8	2.0	1.5	66.6
Foreign, affiliated abroad	2	-	3	2	7	7/29	1.0	-	4.3	7.0	4.1	71.4
Total	4	-	5	4	13	15/38	1.0	-	3.2	4.5	3.2	69.2
Congress in Zaragoza												
National, affiliated nationally	-	1	1	3	5	7	-	1.0	2.0	1.3	1.4	40.0
National, affiliated abroad	-	-	1	2	3	3/10	-	-	6.0	2.0	3.3	33.3
Created nationally, total	-	1	2	5	8	10/10	-	1.0	4.0	1.6	2.1	37.5
Foreign, affiliated abroad	-	-	2	1	3	3/6	-	-	2.0	2.0	2.0	66.6
Total	-	1	4	6	11	13/23	-	1.0	3.0	1.7	2.1	45.5
Congress in Copenhagen												
National, affiliated nationally	-	-	2	11	13	13	-	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	15.4
National, affiliated abroad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
Created nationally, total	-	-	2	11	13	13	-	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	15.4
Foreign, affiliated abroad	-	-	-	3	3	3	-	-	-	1.0	1.0	0.0
Total	-	-	2	14	16	16	-	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	12.5

Papers	Sessions			Number of authors of Polish papers/total		Number of authors per 1 paper submitted to sessions			% of papers at plenary, problem and organised sessions			
	Sessions			Polish papers/total		to sessions						
	Plenary	Organised	Poster	Plenary	Poster	Plenary	Organised	Poster				
Congress in Ghent												
National, affiliated nationally	-	1	2	5	8	11	-	4.0	1.5	1.4	1.9	37.5
National, affiliated abroad	-	-	-	2	2	2/4	-	-	-	2.0	2.0	0.0
Created nationally, total	-	1	2	7	10	13/4	-	4.0	1.5	1.6	1.9	30.0
Foreign, affiliated abroad	-	2	2	6	10	10/26	-	2.5	2.0	2.8	2.6	40.0
Total	-	3	4	13	20	22/40	-	3.0	1.6	2.2	2.2	35.0
Congress in Zurich												
National, affiliated nationally	-	-	-	11	11	21	-	-	-	2.0	2.0	0.0
National, affiliated abroad	-	1	1	-	2	2/9	-	6.0	3	-	4.5	100.0
Created nationally, total	-	1	1	11	13	23/9	-	6.0	3.0	2.0	2.4	15.4
Foreign, affiliated abroad	-	1	2	4	7	7/14	-	4.0	2.5	1.3	2.0	42.9
Total	-	2	3	15	20	30/44	-	4.3	2.7	1.6	1.4	25.0

Source: materials from congresses in Warsaw, Zaragoza, Copenhagen, Ghent and Zurich.

A question arises whether the research scope should be limited to authors formally affiliated with Polish institutions. Such an approach would surely make the analyses easier. However, certain social context – national in nature – would in such case be eliminated, which would diminish the scope of knowing Polish economists' contribution to Congress work. Moreover, accounting for a broader research context makes it possible to show more clear strengths and weaknesses of Polish agricultural economics.

The Polish economists contributed from 11 papers to the Zaragoza congress up to 20 to congresses in Ghent and Zurich (Table 2, 3). The number of papers presented in Zurich did not increase – stagnation in the intensity of publications was recorded. More thorough analyses, however, revealed that paper contribution intensity to the EAAE Congresses by the Polish economist keeps growing – slowly but steadily. Also the number of papers submitted by the Polish authors keeps increasing. At the last Congress, this figure was higher thanks to the Polish economists working abroad.

Table 3

The structure of papers submitted by the Polish economists at the last 5 EAAE Congresses broken down by place of origin and affiliation

Papers	City where Congress was organised					Total
	Warsaw	Zaragoza	Copenhagen	Ghent	Zurich	
Created nationally – affiliated with national institutions	38.5	45.5	81.3	40.0	55.0	52.5
Created nationally – foreign institutions	7.7	27.3	-	10.0	10.0	10.0
Created nationally, total	46.2	72.8	81.3	50.0	65.0	62.5
Created abroad – foreign institutions	53.8	27.3	18.7	50.0	35.0	37.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: materials from congresses in Warsaw, Zaragoza, Copenhagen, Ghent and Zurich.

A weakness of the Polish papers is their relatively low scientific level – usually they are not qualified for highly noted sessions (organized and problem ones), but rather to the poster ones (Table 4). The situation of national papers is particularly unfavourable in this respect – such papers are mostly presented on poster sessions. The analysis broken down by congress showed that the greatest number of the best scored papers, including those created in Poland, were presented in Ghent.

In total, the share of poster papers presented by the Polish authors ranged from 30.8% at the Congress in Warsaw to 87.5% in Copenhagen. Their share at subsequent Congresses was between 65.0% and 75.0%. The greatest number of highly scored papers were presented at the Congresses in Warsaw and Zaragoza, followed by Ghent. The least number of such papers were presented in Copenhagen and Zurich.

The drop in the percentage of papers delivered at plenary, problem and organised sessions is particularly disturbing. Indicators showing the share of papers prepared by Polish authors and qualified for the said sessions were getting lower at subsequent congresses, dropping from 69.2% in Warsaw to 25.0% in Zurich (Table 2).

As pointed out above, papers created by Polish authors were divided, for the sake of analyses, into those prepared in Poland and those prepared abroad. In the first group, presentations prepared by national institutions on their own and presentations prepared in cooperation with foreign institutions were distinguished. Research results demonstrate that almost two thirds of papers (62.5%) were prepared by national authors, including more than half (52.5%) in Polish universities (Table 3). Papers created by authors with Polish background made up 1/3 (37.5%) of the total number of papers. A year-by-year analysis shows that the share of national papers was increasing until the Congress in Copenhagen, reaching 81.3%, and then it kept dropping gradually.

Table 4

The structure and dynamics in terms of the number of papers submitted by Polish economists to the last 5 EAAE Congresses, broken down by sessions (in %)

Congresses	Paper structure by session				Dynamics; year 1999 = 100%					
	Plenary	Organised	Problem	Poster	Total	Plenary	Organised	Problem	Poster	Total
	Sessions									
Warsaw	30.8	-	38.5	30.8	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0
Zaragoza	-	9.1	36.4	54.5	100.0	-	100.0	80.0	150.0	84.6
Copenhagen	-	-	12.5	87.5	100.0	-	-	40.0	350.0	123.1
Ghent	-	15.0	20.0	65.0	100.0	-	300.0	80.0	325.0	153.8
Zurich	-	10.0	15.0	75.0	100.0	-	200.0	60.0	375.0	153.8
Total	5.0	7.5	22.5	65.0	100.0					
- including national	4.0	6.0	18.0	72.0	100.0					

Source: materials from congresses in Warsaw, Zaragoza, Copenhagen, Ghent and Zurich.

The research demonstrates that papers of national (Polish) authors produced abroad or affiliated with foreign universities play a non-significant part in paper structure – they account for merely one-tenth of papers submitted to the discussed Congresses.

In the research period, considerable fluctuations occurred in the number of papers affiliated with foreign institutions. The number of such papers at Congresses in Copenhagen and Zaragoza was modest, being greatest at Congresses in Warsaw and Ghent, and dropping by one third in Zurich.

Papers prepared by national institutions dominated in the structure of national papers, papers prepared in cooperation with foreign universities were in minority (Table 5). Both groups of papers, however, were subject to considerable fluctuations at the analysed sessions.

What is the significance of the Polish papers for the achievement of the EAAE Congresses? Papers of the Polish economists had the strongest impact on the structure of publications at the Congress in Copenhagen. Even though the Polish authors did not present any papers at the organized session and only a few problem sessions, but their papers accounted for as much as 14.1% of papers presented during poster sessions. The total share of Polish papers presented in Copenhagen was 4.8%, and of papers of national origin it was 3.9%.

Table 5

The structure of papers submitted by the Polish economists to the last 5 EAAE Congresses, broken down by session (in %)

Measures of the position of the Polish economy	Papers presented at sessions				Total
	Plenary	Organised	Problem	Poster	
Congress in Warsaw					
% of papers from national institutions	50.0	-	20.0	50.0	38.5
% of papers prepared in cooperation with foreign institutions	-	-	20.0	-	7.7
% of papers from national institutions, total	50.0	-	40.0	50.0	46.2
Congress in Zaragoza					
% of papers from national institutions	-	100.0	25.0	50.0	45.5
% of papers prepared in cooperation with foreign institutions	-	-	25.0	33.3	27.3
% of papers from national institutions, total	-	100.0	50.0	83.3	72.7
Congress in Copenhagen					
% of papers from national institutions	-	-	100.0	78.6	81.3
% of papers prepared in cooperation with foreign institutions	-	-	-	-	-
% of papers from national institutions, total	-	-	100.0	78.6	81.3
Congress in Ghent					
% of papers from national institutions	-	33.3	50.0	53.8	40.0
% of papers prepared in cooperation with foreign institutions	-	-	-	15.4	10.0
% of papers from national institutions, total	-	33.3	50.0	53.8	50.0
Congress in Zurich					
% of papers from national institutions	-	-	-	73.3	55.0
% of papers prepared in cooperation with foreign institutions	-	50.0	33.3	-	10.0
% of papers from national institutions, total	-	50.0	33.3	73.3	65.0

Source: materials from congresses in Warsaw, Zaragoza, Copenhagen, Ghent and Zurich.

The strong position of the Polish economy at the Copenhagen Congress was achieved mostly thanks to national papers (81.3% of the total number of papers submitted by the Polish economists). In Ghent, the number of national papers dropped to 50.0%, which was caused by a lower number of national papers along with a greater number of papers submitted by the Polish authors from abroad. At the last Congress, national papers accounted for almost 2/3 of all Polish presentations, however, poster papers prevailed. At the said Congress, no national paper was presented at a problem session.

The analyses performed indicate that the total number of papers submitted at the last two Congresses has doubled, whereas the number of Polish papers submitted remained at the 2005 level (a drop in the share of Polish papers at Congresses in Ghent and Zurich to ca. 3.1%) (Table 8).

However, the last Congress saw some restoration of the position of the Polish economy: the number of organised and poster papers have increased, same as problem papers. Further action must be taken to reinforce this trend.

Published papers are prepared by individuals or by teams. All or a majority of papers submitted at the first three Congresses were prepared by individuals. At the Congress in Ghent, only 4 out of 10 the Polish papers were submitted by individuals (the corresponding figures for foreign papers are only 1 out of 10). In Zurich, 3 national and 3 foreign individual papers were submitted for the total number of 11 national and 9 foreign papers. This demonstrates that scientists increasingly tend to cooperate.

The indicator showing the number of co-authors per paper is growing, which proves that scientists work in teams. Such indicator informs about scientific and research cooperation, showing links between scholars, research centres and between science and practice [6]. In contemporary science, creating papers in teams is a standard, a norm; this applies also to the Polish economists. The average number of scientists preparing papers was 2.4 persons for the last two Congresses (Table 2). This indicator was higher for organized sessions, lower for problem sessions, and the lowest for poster sessions. The high indicator for organised sessions was connected with the implementation of research projects, whereas poster papers were usually prepared individually or by small research teams.

According to Paszkowski [9], Hungarian authors worked in most numerous teams (3.8 persons), followed by Austrian and Australian researchers (3.3-3.2 persons) and by British researchers (2.2 persons). The least numerous teams were those from Bulgaria, Canada and Sweden (2.0 persons) as well as Switzerland and the United States of Northern America (2.1-2.2 persons). Zawojka [19] notes, however, that the share of individual papers with Polish affiliation was among the highest in the analysed countries.

Structure of the Polish papers broken down by university

The structure of national papers submitted for the Congresses, broken down by university, is interesting. It turns out that the greatest number of papers (15)

was submitted from Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), followed by Poznań University of Life Sciences (12), the University of Warsaw, the Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development of Polish Academy of Sciences (IRWiR PAN) and Poznań University of Economics and Business (Table 6).

Almost four fifth (78.3%) of national papers submitted for the EAAE Congresses originated in these institutions. Papers presented at the latest two Congresses came almost exclusively (96.7%) from these institutions. Other universities that submitted between 1 and 2 papers included: Adam Mickiewicz University (UAM) in Poznań, University of Science and Technology (UTP) in Bydgoszcz, and University of Agriculture (UR) (currently West Pomeranian University of Technology, ZUT) in Szczecin. The leading centres of economic and agricultural thought in Poland are SGGW in Warsaw, Poznań University of Life Sciences and the University of Warsaw.

The analyses revealed that research in economic and agricultural sciences in Poland is increasingly concentrated and that major Polish science centres are getting more competitive on international science market. Besides, the role of leading university centres on the map of economic and agricultural research is getting more powerful.

Table 6

Structure of Polish papers submitted at the EAAE Congresses in 1999-2011, broken down by affiliation with the Polish universities

University	Congress in										Total	
	Warsaw		Zaragoza		Copenhagen		Ghent		Zurich			
Warsaw University of Life Sciences	-	-	1	10.0	3	21.4	6	50.0	5	33.3	15	25.0
Poznań University of Life Sciences	1	11.1	2	20.0	4	28.6	2	16.7	3	20.0	12	20.0
University of Warsaw	-	-	1	10.0	2	14.3	3	25.0	3	20.0	9	15.0
Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development of Polish Academy of Sciences	1	11.1	2	20.0	1	-	1	8.3	1	6.7	6	10.0
Poznań University of Economics	1	11.1	1	10.0	2	14.3	-	-	1	6.7	5	8.3
Above-mentioned universities in total	3	33.3	7	70.0	12	78.6	12	100.0	13	86.7	47	78.3
Other universities ^a	6	66.7	3	30.0	2	21.4	0	0	2	13.3	13	21.7
Total	9	100.0	10	100.0	14	100.0	12	100.0	15	100.0	60	100.0

^a Warsaw School of Economics (SGH), UAM in Poznań, University of Warmia and Mazury (UW-M) in Olsztyn, West Pomeranian University (UZ-P) in Szczecin, UTR Bydgoszcz, University in Białystok, Poznań University of Technology (PP), Institute of Logistics (IL) in Poznań, Institute of Building, Mechanisation and Electrification of Agriculture (IBMER) in Warsaw, Foundation of Assistance Programmes for Agriculture (FAPA) in Warsaw, President's Office and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Source: materials from congresses in Warsaw, Zaragoza, Copenhagen, Ghent and Zurich.

The Polish economists at foreign universities

Work of economists with Polish background at foreign universities is a different issue. Unfortunately, the situation in this respect is also not favourable. Only a few specialists in agricultural economics who have Polish origins enjoy worldwide reputation (Table 7).

The greatest number of papers written by Polish authors were prepared in the USA (12), mostly thanks to W. Florkowski. Also R.A. Babula, J. Ziółkowska and B. Niedźwiecka are engaged in academic research in the USA. Eight papers were prepared by authors with Polish background in Germany, in most cases in collaboration with JAMO in Halle and at Humboldt University in Berlin. In the 15 years that were analysed, 4 papers were prepared by E. Rabinowicz – in Sweden. Two papers were drafted in Belgium (Ghent), the same number in Denmark (Arhus and Copenhagen), and 1 in the United Kingdom (Edinburgh).

Table 7

The Polish economists at foreign universities and their cooperation with foreign centres in 1999-2011

Warsaw	Zaragoza	Copenhagen	Ghent	Zurich
USA, Griffin (4)	USA, Griffin (2)	USA, Griffin (1)	USA, Griffin (1)	USA, Berkeley (1) USA, Griffin (3)
The Polish economists at foreign universities				
Germany, JAMO (1)	Germany, JAMO (1)	Germany, JAMO (1) Germany, Humboldt University (1)	Germany, JAMO (3) Germany, Humboldt University (1)	
Sweden, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (1)	Sweden, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (1)		Sweden, Swedish Institute for Food and Agricultural Economics, Lund (2)	
			Denmark, University in Copenhagen (1)	Denmark, Aarhus (1)
OECD, Paris (1)				
			Belgium, Ghent (2)	
				Great Britain, Edinburgh (1)
Collaboration of Polish economists with foreign authors				
Great Britain, Edinburgh (1)	France, Paris, INRA, University of Paris (1)		Germany, JAMO (1)	Denmark, Friederiksberg (1)
	Team of authors from Great Britain, France, Spain, the Czech Republic and Hungary (1)		Finland, University of Helsinki (1)	Gyöngyös, Hungary (1)
	Great Britain Wayee College (1)			

Source: materials from congresses in Warsaw, Zaragoza, Copenhagen, Ghent and Zurich.

Generally, it may be stated that conducting research by Polish economists at foreign universities is a rare phenomenon. Unfortunately, a greater number of papers cannot be expected from this source in the near future.

Cooperation of the Polish agricultural economists with foreign authors

Scientific exchange plays a growing role in research and development at international level. According to Zawojka [19], 1/3 of co-authored papers were international in character. Papers originating in the USA and in Great Britain were internationalised the most (65-78% of papers).

Cooperation between Polish and foreign research centres is not well developed. At the Warsaw Congress, only one paper co-authored by a foreign person was presented (Table 7). At subsequent Congresses (except for the one in Copenhagen), 2 or 3 such papers were presented [19]. They were prepared in collaboration with JAMO (Germany), with the University of Helsinki, with Bonn University, and with Hungarian Gyöngyös University).

Chairing sessions as means of recognition by international community

The Polish economists are rarely asked to chair the Congress, however, they chaired sessions at each of the Congresses discussed⁴. They chaired fewest sessions in Zaragoza and most sessions in Zurich. Unfortunately, they are rarely appointed to chair plenary, organised or problem sessions, which are more highly valued by academic community. The fact that they chaired 4 poster sessions at the Congress in Zurich may be regarded as a turn towards improvement.

Thus, there is plenty to be done to increase importance of Polish agricultural economists on the European forum. They should be promoted in periods when Congresses are prepared; their participation in international scientific symposia should be intensified; and their collaboration in international research projects should be fostered.

Overall assessment of significance of papers prepared by the Polish economists for the EAAE Congresses

Papers prepared by the Polish economists were of greatest significance for EAAE Congresses in Warsaw and in Copenhagen. At the Warsaw Congress, such papers represented 5.4% of all papers, and at the Copenhagen Congress – 4.8%; national papers accounted for 2.5% and 3.9% of all papers, respectively (Table 8). Polish papers were least important in Zaragoza (2.7%), however, the share of national papers at this Congress was not the lowest and equalled 1.9%.

⁴ During the analysed period only one plenary session and one organised session were chaired by the Polish economists, respectively by J. Wilkin in Warsaw and by E. Rabinowicz in Zaragoza. Also M. Adamowicz and B. Klepacki chaired one problem session each in Warsaw, and E. Rabinowicz chaired a problem session in Copenhagen; poster sessions were chaired by: R. Zalewski (1), E. Rabinowicz (1), J. Wilkin (1), W. Florkowski (2), K. Zawalińska (1) and A. Zawojka (1).

The lowest rate of national papers was recorded at the Ghent Congress – 1.6% of total number of papers.

It should be noted that if we eliminate data from the Warsaw Congress, at which Polish papers had a privileged position, we notice that the importance of Polish papers kept growing from congress to congress. This was particularly pronounced at the Congress in Zurich.

Polish papers, however, were not presented (except for Warsaw) at plenary sessions and only to a limited extent at problem and organized sessions. The position of Polish papers at poster sessions should be viewed as favourable – at such sessions Polish papers represented from 4.1% (in Warsaw) to 14.1% (in Copenhagen) of all papers. At the last two Congresses, their share fluctuated between 6% and 7%, which is a satisfying figure.

Table 8

Importance of papers by the Polish agricultural economists at the last 5 EAAE Congresses, broken down by sessions (in %)

Measures of the position of Polish economy	Papers presented at sessions				Total
	Plenary	Organised	Problem	Poster	
Congress in Warsaw					
% of papers from national institutions in total in the overall number of papers at sessions of a given type	20.0	-	1.9	2.0	2.5
% of Polish papers in the total number of papers at sessions of a given type	40.0	-	4.8	4.1	5.4
Congress in Zaragoza					
% of papers from national institutions in total in the overall number of papers at sessions of a given type	-	1.5	1.0	5.1	1.9
% of Polish papers in the total number of papers at sessions of a given type	-	1.5	2.0	4.5	2.7
Congress in Copenhagen					
% of papers from national institutions in total in the overall number of papers at sessions of a given type	-	-	1.1	11.1	3.9
% of Polish papers in the total number of papers at sessions of a given type	-	-	1.1	14.1	4.8
Congress in Ghent					
% of papers from national institutions in total in the overall number of papers at sessions of a given type	0.7	0.8	3.1	1.6	
% of Polish papers in the total number of papers at sessions of a given type	-	2.1	1.5	5.7	3.1
Congress in Zurich					
% of papers from national institutions in total in the overall number of papers at sessions of a given type	-	1.0	0.4	3.8	2.1
% of Polish papers in the total number of papers at sessions of a given type	-	2.1	1.3	6.7	3.2

Source: materials from congresses in Warsaw, Zaragoza, Copenhagen, Ghent and Zurich.

In the course of research, attempts were made to assess the contribution of the Polish agricultural economists, using a scientific potential synthetic indicator, being a sum of products of the number of papers submitted for individual sessions and the ranks assigned to them⁵.

The analysis indicates that papers submitted for the Congress in Warsaw had the highest value (weight) – whereas the lowest value (weight) – after a drop at the Congress in Zaragoza – was given to papers submitted for the Congress in Copenhagen (Table 9). At the subsequent Congress in Ghent, the scientific potential synthetic indicator almost doubled, compared to the value calculated for the Congress in Copenhagen, and then decreased slightly (to 32 points) for the Congress in Zurich.

The high level of the analysed indicator, obtained at the Warsaw Congress, resulted from the rights of Congress host, and the positive outcome in Zaragoza “echoed” the previous Congress held in Poland. The critical assessment of papers submitted for the Congress in Copenhagen, even though their number was high, resulted from the fact that the majority of papers were submitted for poster sessions. Since the Congress in Ghent, the importance of papers submitted by Polish economists has somewhat improved, despite the decline of this indicator at the Congress in Zurich, due to decreased intensity of submission of papers by foreign economists.

Table 9

Position of the Polish economy at the EAAE Congresses in 1999-2011 measured by the scientific potential synthetic indicator

Congress	Affiliation of papers	Sessions				Total
		plenary	organised	problem	poster	
Warsaw	National	10	-	6	2	18
	Foreign	10	-	9	2	21
	total	20	-	15	5	39
Zaragoza	National	-	4	6	5	15
	Foreign	-	-	6	1	7
	total	-	4	12	6	22
Copenhagen	National	-	-	6	11	17
	Foreign	-	-	-	3	3
	total	-	-	6	14	20
Ghent	National	-	4	6	7	17
	Foreign	-	8	6	6	20
	total	-	12	12	13	37
Zurich	National	-	4	3	11	18
	Foreign	-	4	6	4	14
	total	-	8	9	15	32

Source: materials from congresses in Warsaw, Zaragoza, Copenhagen, Ghent and Zurich.

⁵ Papers presented at plenary sessions were assigned the value (rank) of 5, those delivered at organised sessions – the value (rank) of 4, at problem sessions – the value (rank) of 3, and poster papers – the value (rank) of 1.

Conclusions

The EAAE Congresses serve as an important forum for exchanging economic and agricultural ideas in Europe. The two last Congresses, in Zurich and Ghent, generated great interest, resulting from the problems addressed, the scientific value of papers presented, and the publishing opportunities offered by the organisers. The high level of participation of agricultural economist in the most recent Congress in Zurich resulted from the increased rank of poster sessions, where young scientists present their papers.

During the analysed 15 years, the dynamics in intensity of submitting papers from Poland to the EAAE Congresses was lower than for West European countries. The tendency of the Polish agricultural economists to submit papers for congress sessions of lower rank is a shortcoming of Polish agricultural economics. National papers are getting increasingly important in the structure of Polish papers.

The greatest number of Polish papers submitted for the EAAE Congresses come from SGGW in Warsaw, University of Life Sciences (UP) in Poznań, University of Warsaw, IRWiR PAN in Warsaw and University of Economics (UE) in Poznań. The participation of the above-mentioned universities in efforts of subsequent Congresses has increased, which suggests that research is concentrated in these scientific centres.

Low level of cooperation between Polish authors and foreign economists as well as limited scope of collaboration between Polish and foreign scientific institutions is disadvantageous for Polish agricultural economics. If the rank of Polish agricultural economics in Europe is to be improved, the intensity of submitting papers for problem and organized sessions must be increased. High quality of research papers as well as their publication in highly ranked scientific journals should improve the position of Polish authors at the European market of agricultural economics.

The lack of common methodological language with the West European economy seems to be a major problem for the Polish agricultural economics; therefore, in educating scientific staff more attention should be paid to improvement of research skills.

Low representation of Polish economists at EAAE Congresses is caused, e.g. by high costs of participation in such scientific events, and also – to a certain extent – with language barriers. Another reason is the lack of research dynamism, demonstrating itself as unwillingness to establish cooperation with foreign centres, and in not applying for grants from the EU funds or for foreign internships, and also in insufficient level of development of international scientific cooperation.

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