

**SPEECH BY MARIAN PODSTAWKA,
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NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

Dear Readers!

On 16 September 2020, a scientific conference was organized to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute (IERiGŻ-PIB). The conference was a great opportunity to recall and summarize the substantive activity of the Institute.

The Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute evolved from the State Research Institute of Rural Husbandry (PIGW) in Puławy that operated between 1917 and 1950. Initially, IERiGŻ-PIB was called the Institute of Agricultural Economics. In 1983, it was merged with the Institute of Economics and Organization of the Food Industry. This combination gave rise to the establishment of the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics. In 2004, IERiGŻ obtained the status of a national research institute. Thus, since 1 January 2005, it has been known as the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute (IERiGŻ-PIB).

Throughout 70 years of its operation, IERiGŻ-PIB has undergone various changes. These concerned both the name of the Institute, social and economic conditions, as well as the people managing it and working for it. Nonetheless, throughout its history, the Institute has permanently dealt in its scientific and expert work with economic and production processes in Polish agriculture and food economy, as well as the living standards of the population in rural areas. The scientific development of its employees as well as friendly and fruitful cooperation with other research centers in Poland and abroad has been another constant element of the Institute's activity. Furthermore, the Institute's research results have been permanently used in the state policy-making regarding rural areas and agriculture. The Institute prepares expert opinions concerning the situation in food economy and rural areas at the request of the most important state administration bodies (the Sejm, the Senat, the Office of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Finance, the Supreme Audit Office), govern-

ment agencies (the Agricultural Market Agency, the Agency for Restructuring and Modernization of Agriculture), courts and statistical offices, as well as enterprises, companies and associations of producers and processors.

I am pleased to present to you another quarterly issue of our journal *Zagadnienia Ekonomiki Rolnej / Problems of Agricultural Economics* (ZER), dedicated to this important event, i.e. the 70th anniversary of the Institute's establishment. It is a Special Issue that includes the texts of speeches delivered by our Honorable Guests and scientific papers based on the presentations shown at the aforementioned conference.

Published since 1952, *Zagadnienia Ekonomiki Rolnej / Problems of Agricultural Economics* is aimed at promoting the scientific thought of the Institute's employees and other authors dealing with issues related to agricultural economics and rural development. Our journal has always been regarded by agricultural economists as the most prestigious and highly substantive journal. Papers included in the quarterly have been treated in a special way in the assessment of the scientific achievements of researchers. We make great efforts to ensure that the journal has its rightful place in the hierarchy of scientific journals in Poland as well as in the major international databases of scientific journals.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all authors of papers published in *Zagadnienia Ekonomiki Rolnej / Problems of Agricultural Economics* for appreciating our journal. I would like to thank the members of the Advisory Board, the Editorial Board, and the Editors. I would like to express particular gratitude to the long-term Editorial Secretary – Professor Wojciech Ziętara, and the current one – Professor Renata Grochowska.

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Editor-in-Chief of ZER