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XXIX International Workshop of Agricultural Economists (Krasnobród, 16–18 June 2025)

XXIX Międzynarodowe Warsztaty Ekonomistów Rolnych
(Krasnobród, 16–18 czerwca 2025 r.)

From 16 to 18 June 2025, the 29th International Workshop of Agricultural Economists was held in Krasnobród (Lublin Voivodeship). This event, with a tradition spanning almost thirty years, brought together representatives from the academic community in Poland and abroad. The Workshop was organised by the Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Department of Management and Economics of Enterprises at the Hugo Kołłątaj University of Agriculture in Kraków, the Institute of Economics and Finance at the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, and the Faculty of Economic Sciences at the John Paul II Academy of Applied Sciences in Biała Podlaska. The event was held under the patronage of the Polish Society of Agricultural and Agribusiness Economists (SERiA). The main aim of the Workshop was to present research projects, doctoral and postdoctoral theses, and to facilitate the exchange of experiences between young researchers and distinguished members of the academic community.

Since 1996, the Workshops have been held in the Lublin voivodeship, with this year's edition taking place at a holiday and training centre in Krasnobród, offering

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excellent conditions for academic work and participant networking. Owing to their mission, high academic standards, and the resulting interest from the scholarly community, the Workshops have become a permanent fixture in the calendar of meetings for economists specialising in agriculture and rural development (Lichaczewska-Ziemia 2024). They were established on the initiative of Professors Bogdan Klepacki and Piotr Gradziuk, in response to a gap they identified in the then-existing system for developing young academic staff in the broadly understood fields of agricultural economics, agribusiness, and rural development (Gradziuk 2024; Gradziuk, Gradziuk 1999, 1997a, 1997b). From their earliest years, the aim of the Workshops was not only to broaden knowledge and support work on doctoral, docent/habilitation, and professorial theses, but also to foster the exchange of scientific ideas and experiences, and to build an integrative platform connecting young researchers with experienced academics (Wojciechowska, Lichaczewska-Ziemia 2023). Although nearly thirty years have passed since the first edition of the Workshops, the need to support the development of researchers at various stages of their careers remains as relevant as ever.

The 29th International Workshop of Agricultural Economists was formally opened by Professor Bogdan Klepacki (University of Agriculture in Kraków), PhD Hab., Associate Professor Piotr Gradziuk and PhD Hab., Associate Professor Katarzyna Zawalińska (both Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development of the Polish Academy of Sciences), who have for many years served as hosts of the event. Professor Klepacki, with a touch of subtle humour, commented on both current matters within the academic community and the organisational and substantive aspects of the meeting as a whole. His ability to respond aptly to any situation, while combining the seriousness of academic themes with a warm sense of perspective, created an atmosphere of openness and cooperation. Professor Gradziuk concisely outlined the historical context of the Workshops, which was particularly valuable for those participating for the first time. His commitment to organisational matters deserves special recognition – his efforts were carried out with great efficiency, punctuality, and professionalism. Professor Zawalińska emphasised the importance of the Workshops as a space not only for the exchange of knowledge, but also for shaping a new generation of researchers. Her remarks, delivered in a measured and analytical tone, complemented the character of the opening by providing the balanced perspective of a scholar deeply engaged in the methodological and practical development of her field. The extensive academic experience, excellent organisational skills, and goodwill of Bogdan Klepacki, Piotr Gradziuk, and Katarzyna Zawalińska gave the Workshops an exceptionally inspiring tone – at once friendly and deeply substantive – which was met with appreciation by all participants.

An important highlight of the first day's proceedings was a presentation by PhD Marek Zieliński from the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute (Instytut Ekonomiki Rolnictwa i Gospodarki Żywnościowej – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy – IERiGŻ-PIB) in Warsaw, entitled *Current Research, Expert, and Teaching Activities of the IERiGŻ-PIB*. The speaker outlined the wide range of activities undertaken by the Institute, which plays a key role in monitoring, analysing, and forecasting developments in Poland's agri-food sector. Zieliński discussed the main research directions pursued at the Institute, emphasising their importance for shaping agricultural policy and supporting decision-making processes at both the national and EU levels. He also highlighted the role of the IERiGŻ-PIB as an expert centre cooperating with public administration, industry organisations, and international institutions. The presentation demonstrated the Institute's significant contribution to advancing economic knowledge in the fields of agriculture and rural development, while at the same time serving as an inspiration for younger Workshop participants to undertake application-oriented research.

On the first day of the 29th International Workshop of Agricultural Economists, a special place in the programme was devoted to presentations by young researchers – Master's graduates presenting the concepts of their doctoral dissertations. In line with the idea of the Workshops, these presentations were met with a friendly yet demanding reception from more experienced participants, who shared valuable insights and constructive feedback. The speakers had the opportunity to respond to comments and engage in discussion, which will undoubtedly contribute to their further academic development and the refinement of their research concepts.

The presenters and their topics were as follows:

- Weronika Czerwińska, MA, and Łukasz Zaremba, PhD (Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute, Warsaw): *The Current Situation on the Fruit and Vegetable Market in Poland*;
- Martyna Mórawska, MA (Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Department of Econometrics and Statistics): *The Impact of EU Climate Policy on Structural Changes in the Farm Sector*;
- Weronika Kozerewicz, MA (Poznań University of Life Sciences): *Income Disparities in Agriculture in Poland and the EU*;
- Martyna Lichaczewska-Ziemba, MA (John Paul II Academy of Applied Sciences in Biała Podlaska): *Transformations and Regional Diversification of Farm Size Structure in Poland*;
- Jarosław Wojtowicz, MSc Eng (Polish Power Exchange S.A., Warsaw): *Warehouse Receipts as a Tool for Price Risk Management in the Trade of Agri-Food Commodities*;

- Przemysław Grzelczyk, MA (Poznań University of Life Sciences): *Financing the Energy Transition in Poland's Agri-Food Sector*;
- Aleksandra Perkowska, MA (Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development of the Polish Academy of Sciences): *The Functioning of Motorways as a Factor Shaping the Socio-Economic Situation of Adjacent Rural Areas*;
- Adrianna Wojciechowska, MA (Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development of the Polish Academy of Sciences): *Enhancing the Resilience of Urban Agriculture Systems in Poland*;
- Adam Drab, MA (University of Agriculture in Kraków, Faculty of Agriculture and Economics): *The Role of Imitation and Competition in the Harmonisation of Local Tax Rates*.

All the presentations delivered by the youngest researchers were distinguished by the topicality of the issues addressed and the strong commitment of their authors. The feedback received from professors and participants in the discussions provided a valuable source of inspiration and directions for the further development of the concepts presented. These contributions confirm the high quality and potential of the young generation of agricultural economists in Poland. Lively discussion and considerable interest among participants were also sparked by the presentation of PhD Aneta Bėldycka-Bórawska from the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, entitled *The Transformation of the Energy Market in Poland with Consideration of Renewable Energy Sources (RES)*.

On the first day of the 29th International Workshop of Agricultural Economists, a special place in the programme was devoted to presentations addressing issues concerning the Ukrainian economy. The presence of participants from Ukraine, both online and in person, gave the proceedings an important international dimension and prompted reflection on matters of exceptional topicality and socio-economic significance.

In the context of the ongoing war and the need to rebuild the country, the papers presented by Ukrainian researchers focused on the challenges associated with the reconstruction of rural areas, food security, and the role of natural capital in transformation processes:

- Vitaliy Krupin, PhD, Assistant Professor (Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development of the Polish Academy of Sciences): *The Countryside and Agriculture of Ukraine: Determinants of Recovery and Development*;
- Oksana Sakal, PhD Hab., Associate Professor, and Ms Mariia Bratinova (Land Management Institute of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine / Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development of the Polish Academy of Sciences): *Ecological and Economic Determinants of Land Capital*

in Agriculture and a Human Rights-Based Integrated Approach to Rural Development, Food Security, and Land Policy;

- Iryna Kostetska, PhD, Associate Professor (National University “Ostroh Academy”): *Strengthening the Development Potential of Rural Areas through Territorial Partnerships between Poland and Ukraine;*
- Mykhaylo Khvesyk, Associate Professor, and Mariia Ilina, PhD (Institute of Demography and Life Quality Issues, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine): *Natural Capital for the Post-War Recovery and Supporting the Resilience of Rural Areas;*
- Viktor Borshchevskyi, Professor (State Institution “Institute of Regional Research,” National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine): *Rural Development in Ukraine: The Institutional Dimension;*
- Viktor Yarovyi, PhD, Assistant Professor (State Institution “Institute for Economics and Forecasting,” National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine): *Monitoring Food Price Volatility in Ukraine: Implications for Ensuring the Right to Food;*
- Olha Nestor, PhD, Assistant Professor (State Institution “Institute of Regional Research,” National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine): *The Green Transition in the Post-War Reconstruction of European Countries.*

The presentations by researchers from Ukraine were met with great interest and appreciation by the Workshop participants. The research findings and analyses of the current socio-economic situation provided an important contribution to understanding the challenges facing Ukrainian agriculture and society, while also serving as an inspiration for further academic and expert collaboration between the Polish and Ukrainian communities.

A particularly interesting highlight of the second day’s proceedings was the presentation by Professor Mariusz Matyka, Director of the Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – National Research Institute (Instytut Uprawy Nawożenia i Gleboznawstwa – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy – IUNG-PIB) in Puławy, entitled *The Impact of Agriculture on the Environment*. In his address, Professor Matyka outlined the historical background of the Institute’s development and the scope of research conducted within IUNG-PIB’s activities, illustrating the complex relationships between agricultural practices and the state of the natural environment in Poland.

He devoted particular attention to the effects of agricultural intensification on soil and water quality, as well as on greenhouse gas emissions, while emphasising the need to implement sustainable solutions based on precise monitoring and innovative fertilisation and cultivation technologies. An important aspect of the

Professor's presentation was his overview of the Institute's broad range of activities and its role in the development of agriculture in Poland. This role stems not only from the scientific research it conducts, but above all from its efforts to apply this knowledge in practice.

The recipients of the research and development work carried out at IUNG-PIB include the agricultural sector in the broadest sense, government and local administration, as well as rural residents. The presentation attracted great interest from participants and served as a springboard for a lively discussion on balancing production and environmental objectives in contemporary agriculture. It was also of particular value in the context of research undertaken by young scholars, especially those incorporating aspects of agriculture and its relationship with the natural environment into their studies.

The presentations by PhD Hab., Associate Professor Adam Wąs representing the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, on *Sustainable Intensification as an Alternative to the Organic Farming System*, and PhD Hab., Associate Professor Katarzyna Zawalińska, on *Resilience – Classification and Policy. Examples from the BioMonitor4CAP Project*, were extremely interesting and inspiring for discussion on the second day of the Workshop. At the same time, great appreciation should be given to the significant contributions of Adam Wąs, Katarzyna Zawalińska, and PhD Hab., Associate Professor Tomasz Wojewodzic (University of Agriculture in Kraków), for their participation in the discussion and substantive support of the speakers.

Participants of the Workshop also had the opportunity on the second day of the sessions to listen to further presentations concerning the concepts of doctoral and habilitation theses:

- Paulina Cader, MA (University of Agriculture in Krakow): *Economic Growth and the Implementation of Environmental Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in European Union Countries Compared to the Economies of the United States and China*;
- Anna Dybała, PhD (Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce): *Transformations of Labour Markets in Less Developed Areas: A Case Study of the Eastern Polish Voivodeships (2004–2024)*;
- Grzegorz Czapski, MA (John Paul II Academy in Biała Podlaska): *Management of Public Funds as an Element of Combating Youth Unemployment in the Lublin Voivodeship*;
- Daniel Burakowski, MA (University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn): *The Phenomenon of Depopulation in Rural Areas in Poland*.

On the third day of the 29th International Workshop of Agricultural Economists, presentations by young researchers continued, and speeches were delivered by PhD

Edyta Łyzwa (Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce) on the topic of the Creative Economy, and PhD Jolanta Maroń from the Jagiellonian University Medical College.

An interesting issue concerning micro-credentials as a tool for the development of lifelong learning was presented by a team from the Open University of Warsaw University of Life Sciences – MA Maria Kołodziejczyk, PhD Arkadiusz Gromada, and PhD Hab., Associate Professor Marcin Wysokiński.

Additionally, PhD Hab., Associate Professor Anna Nowak and PhD Aneta Jarosz-Angowska from the University of Life Sciences in Lublin presented research results on the competitiveness of Poland's agri-food trade in comparison to EU countries. These studies were carried out as part of the lecturers' scientific internship at the Department of Economic Modelling at Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

An important and much-anticipated highlight of the program was the presentation by Professor Klepacki. It focused on methodological issues in economic research. Bogdan Klepacki, who has continuously participated and actively contributed to this event since its inception – the first edition of the Workshop in 1996 – once again shared his knowledge and experience.

In his lecture, Professor Klepacki concentrated on the issue of selecting a research sample, a key element in designing and conducting empirical studies. With great precision, he discussed the differences between random and purposive sampling, indicating their applications in different research contexts while emphasizing the advantages and limitations of each approach.

He devoted special attention to the representativeness of samples, the reliability of inferences, as well as the ethical and practical aspects of selecting research units. Professor Klepacki stressed that proper sample selection is the foundation of research credibility and an integral part of every economist's methodological toolkit.

As always, his presentation was clear, accessible, and enriched with concrete examples, facilitating participants' understanding of the rationale behind using specific research methods in relation to sample scientific studies.

It can be said with full confidence that the content delivered by Bogdan Klepacki constitutes an excellent compendium of knowledge not only for early-career researchers but also for those with greater experience in scientific work.

Klepacki's lecture was a substantive culmination of the Workshop, confirming his invaluable contribution to the development and continuity of this initiative. His constant presence, teaching activity, and commitment to nurturing the younger generation of researchers make Professor Klepacki not only a scientific authority but also a symbol of continuity and intellectual values upon which the Workshop is built.

The Workshop had a strictly substantive character, enriching young researchers with knowledge and essential scientific tools based on the experience of authorities from the academic world. Each presentation was accompanied by a lively, constructive discussion, in which both experienced professors and young researchers took part. Particularly valuable were the constructive criticism, the participants' openness to critical remarks, and their willingness to improve their research skills. The entire meeting took place in an atmosphere of kindness and mutual support, which fostered community integration and the building of lasting academic relationships. All these elements contribute to making each subsequent edition of the Workshop deepen participants' knowledge, create networks of contacts, and develop new research perspectives.

The building of lasting bonds and the exchange of ideas were fostered not only by formal meetings in the conference room but also by informal gatherings arranged by the organisers. After an intense first day of sessions, time was made for a kayaking trip; on the second day, participants had the opportunity to visit the Bukowa Góra Nature Reserve and the brewery in Zwierzyniec, as well as join an integration meeting around a bonfire.

Particular recognition is due to the excellent organisation of the event, continuously overseen by PhD Hab., Associate Professor Piotr Gradziuk. Thanks to the dedication of the organisers, participants were able to fully concentrate on the scientific aspects of the meeting, which significantly contributed to its high substantive level.

The 29th Workshop confirmed its unique role in shaping and supporting the development of young researchers in the field of agricultural economics. Observing the course of the Workshop, the prevailing atmosphere, the relationships among participants, and the kindness and care from the organisers, it can confidently be stated that the Workshop plays an invaluable role in the scientific development of many researchers.

It is worth quoting here the words of Piotr Gradziuk, who on the occasion of Professor Klepacki's career anniversary wrote: "One of the most important tasks of independent and experienced researchers, besides conducting research, preparing scientific publications and expert reports, and educating students, is to prepare their successors, the young scientific staff" (Gradziuk 2024, p. 22).

In Krasnobród, this task has been and continues to be fulfilled thanks to the knowledge, experience, and scientific passion of the organisers themselves, as well as the outstanding scientists and experts they invite. The well-known phrase from Bogdan Klepacki, familiar to participants of previous Workshop editions, was also present: "the more sweat in training, the less blood in battle" (Rzeczowska 2000, p. 134).



Photo 1. XXIX International Workshop of Agricultural Economists (Krasnobród, 16–18 June 2025)

Fotografia 1. XXIX Międzynarodowe Warsztaty Ekonomistów Rolnych (Krasnobród, 16–18 czerwca 2025 r.)

Source: photo in the possession of the authors, 2025.

Źródło: zdjęcie w posiadaniu autorek, 2025.

Appreciating the enormous contribution of the organisers to achieving the high substantive level of the Workshop, understanding their mission, and recognising its tangible effects, we eagerly await the jubilee 30th edition in 2026.

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