



LISTEN TO RURAL

U S Ł Y S Z G Ł O S W S I





SHORT FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS workshop no 24

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POLISH RURAL FORUM





Our agenda

- 1. Our responses to challenges**
- 2. Good ideas, practices, processes**
- 3. Our 3 proposals for governments & EU**



Short food supply chains

SFSC

- **SFSC definitions (intro)**
- **SFSCs in Poland (intro)**
- **Growing impact of SFSCs**
 - **Challenges**
 - **Good ideas, practices, processes**
 - **Proposals for governments & EU**



DEFINITIONS

Short Food Supply Chains (SFSCs) involve shortening the *distance* from field to fork by directly connecting food producers & consumers



Buy fresh, tasty food directly from the producer





DEFINITIONS

European definitions

The European Commission has defined a Short Food Supply Chain (SFSC) as a supply chain involving a limited number of intermediaries between farmers and consumers, committed to cooperation, local economic development, and maintaining close geographical and social relations.

Advances in digitization mean that SFSCs no longer need to be confined to 'local' as the direct producer-consumer relationships that underpin them can be maintained at a geographical distance and digital technology can connect many geographically dispersed producers with many geographically dispersed consumers.

European Commission [EC]. Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005, 2013.



CHALLENGES

How can/should rural areas take advantage of shorter food supply chains?



SFSCs in POLAND

- **SFSCs are a priority in public policy and rural development programming going forwards**
- **2017 regulatory changes introduced to allow farmers to process and sell what they produce directly to consumers. Still ongoing.**
- **2019-22 6x EIP-Agri grant rounds have provided support for 292+ farmer-led SFSC initiatives (so far €67 mln awarded!)**
- **2023-2027 Local Action Groups are to be a focus for SFSC investment in new Rural Development Programme + EPI-Agri**

Learn more **Eat Well, Know What You Eat Campaign on SFSCs**
(incl. short films) – <https://prostoodrolnika.pl/eng>





POLISH AGRICULTURE IN CONTEXT

Poland today

312,696 km²

38 million people, 40% rural

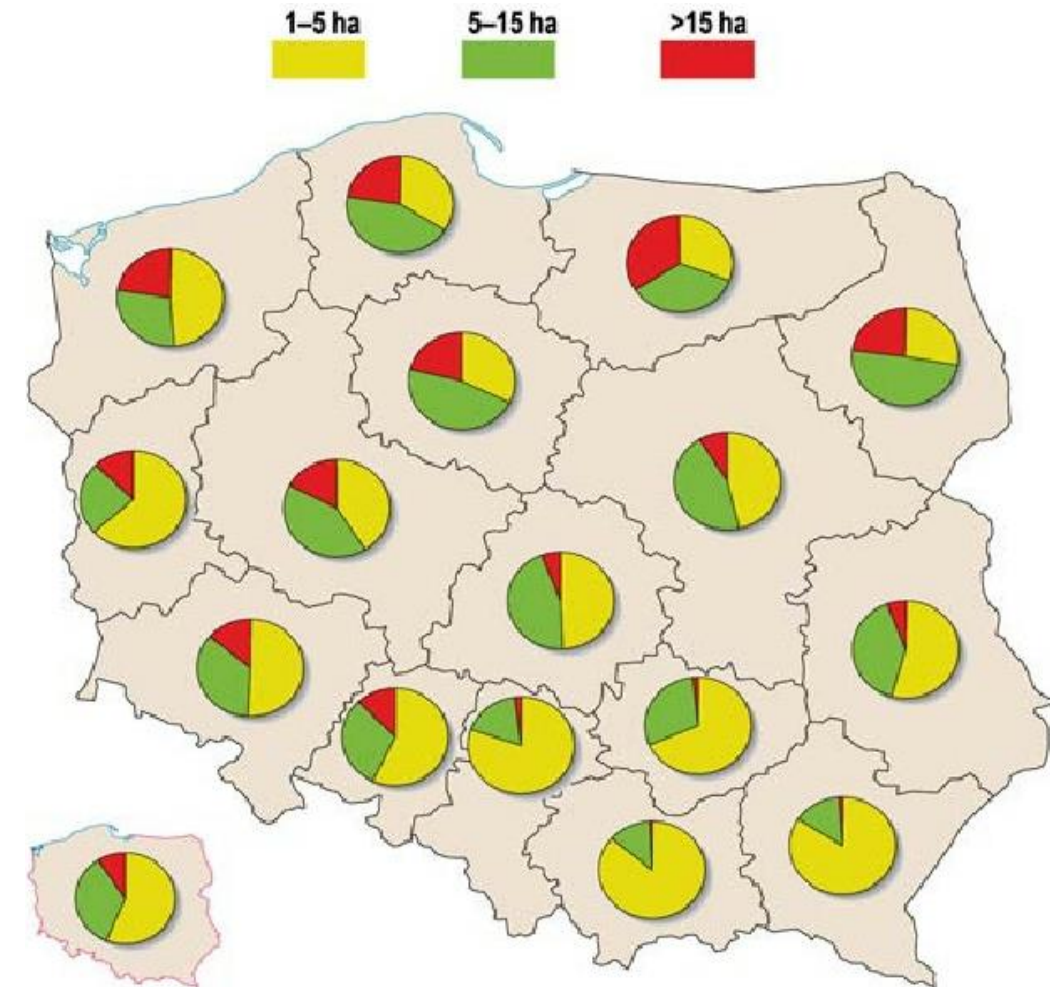
10% in agriculture

1.3 million farms (10% of EU farms), but regional large variations

11.1 ha is ave farm size, but 72% less than 5 ha, with many less than 2 ha

Emphasis on local markets for locally-produced food in policy and programming relatively new

Successful export-led agri-business based on large-scale industrial farming (6th largest food producer in EU, largest producer of apples)





Vision of Polish rural areas 2050



STRATEGIA ZRÓWNOWAŻONEGO ROZWOJU
WSI, ROLNICTWA I RYBACTWA
2030

- Rural areas in 2050 are an attractive place to work, live, rest and conduct agricultural or non-agricultural activity. They are also areas providing public and market goods while preserving unique natural, landscape and cultural values for future generations thanks to sustainable development of competitive agriculture and fishing. In rural areas, unfavourable demographic changes have been halted and the positive environmental effects of agricultural and fisheries production have been significantly increased. The agricultural system is based on family farms developing in a sustainable and responsible manner, using modern technologies. The contribution of small and medium-sized farms to ensuring sustainable agricultural development has been increased*

Growing impact of SFSCs

How to increase numbers of producers and consumers benefiting from SFSCs in a marketplace dominated by corporate retailers?

1. Responses to challenge of mainstreaming SFSCs
2. Good ideas, practices, processes - SFSCs
3. 3 proposals for govts & EU



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