

Local and codified knowledge - complementary or contradictive attitude of Polish family farms?

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Nowadays in Poland, agricultural production has less and less involved in the formation of GDP, employment and income of households. On the other hand, more than half of the country is developed as agricultural land, and in some regions agriculture is a basic form of economic activity - especially when consider that the dominant share in the structure have small, family farms. Thus, research on the determinants of the development of family farms have a long tradition in Poland. The range of factors determining the economic performances of farms have changed over time; nowadays knowledge is an important factor in agricultural performance. Embodied knowledge treated as a resource skills, is thought today to be a factor of success. It is usually identified with the level of education, which is a rough measure of the body of formal knowledge acquired. But owners of small, semi-subsistence family farms are characterized by typically the traditional model of knowledge transfer in which the predominant role of informal knowledge. It consists mainly in the conveyance of own experiences and the way in which acquisitions conducted by the ancestors. In the light of the theory related to the knowledge economy, this type of informal knowledge does not include the latest technological advances. The main purpose of the presentation is to prove that high technological, codified knowledge and tacit, local knowledge are related to each other and should not be opposed to each other. The primary source of data used in the presentation will be the results of survey conducted among several thousand owners of family farms in different regions of the Poland. These farms were diversified with respect to both the location and the size, production profiles and socio-demographic characteristics of owners. The analyses performed showed that both local and codified knowledge are important factors in everyday functioning of farms. The efficient management of farm is essential with both types of knowledge; they are complementary attitudes. Presentation prepared within research project 2011/01/D/HS4/03295, Models of knowledge transfer in agriculture and its influence on agricultural productivity - spatial analysis, financed by the National Centre of Science (Poland).

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