

LEGAL ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT IN SELECTED EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES

Krystyna Kurowska,
Assistant Professor

Jacek Kil,
PhD Student

University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn
Faculty of Geodesy, Geospatial and Civil Engineering

The administration and management of agricultural real estate properties that belong to the State Treasury in Poland are regulated by national laws. The Polish state, under the policy of farmland market, oversees the distribution of farmland among the private and public sectors.

The objective of this article is to discuss the role of the state's policy in operations on the farmland market in Poland. In it, dependences between average transaction prices of agricultural land and average lease fees will be presented, relative to the changing legal circumstances in Poland. Legal laws of trade in agricultural land in some European Union member states will also be described. Interest in the purchase of farmland is driven by

several factors, including agricultural production profitability, one of the strongest stimulants, which depends on price relations. The demand for land is also dependent on revenues earned by farmers and on the level of financial support offered by the state. However, the strongest impact on the farmland market is generated by legal regulations.

Keywords: agricultural real estate properties, farmland market, the State Treasury Stock.

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FOOD SAFETY VS ENERGY SAFETY IN THE CONTEXT OF BIOFUEL PRODUCTION

R. MARKS-BIELSKA, S. BIELSKI, K. BABUCHOWSKA, I. SEROCKA University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland

The concept of energy safety is deeply rooted in the policy of sustainable development, economic factors and socio-economic changes in transport and information technologies.

Food safety belongs to the most essential social needs and presents three, interconnected dimensions: international, national and household levels.

The purpose of this study has been to explore the complex problem of using agricultural origin energy resources for better energy safety, and their effect on food safety. Factors stimulating the growth in biofuel production have been presented as well as the theoretical mechanisms which link production of biofuels to the level of production and price volatility of agricultural products.

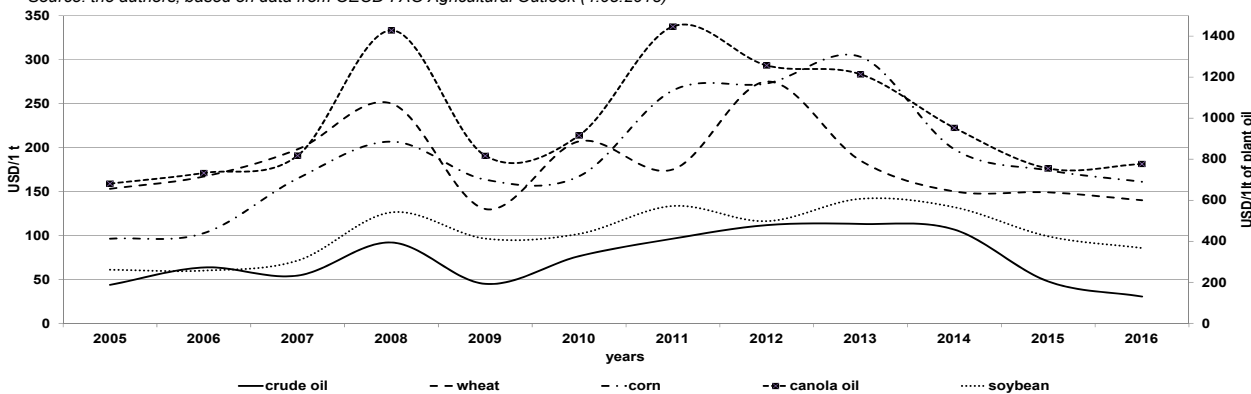
The global production of liquid biofuels (bioethanol and biodiesel) has been growing dynamically. In 2005-2016, it nearly trebled (from 49.6 thousand million l to 155.9 thousand million l) (tab. 1). Despite strong growing tendencies worldwide, the use of biofuels is still small relative to the global consumption of liquid fuels in transport. In 2016, it accounted for just 4.9% in the European Union.

Dependencies between prices of crude oil and prices of agricultural products used in production of liquid biofuels are presented in fig. 1. The global prices of agricultural raw products are clearly connected with prices of crude oil. The rapid growth of prices in 2011 was most probably caused by the unfavourable weather conditions, which led to a catastrophic decrease in yields in Russia, Kazakhstan and Canada. It is worth mentioning that as prices of crude oil increase, so do the prices of wheat, corn, canola oil and soybean.

Table 1. Liquid biofuels world/the EU (mld l)

| Specification | 2005 | 2009 | 2013 | 2016 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| bioethanol | | | | |
| Production | 46.0/2.8 | 89.9/5.6 | 107.9/6.8 | 119.7/8.2 |
| From corn | 20.6/0.1 | 49.3/0.9 | 62.4/1.6 | 69.7/2.4 |
| From sugar cane | 13430/0 | 23621/0 | 25632/0 | 28286/0 |
| % corn consumption | 44.7/4.9 | 54.9/17.3 | 57.8/23.8 | 58.2/29.0 |
| biodiesel | | | | |
| Production | 3.6/3.1 | 17.6/10.0 | 30.6/10.9 | 36.2/12.5 |
| From plant oils | 3.2/3.1 | 13.4/8.9 | 18.9/9.5 | 22.7/10.2 |
| From spent oils | 0.4/0 | 3.2/0 | 7.5/0 | 8.8/0 |
| % of plant oils | 88.1/98.7 | 76.2/88.7 | 61.8/87.2 | 62.8/82.0 |
| % from spent oils | 10.9/0 | 18.4/0 | 24.4/0 | 24.2/0 |

Source: the authors, based on data from OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook (4.05.2018)



Source: <https://www.indexmundi.com> (4.05.2018)

Fig. 1. Price of crude oil and some plant origin raw materials used for production of biocomponents

Methods

An attempt has been made to identify institutional conditions underlying production of biofuels in the world. Tendencies of global prices for agricultural raw products have been analysed as well as implications of selected instruments supporting production of such fuels for prices. The study was based on a review of agricultural economics literature concerning markets of agricultural products and biofuels, and their mutual relations. The information was supplemented with an empirical illustration using public statistics data (including EUROSTAT and FAOSTAT). The time range covered the years 2005-2016. The upper time limit was determined by the availability of statistical data, and the lower one corresponded to the rapid increase in liquid biofuel production from agricultural raw products. Special attention was paid to food safety and energy safety in the international context.

Over the recent years, opinions on significant changes in land use and in the shaping of prices for food products have been expressed more strongly. Year after year, there is a notably increasing interest in acquiring new land for energy crop production. A distinctly higher level of prices for agricultural raw products and food products as well as their higher changeability are also observed.

The use of bioenergy, including biofuels, is bound to increase. The interest in biofuels arises from the need to ensure energy safety, ongoing climate changes and rising fossil fuel prices. The first generation biofuels, by creating an additional demand for agricultural produce, have an unquestionable effect on the prices of the latter. Therefore, in the search for an equilibrium between energy challenges of the future and preservation of food safety, attempts should be made to develop biofuels of next generations (from non-food raw materials).