



Structure evolution and perspectives for the development of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria

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Objectives

The paper is a review of the state of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria during the 2005 – 2008 periods. The aim of the survey is to outline the main characteristics of agricultural production systems and actual changes in farm number, size and techno-economic purpose as well as the perspectives of their development.

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Main results: On the basis of the study It can be concluded that:

- There is a high importance of self-consumption of the agricultural production which is a sign of under development of Bulgarian agriculture.
- The on-going restructuring of agricultural holdings lead to a decrease of their number but the part of holdings with own UAA at the functioning farms remaining increased as well as its size – centralization of the recourses.
- The number of livestock farms increased but in 2007 the total number of animals continued to decrease – fragmentation of the stockbreeding in smaller farms.
- The quantity and quality characteristics of labour force followed a descending trend.
- In Bulgarian agriculture predominated farms with small economic size, specialized mainly in grazing livestock breeding or mixed cropping and breeding type.

These characteristics of agricultural holdings are inducing low economic performances of the sector. The only perspective for improving of situation is European funding but it needs transparent and strong control because of some corrupted procedures observed.