



Economic results of mountain organic farms in Poland

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Questionnaire studies were performed in the years 2004-2008 in organic farms breeding animals fed by fodder from permanent grasslands.

Economic results (Gross Margin) of 9 mountain and sub-mountain farms (Małopolskie and Podkarpackie provinces) were compared with those of 36 lowland farms.

The index was analysed against a background of the agriculture area (AA), capital assets value, soil quality index, employment, age of farm owners, herd size and milk production per cow.

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Main results

Mountain organic farms obtained lower gross margin than lowland farms both per ha and per person. They were characterised by higher share of grasslands, smaller animal stock, larger employment, lower costs of fuel, energy and hired labour and better efficiency of dairy cows.

In the study period, the gross margin in most mountain and lowland farms showed a slightly increasing trend during 5 years when calculated both per ha and per full-time worker.

Subsidies are an important factor for economic results. Their contribution to gross margin was 35.1% in lowland and 58.8% in mountain farms.

Production of organic food is profitable providing sufficient levels of subsidies.