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The size of an external patchwork of fields as an indicator of urgency for land consolidation and exchange on the example of the commune of Lesko

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Abstract

The patchwork of plots is one of the major factors that have a negative impact on both the organization and the level of agricultural production. Excessive fragmentation reduces the intensity of the work and increases the cost of agricultural production, thereby generating lower and lower income.

This paper presents data regarding the share of farmland belonging to non-resident owners in the commune of Lesko, which encompasses 15 cadastral communities. The data studied include the number of plots, their surface areas, and the number of owners. The study was conducted using checkerboard matrix tables which allow one to determine the share of farmland owned by local and out-of-village non-residents. An approach like this allows one to establish a program of exchange of land between these two groups of owners and to eliminate the problematic patchwork of land ownership through land exchange and consolidation.

Key words: *land exchange and consolidation, non-resident owners, patchwork of land ownership, rural areas*

INTRODUCTION

Different regions of Poland are characterized by different features which affect their economic development. In the Podkarpackie Province (Voivodeship), rural areas show a very low level of agricultural development. Large fragmentation of land-holdings and the type of soil found in this area make land cultivation more costly than in other regions of the country. The whole situation is exacerbated by extensive scattering of individual holdings. To amend the spatial structure of rural areas, exchange and consolidation programs should be developed for highly fragmented and scattered farmland, which would facilitate land cultivation in such areas, make it cheaper, and this way improve the quality of life of their inhabitants.

The aim of this article was to analyse the external patchwork of fields belonging to individual land holdings in the villages of the commune of Lesko, located

in the northern part of the Lesko county (district leski) in the Podkarpackie Province. The area of land belonging to local and out-of-village non-resident owners was determined for each village of the study area. As a last stage of the study, the degree of fragmentation of farmland in the villages of the investigated community was established using checkerboard matrix tables.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PATCHWORK PATTERN OF LAND OWNERSHIP

Fragmentation of land is a problem in most countries. It adversely affects agriculture by reducing production efficiency and enforcing inefficient allocation of resources (labour and capital), which results in increased costs and difficulties in modernizing agriculture [DUDZIŃSKA 2012]. In land management, a pattern of scattered parcels (cadastral plots) is referred to

as a patchwork (a checkerboard) of land ownership. Both in Poland and in other countries, checkerboarding (which gives rise to a patchwork pattern of land ownership) is usually a result of long-term historical processes. The Polish countryside occupies more than 93% of the area of our country [BALAJEJDER *et al.* 2015]. About 3 million hectares of agricultural land in Poland are characterised by a faulty pattern of land ownership [BALAJEJDER, NOGA 2016]. Factors that have contributed to this situation include economic and legal aspects of agriculture as well as socio-economic conditions [NOGA 1977; 1985a; 1985b]. From the point of view of administrative boundaries, there are two groups of patchwork patterns of land ownership, an internal and an external patchwork. The concept of a patchwork of fields was introduced into Polish agricultural geodesy in 1907 by Kocent-Zieliński, who defined it as an area of land belonging to one village, in which land owned by an individual farmer is not located in one piece next to the house, but is fragmented into a number of (usually narrow and long) parcels scattered over a large space and intermingled with parcels belonging to other owners [KOCENT-ZIELIŃSKI 1907].

Research on the external patchwork of farmland belonging to individual holdings in south-eastern Poland (Podkarpackie Province) has revealed serious defects in the structure of land ownership in this region. In the villages of Brzozów county (district brzozowski), out-of-village non-resident owners are in the possession of 7 146.8 ha of land divided into 23 394 cadastral plots. The plots are in the hands of 9 341 owners who live both in the investigated area, as well as beyond its boundaries [LEŃ 2009; 2012]. In the village of Będziemyśl, located in Ropczyce-Sędziszów county (district ropczycko-sędziszowski), land belonging to out-of-village non-resident owners occupies an area of 139.87 hectares, representing 26.67% of the total area of the village; this land is divided into 301 plots (20.01% of plots in the village) [LEŃ *et al.* 2015b]. In the village of Olszanica, located in Lesko county (district leski), 306 cadastral plots (24.3% of privately owned parcels) with an area of

149.53 ha (26.6% of farmland in individual holdings) belongs to 154 owners from outside the study area (26.6% of all owners) [LEŃ *et al.* 2015a]. In the village of Konieczkowa in Strzyżów county (district strzyżowski), 222 out-of-village owners have 483 cadastral plots (15.8%) with an area of 195.20 hectares, which constitute 17.7% of the total area of the village. In the village of Luteza, in turn, 19.9% of all plots are owned by out-of-village non-resident owners (1361 cadastral plots with an area of 531.93 ha, i.e. 18.8% of the total area of the village) [LEŃ *et al.* 2016].

Nowadays, it is recommended that measures be taken to eliminate both internal and external patchworks of farmland. Two such agricultural land management measures are land consolidation and land exchange.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data for the research in the form of a descriptive and graphical part of the excerpts from the land register were taken from the cadastral estate of the district office in Lesko. The analysis showed that out of 10 228 plots belonging to individual holdings, 3 030 parcels, i.e., 29.6% of the total number of plots, were owned by out-of-village non-resident owners. These plots occupied an area of 3 347.84 ha, i.e. 37.01% of the total area of farmland belonging to individual holdings. The plots were owned by 1 641 people who lived both in the investigated area as well as beyond its boundaries [LEŃ 2009; 2012].

As seen in Table 1, the largest area of land in the village of Lesko (270.8702 hectares, 61.3% of the total area of privately-owned farmland) is owned by out-of-village non-residents. A high percentage of land belonging to out-of-village non-residents was recorded in the villages of Manasterzec (268.7669 ha, i.e. 52.2% of land in the private sector), Dziurdziów (191.2490 ha, 54.1%), and Huzele (145.0285 ha, 58.8%). The smallest contribution of land in the hands of out-of-village non-residents was found in Bachława (34.0494 ha).

Table 1. Data regarding land ownership by out-of-village non-residents in the commune of Lesko

Name of village	Area of privately owned farmland ha	Number of privately owned plots	Number of owners	Farmland belonging to out-of-village non-resident owners residing in the area of the commune						Farmland belonging to out-of-village non-resident owners residing in Lesko county					
				owners		plots		area		owners		plots		area	
				number	%	number	%	ha	%	number	%	number	%	ha	%
Bachława	129.6348	220	112	17	15.2	31	14.1	21.34	16.5	6	5.4	7	3.2	5.445	4.2
Bezmiechowa Dolna	240.8211	677	210	37	17.6	86	12.7	25.52	10.6	4	1.9	12	1.8	3.455	1.4
Bezmiechowa Górna	316.9037	394	159	40	25.2	67	17.0	54.08	17.1	7	4.4	17	4.3	10.700	3.4
Dziurdziów	353.5109	491	143	27	18.9	52	10.6	24.93	7.1	7	4.9	24	4.9	11.930	3.4
Glinne	162.8883	352	158	27	17.1	47	13.4	17.93	11.0	16	10.1	31	8.8	10.210	6.3
Hoczew	488.7827	828	355	35	9.9	48	5.8	24.78	5.1	22	6.2	41	5.0	28.560	5.8
Huzele	246.4818	828	337	76	22.6	129	15.6	86.15	35.0	8	2.4	14	1.7	3.156	1.3
Jankowce	388.1461	1 146	337	59	17.5	133	11.6	55.08	14.2	19	5.6	50	4.4	14.520	3.7
Lesko	441.5178	2 220	1 342	331	24.7	575	25.9	202.40	45.8	28	2.1	35	1.6	4.617	1.1
Łączki	83.6214	271	171	65	38.0	103	38.0	33.63	40.2	10	5.9	14	5.2	1.972	2.4
Lukawica	114.1087	527	166	25	15.1	40	7.6	11.57	10.1	5	3.0	12	2.3	4.600	4.0
Manasterzec	514.6333	438	256	56	21.9	80	18.3	67.35	13.1	5	2.0	11	2.5	11.840	2.3
Postołów	193.4532	284	133	15	11.3	48	16.9	55.92	28.9	4	3.0	4	1.4	2.132	1.1
Srednia Wieś	728.1847	1 323	517	39	7.5	93	7.0	51.46	7.1	16	3.1	24	1.8	10.490	1.4
Weremień	137.4525	229	100	15	15.0	26	11.4	14.04	10.2	3	3.0	5	2.2	1.470	1.1
Total	4 540.1410	10 228	4 496	864	19.2	1 558	15.2	746.10	16.4	160	3.6	301	2.9	125.100	2.8

Source: own study based on Register of Land and Buildings (EGiB).

The largest numbers of out-of-village non-residents own land in Lesko, Huzele, Manasterzec, Jan-kowce, and Łączki (40.2%, 40.4%, 48.4%, 33.5% and 66.1% of the total number of out-of-village non-residents in the commune, respectively).

The patchwork of land in the study area was created as a result of both land inheritance and migration of people to cities. These activities contributed to the defective spatial structure of the villages in the commune of Lesko. For over a decade now, plots have been purchased in those villages by city dwellers for recreation and leisure purposes as well as an investment of capital.

The impact of towns and cities, which are administrative, service, industrial and cultural-educational centres, is reflected in the number and area of plots belonging to urban inhabitants. As illustrated by data in Table 2, the largest number of out-of-village non-resident owners in the analysed area are inhabitants of the town of Lesko, the seat of commune authorities. 268 owners from the town of Lesko possess 514 parcels with a total area of 416.0620 ha.

The numbers of owners and the areas of land belonging to them are quite varied and depend on the location of a given village in the commune of Lesko. A second town which exerts an impact on land ownership in the investigated area is the town of Sanok. Data showing what contribution of land in the commune of Lesko is owned by inhabitants of Sanok are given in Table 3. It follows from the analysis of these data that the largest numbers of owners from Sanok have plots in the commune town of Lesko, and the villages of Manastarzec and Postołów. In the remaining villages of the investigated commune, the number of plots belonging to out-of-village non-resident owners depends on the distance from urban centres (the larger the distance, the lower the number of non-resident owners from towns) and the available transport network.

Another town which has an impact on the structure of land ownership in the investigated area is Zagórz, a seat of commune authorities, which is an administrative part of Sanok county (district sanocki).

As data in Table 4 show, 26 owners from Zagórz have 50 cadastral plots with a total area of 59.0159 hectares. They own land in 11 villages of the commune of Lesko.

The structure of land ownership in the commune of Lesko is also affected by the vicinity of larger cities, Rzeszów and Kraków, which are administrative, service, industrial, cultural and scientific centres and capitals of provinces (Tab. 5 and 6). The spatial distribution of the numbers of owners from Rzeszów and Kraków and the areas of farmland in their possession are quite varied in the different villages of the investigated commune.

Apart from land belonging to out-of-village non-residents, there are also plots in the study area which are in the hands of local non-resident owners. The area occupied by those plots was calculated using checkerboard matrix tables. As data in Table 7 indicate, local non-residents own 619.7973 hectares of land, i.e., 13.7% of the total area of privately owned land in the commune. This area is divided into 1,125 parcels owned by 625 people.

The contribution of owners, plot areas and numbers of plots differ from village to village, which is due to the natural conditions associated with the geographical location of the commune, its transport networks, and the distance from Lesko, the administrative, service and cultural centre of the commune. A map showing the distribution of non-resident-owned land by area (size) is given in Figure 1.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The application of checkerboard matrix tables in the analysis and evaluation of patchworks of land ownership [NOGA 1985a] allows one to create matrices of any degree for one or many villages or communes. The size of a matrix depends on the extent of the patchwork of fields (what area it covers). To obtain information necessary to create a matrix, the area to be covered by the study has to be specified first. Then, data regarding the area of arable land, number of plots and number of non-resident owners have to

Farmland belonging to out-of-village non-resident owners residing in towns and cities						Remaining land owned by non-residents						Farmland belonging to out-of-village non-resident owners					
owners		plots		area		owners		plots		area		owners		plots		area	
number	%	number	%	ha	%	number	%	number	%	ha	%	number	%	number	%	ha	%
0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	5.4	8	3.6	7.2603	5.6	29	25.9	46	20.9	34.0494	26.3
6	2.9	7	1.0	5.7742	2.4	19	9.0	49	7.2	22.8266	9.5	66	31.4	154	22.7	57.5717	23.9
12	7.6	16	4.1	12.2028	3.9	13	8.2	32	8.1	40.9675	12.9	72	45.3	132	33.5	117.9533	37.2
4	2.8	6	1.2	8.3837	2.4	18	12.6	91	18.5	146.0048	41.3	56	39.2	173	35.2	191.249	54.1
2	1.3	5	1.4	1.6000	1.0	17	10.8	32	9.1	21.0800	12.9	62	39.2	115	32.7	50.8159	31.2
10	2.8	14	1.7	6.4218	1.3	24	6.8	71	8.6	44.3598	9.1	91	25.6	174	21.0	104.1237	21.3
12	3.6	35	4.2	14.1051	5.7	40	11.9	91	11.0	41.6152	16.9	136	40.4	269	32.5	145.0285	58.8
3	0.9	5	0.4	4.4165	1.1	32	9.5	51	4.5	26.0260	6.7	113	33.5	239	20.9	100.0423	25.8
58	4.3	82	3.7	10.6553	2.4	123	9.2	210	9.5	53.2447	12.1	540	40.2	902	40.6	270.8702	61.3
12	7.0	20	7.4	5.3160	6.4	26	15.2	30	11.1	13.0445	15.6	113	66.1	167	61.6	53.9630	64.5
11	6.6	21	4.0	4.6551	4.1	16	9.6	53	10.1	13.7021	12.0	57	34.3	126	23.9	34.5245	30.3
26	10.2	56	12.8	78.3409	15.2	37	14.5	51	11.6	111.2407	21.6	124	48.4	198	45.2	268.7669	52.2
23	17.3	36	12.7	12.7899	6.6	7	5.3	8	2.8	16.7491	8.7	49	36.8	96	33.8	87.5862	45.3
5	1.0	6	0.5	3.6252	0.5	20	3.9	45	3.4	36.4457	5.0	80	15.5	168	12.7	102.0227	14.0
1	1.0	2	0.9	0.2238	0.2	17	17.0	38	16.6	19.8742	14.5	36	36.0	71	31.0	35.6086	25.9
185	4.1	311	3.0	168.5103	3.7	415	9.2	860	8.4	614.4412	13.5	1 624	36.1	3 030	29.6	1 654.176	36.4

Table 2. Farmland belonging to out-of-village non-resident owners from the town of Lesko

Name of village	Area of privately owned farmland ha	Number of privately owned plots	Number of owners	Farmland belonging to out-of-village owners					
				owners		plots		area	
				number	%	number	%	ha	%
Bachlawa	129.6348	220	112	2	1.8	2	0.9	2.7101	2.1
Bezmiechowa Dolna	240.8211	677	210	27	12.9	71	10.5	19.2749	8.0
Bezmiechowa Górna	316.9037	394	159	12	7.5	25	6.3	18.8864	6.0
Dziurdziów	353.5109	491	143	9	6.3	21	4.3	6.3775	1.8
Glinne	162.8883	352	158	14	8.9	27	7.7	12.7287	7.8
Hoczew	488.7827	828	355	12	3.4	17	2.1	5.6185	1.1
Huzele	246.4818	828	337	64	19.0	110	13.3	81.7872	33.2
Jankowce	388.1461	1 146	337	30	8.9	61	5.3	23.1570	6.0
Łączki	83.6214	271	171	45	26.3	76	28.0	19.7216	23.6
Łukawica	114.1087	527	166	11	6.6	18	3.4	6.2000	5.4
Manasterzec	514.6333	438	256	19	7.4	24	5.5	17.3140	3.4
Postolów	193.4532	284	133	11	8.3	38	13.4	54.2340	28.0
Średnia Wieś	728.1847	1 323	517	3	0.6	4	0.3	0.7291	0.1
Weremień	137.4525	229	100	9	9.0	20	8.7	12.0613	8.8
Total	4 098.6232	8 008	3 154	268	8.5	514	6.4	416.0620	10.2

Source: own study based on data of Register of Land and Buildings (EGiB).

Table 3. Farmland belonging to out-of-village non-resident owners from the town of Sanok

Name of village	Area of privately owned farmland ha	Number of privately owned plots	Number of owners	Farmland belonging to out-of-village owners					
				owners		plots		area	
				number	%	number	%	ha	%
Bachlawa	129.6348	220	112	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Bezmiechowa Dolna	240.8211	677	210	2	1.0	3	0.4	1.5042	0.6
Bezmiechowa Górna	316.9037	394	159	5	3.1	6	1.5	6.1471	1.9
Dziurdziów	353.5109	491	143	1	0.7	2	0.4	1.5866	0.4
Glinne	162.8883	352	158	1	0.6	2	0.6	0.6800	0.4
Hoczew	488.7827	828	355	5	1.4	6	0.7	3.3917	0.7
Huzele	246.4818	828	337	5	1.5	12	1.4	10.6200	4.3
Jankowce	388.1461	1 146	337	2	0.6	2	0.2	0.1865	0.0
Lesko	441.5178	2 220	1 342	30	2.2	40	1.8	5.3524	1.2
Łączki	83.6214	271	171	6	3.5	8	3.0	2.7556	3.3
Łukawica	114.1087	527	166	6	3.6	16	3.0	3.5400	3.1
Manasterzec	514.6333	438	256	20	7.8	39	8.9	34.0927	6.6
Postolów	193.4532	284	133	13	9.8	24	8.5	6.0873	3.1
Średnia Wieś	728.1847	1 323	517	3	0.6	3	0.2	1.7200	0.2
Weremień	137.4525	229	100	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Total	4 540.1410	10 228	4 496	99	2.2	163	1.6	77.6641	1.7

Source: own study based on data of Register of Land and Buildings (EGiB).

Table 4. Farmland belonging to out-of-village non-resident owners from the town of Zagórz

Name of village	Area of privately owned farmland ha	Number of privately owned plots	Number of owners	Farmland belonging to out-of-village owners					
				owners		plots		area	
				number	%	number	%	ha	%
Bachlawa	129.6348	220	112	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Bezmiechowa Dolna	240.8211	677	210	2	1.0	2	0.3	1.9773	0.8
Bezmiechowa Górna	316.9037	394	159	3	1.9	3	0.8	3.9900	1.3
Dziurdziów	353.5109	491	143	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Glinne	162.8883	352	158	1	0.6	3	0.9	0.9200	0.6
Hoczew	488.7827	828	355	1	0.3	1	0.1	0.7893	0.2
Huzele	246.4818	828	337	1	0.3	8	1.0	1.2813	0.5
Jankowce	388.1461	1 146	337	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Lesko	441.5178	2 220	1 342	3	0.2	3	0.1	0.8743	0.2
Łączki	83.6214	271	171	1	0.6	3	1.1	0.8500	1.0
Łukawica	114.1087	527	166	4	2.4	4	0.8	1.0751	0.9
Manasterzec	514.6333	438	256	4	1.6	15	3.4	43.5247	8.5
Postolów	193.4532	284	133	5	3.8	6	2.1	3.5101	1.8
Średnia Wieś	728.1847	1 323	517	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Weremień	137.4525	229	100	1	1.0	2	0.9	0.2238	0.2
Total	4 540.1410	10 228	4 496	26	0.6	50	0.5	59.0159	1.3

Source: own study based on data of Register of Land and Buildings (EGiB).

Table 5. Farmland belonging to out-of-village non-resident owners from the city of Rzeszów

Name of village	Area of privately owned farmland ha	Number of privately owned plots	Number of owners	Farmland belonging to out-of-village owners					
				owners		plots		area	
				number	%	number	%	ha	%
Bachlawa	129.6348	220	112	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Bezmiechowa Dolna	240.8211	677	210	1	0.5	1	0.1	0.2504	0.1
Bezmiechowa Górna	316.9037	394	159	2	1.3	2	0.5	0.3946	0.1
Dziurdziów	353.5109	491	143	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Glinne	162.8883	352	158	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Hoczew	488.7827	828	355	3	0.8	5	0.6	2.1007	0.4
Huzele	246.4818	828	337	2	0.6	2	0.2	0.2895	0.1
Jankowce	388.1461	1 146	337	1	0.3	3	0.3	4.2300	1.1
Lesko	441.5178	2 220	1 342	16	1.2	23	1.0	2.8012	0.6
Łączki	83.6214	271	171	1	0.6	5	1.8	0.4553	0.5
Łukawica	114.1087	527	166	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Manasterzec	514.6333	438	256	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Postołów	193.4532	284	133	3	2.3	4	1.4	0.7825	0.4
Średnia Wieś	728.1847	1 323	517	1	0.2	2	0.2	1.7688	0.2
Weremień	137.4525	229	100	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Total	4 540.1410	10 228	4 496	30	0.7	47	0.5	13.0730	0.3

Source: own study based on data of Register of Land and Buildings (EGiB).

Table 6. Farmland belonging to out-of-village non-resident owners from the city of Kraków

Name of village	Area of privately owned farmland ha	Number of privately owned plots	Number of owners	Farmland belonging to out-of-village owners					
				owners		plots		area	
				number	%	number	%	ha	%
Bachlawa	129.6348	220	112	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Bezmiechowa Dolna	240.8211	677	210	1	0.5	1	0.1	2.0423	0.8
Bezmiechowa Górna	316.9037	394	159	2	1.3	5	1.3	1.6711	0.5
Dziurdziów	353.5109	491	143	3	2.1	4	0.8	6.7971	1.9
Glinne	162.8883	352	158	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Hoczew	488.7827	828	355	1	0.3	2	0.2	0.1401	0.0
Huzele	246.4818	828	337	4	1.2	13	1.6	1.9143	0.8
Jankowce	388.1461	1 146	337	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Lesko	441.5178	2 220	1 342	9	0.7	16	0.7	1.6274	0.4
Łączki	83.6214	271	171	4	2.3	4	1.5	1.2551	1.5
Łukawica	114.1087	527	166	1	0.6	1	0.2	0.0400	0.0
Manasterzec	514.6333	438	256	2	0.8	2	0.5	0.7235	0.1
Postołów	193.4532	284	133	2	1.5	2	0.7	2.4100	1.2
Średnia Wieś	728.1847	1 323	517	1	0.2	1	0.1	0.1364	0.0
Weremień	137.4525	229	100	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Total	4 540.1410	10 228	4 496	30	0.7	51	0.5	18.7573	0.4

Source: own study based on data of Register of Land and Buildings (EGiB).

Table 7. Farmland belonging to local non-resident owners

Name of village	Area of privately owned farmland ha	Number of privately owned plots	Number of owners	Farmland belonging to local non-resident owners					
				owners		plots		area	
				number	%	number	%	ha	%
Bachlawa	129.6348	220	112	31	0.7	63	0.6	30.0823	0.7
Bezmiechowa Dolna	240.8211	677	210	34	0.8	77	0.8	62.7344	1.4
Bezmiechowa Górna	316.9037	394	159	7	0.2	7	0.1	2.4364	0.1
Dziurdziów	353.5109	491	143	11	0.2	13	0.1	4.1177	0.1
Glinne	162.8883	352	158	34	0.8	64	0.6	29.3143	0.7
Hoczew	488.7827	828	355	56	1.3	92	0.9	53.1572	1.2
Huzele	246.4818	828	337	28	0.6	47	0.5	16.9171	0.4
Jankowce	388.1461	1 146	337	42	0.9	72	0.7	42.8821	0.9
Lesko	441.5178	2 220	1 342	268	6.0	514	5.0	280.8003	6.2
Łączki	83.6214	271	171	15	0.3	20	0.2	6.5510	0.1
Łukawica	114.1087	527	166	50	1.1	73	0.7	55.3848	1.2
Manasterzec	514.6333	438	256	12	0.3	21	0.2	10.2299	0.2
Postołów	193.4532	284	133	11	0.2	23	0.2	7.4642	0.2
Średnia Wieś	728.1847	1 323	517	18	0.4	30	0.3	13.2932	0.3
Weremień	137.4525	229	100	8	0.2	9	0.1	4.4324	0.1
Total	4 540.1410	10 228	4 496	625	13.9	1 125	11.0	619.7973	13.7

Source: own study based on data of Register of Land and Buildings (EGiB).

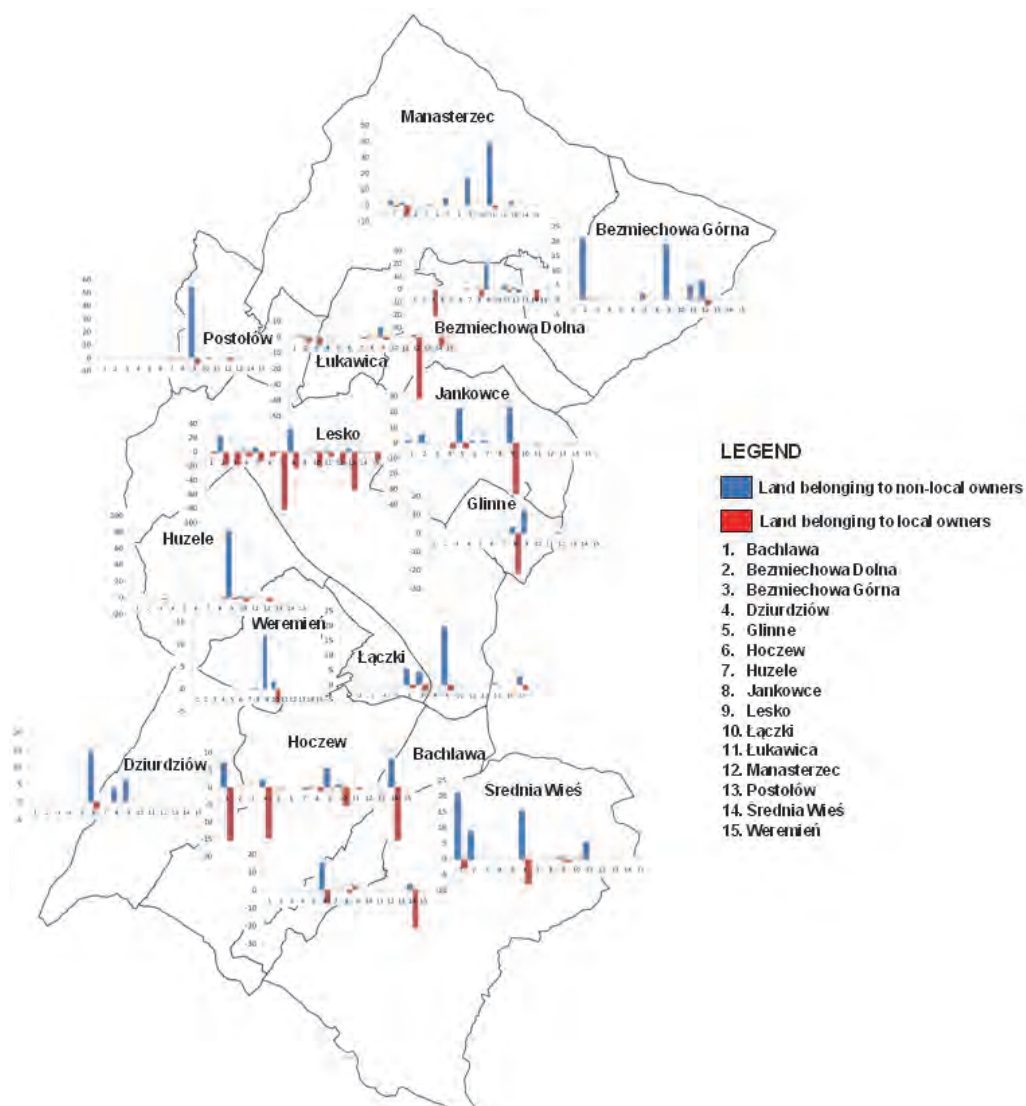
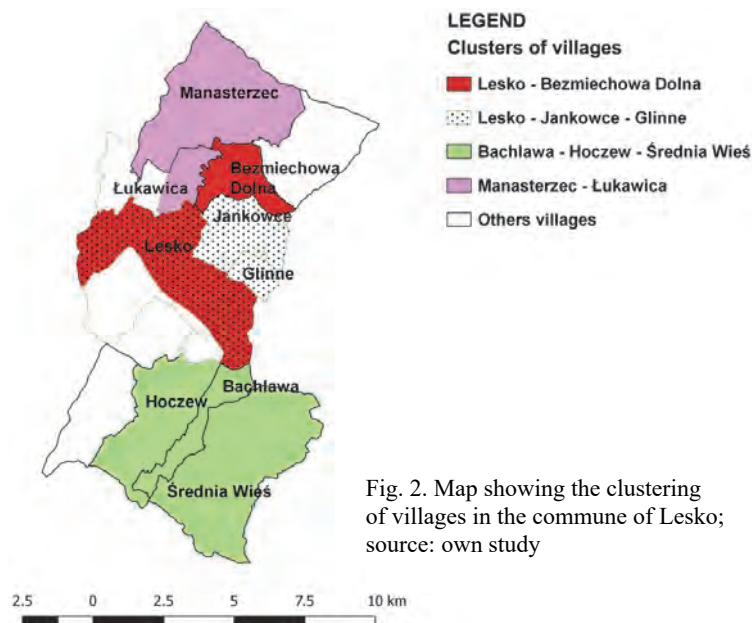


Fig. 1. Spatial distribution of non-resident-owned land by area (size); source: own study

Table 8. Matrix of the patchwork of farmland in the commune of Lesko

Name of cadastral community	Bachława	Hoczew	Średnia Wieś	Bezniechowa Dolna	Lesko	Jankowce	Glinne	Manasterzec	Lukawica	Huzele	Łączki	Weremień	Bezniechowa Górna	Dziurdziów	Postołów
Bachława	0.00	15.45	3.19	0.00	2.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hoczew	7.32	0.00	8.24	0.00	5.62	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	1.10	0.00	0.00	2.04	0.00
Średnia Wieś	21.08	15.30	0.00	8.86	0.73	0.00	0.19	0.00	5.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bezniechowa Dolna	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	19.27	0.51	0.00	1.06	3.01	1.11	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.00	0.00
Lesko	0.00	0.10	1.21	22.58	0.00	32.88	6.21	0.22	1.60	1.91	1.76	1.16	0.01	1.98	4.38
Jankowce	1.52	1.12	0.00	5.44	23.16	0.00	22.18	0.00	0.30	1.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Glinne	0.00	0.17	0.11	0.00	12.73	3.66	0.00	0.68	0.32	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Manasterzec	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.80	17.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.98	4.38	0.00	0.00	1.70	0.00	2.17
Lukawica	0.00	0.39	0.00	1.66	6.20	0.70	0.25	1.66	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.00
Huzele	0.16	0.42	0.00	0.00	81.79	0.00	0.13	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.94	0.25	0.00	0.09	0.37
Łączki	0.00	5.38	0.20	0.00	19.72	0.10	0.20	0.00	0.00	4.46	0.00	3.02	0.00	0.00	0.55
Weremień	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.06	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bezniechowa Górna	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.40	18.89	0.00	0.15	6.61	4.87	2.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dziurdziów	0.00	14.68	0.00	0.00	6.38	3.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Postołów	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.00	54.23	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source: own study.



be analysed. In the present study, a separate matrix was created for all the data. The results obtained in the matrix are ordered so that the highest values are situated along the diagonal, which allows one to identify areas of the greatest concentration of checkerboarded farmland. With a structured matrix, one can determine the degree of fragmentation and the territorial extent of the patchwork of land intermingled for pairs of villages and subsets of villages, but also for an entire commune. This method of analysing patchwork patterns of land ownership provides an easy and transparent way of determining the degree of fragmentation of farmland [NOGA 2001]. The results of the study are shown in Table 8. The analysis revealed the existence of a defective, external patchwork of fields in the commune of Lesko. To boost the development of agricultural production and improve the farmers' working and living conditions, land must be exchanged between local and out-of-village non-residents.

The analysis showed that there were links among the villages of the commune. The results are shown in Table 8 and, in a graphic form, in Figure 2. The first step towards amending the faulty structure of land ownership in the commune of Lesko should be to offer landowners a land exchange program which would bring fields closer to their place of residence. Such a solution would significantly improve the structure of the area under study and the living and working conditions of the inhabitants of this area. Cultivation of land in this place would become easier and more efficient with reduced costs and time of travel to and from a field.

CONCLUSIONS

The present study shows that the external patchwork of land ownership in the commune of Lesko,

analysed in terms of the area occupied by non-resident-owned plots and the number of owners and plots, is extensive. According to the analysed data, 2,273.9732 hectares of land in the commune of Lesko, i.e. 50.1% of privately owned plots, belong to local and out-of-village non-residents. This area is divided into 4 155 cadastral plots, which represent 40.6% of all parcels in the private sector. The analysis regarding the elimination of the external patchwork of land ownership in the villages of the commune of Lesko shows that there are interrelationships among the individual villages. These investigations helped us determine between which cadastral communities land should be exchanged first. The main causes of land fragmentation in the investigated area are migration of inhabitants to other cities in search of work, as well as marriages, and

inheritance of land. The study demonstrated that a large part of land in the commune of Lesko is owned by urban residents. In the case of parcels belonging to non-resident owners who live in cities, a thorough analysis must first be conducted regarding the area of these plots and their location. If they are located in a built-up and urbanized area or are recreational plots, they should not be included in an exchange program. If, however, they are part of a defective land ownership structure (an external patchwork of fields), they should be "re-located", in the process of comprehensive land consolidation, so that they are situated closer to owners who would want to lease them. Under no circumstances should consolidation programs encourage owners from towns and cities to sell farmland.

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Przemysław LEŃ

Rozmiary zewnętrznej szachownicy gruntów wyznacznikiem pilności wykonywania prac scalenia i wymiany gruntów na przykładzie gminy Lesko

STRESZCZENIE

Szachownica gruntów jest jednym z istotnych czynników wywierających ujemny wpływ, zarówno na organizację, jak i poziom produkcji rolniczej. Nadmierna fragmentacja zmniejsza intensywność prac oraz zwiększa koszty produkcji rolniczej, co skutkuje coraz niższymi dochodami. W pracy przedstawiono dane dotyczące gruntów różniczan, tj. ich liczby, zajmowanej przez nie powierzchni oraz liczby działek. Obszar badań obejmuje gminę Lesko, w której skład wchodzi 15 obrębów ewidencyjnych. Badania wykonano sposobem tablic szachownicowych, umożliwiającym określenie rozmiarów występowania różniczan zamiejscowych i miejscowych. Takie ujęcie pozwala na ustalenie wymiany gruntów między nimi oraz ich likwidację w procesie prac scalenia i wymiany gruntów.

Słowa kluczowe: *obszary wiejskie, różniczanie, scalenie i wymiana gruntów, szachownica gruntów*