

2 TYPES OF FARMING OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS BROKEN DOWN BY GENERAL TYPE OF FARMING AND BY REGION

The typology newly introduced in order to express the type of farming and the economic size of agricultural holdings brings more precise view to agricultural structures. Various impacts of different farming types or economic sizes to economic outcomes of the holdings can be analysed on the basis of this new system and newly established, more homogeneous groups of holdings with the same type of farming or economic size. Despite unavoidable simplification in basic definitions, there is an opportunity to compare economic outcomes of similar types of holdings at both national and international level.

The structure of farming types was evaluated for the whole area of the Czech Republic as well as for particular regions. Annex B1 provides numbers of holdings broken down by farming type in regions; Annex B2 shows shares of different farming types in the total number of holdings in regions.

With few exceptions, the basic type of farming within eight¹ precisely defined production sectors is based prevalently on groups 1. Specialist field crops, 4. Specialist grazing livestock, and 8. Mixed crops – livestock. Their share in the total number of holdings significantly changes according to soil-climatic and economic conditions of the production; on the other hand, the abovementioned groups usually form the production basis of particular regions. Even without distinguishing among small, medium, and large holdings it can be seen in the FSS data how existing natural-economic conditions influence the structure of the agricultural holdings.

The largest share of the holdings is formed by **Specialist grazing livestock**, which started to be preferred after accession of the Czech Republic to the EU because of a massive support of breeding suckler cows in the frame of CAP. Prevailing technology of animal grazing is typical for the Less Favoured Areas (LFA), especially in mountain LFA and other than mountain LFA.

Holdings of this specialisation, with usually high area payments, form ca 35% of the total number of agricultural holdings in the Czech Republic. However, it must be taken into account that approximately 70% of these holdings include small farms. As for particular regions, the largest proportion of cattle rearing is concentrated in Karlovarský kraj and Liberecký kraj (ca 70% and 64%, respectively), followed by Zlínský kraj (ca 58%) and Plzeňský and Jihočeský kraj (both 47%).

On the other hand, the farming type Specialist grazing livestock does not dominate in kraj Vysočina, where it accounts for only approximately one quarter of the total number of the holdings, and in Středočeský kraj, with a proportion of about one fifth; Specialist field crops play a dominant role there. Apparently, the production in this agricultural region is based mainly on traditional field crops and on mixed crops – livestock production. Holdings of both legal and natural persons in kraj Vysočina have adapted to mixed forms of agricultural production formerly prevailing in this region.

Important position has retained for **Specialist in field crops**, where accession of the Czech Republic to the EU has brought new opportunities for Czech cereals at the market. For the whole country, on average about 30% of the holdings belong to Specialist field crops. As for regional comparison, the largest proportion of Specialist in field crops is concentrated in Středočeský kraj (ca 50%), followed by Ústecký kraj, Olomoucký kraj a kraj Vysočina.

Generally said, soil-climatic conditions delimited by altitude, soil qualitative characteristics, erosion risks, terrain configuration and many other factors naturally define regions suitable for field crops planting.

The third largest group is formed by **Mixed crops – livestock** holdings, where the prevailing part is concentrated in kraj Vysočina with a proportion of more than one third of the total number of holdings. Agricultural holdings in this region still keep their structure of universal production with developed animal production. In other regions, this type of farming has retained on the level of one the fifth to one quarter, with an exception of Karlovarský kraj and Ústecký kraj. A specific situation exists in Jihomoravský kraj and partly in Zlínský kraj with a large proportion of Specialist vineyards and specialists in other permanent crops.

Despite an evident incomparability of the number of holdings of legal persons (HLP) and of natural persons (HNP), on the basis of the data available it can be deduced that a different production structure exists within both legal forms. In both cases, three abovementioned types of farming play a prevailing role, but their share in the total number is different.

¹In this publication, the groups 2. Specialist horticulture and 3. specialist permanent crops are not discussed because of insufficient proportion of particular farming types. The groups 6. Mixed cropping and 7. Mixed livestock holdings are included in the group 8. Mixed crops – livestock. Few exceptions from this rule are commented in specific cases.

Specialist grazing livestock play an important role among both legal forms; in several regions they share enormously high proportion. Share of Specialist grazing livestock in the total number of holdings reaches approximately three quarters in Karlovarský kraj and about 60% in both Liberecký kraj and Zlínský kraj (see Annex B2).

In fact, using a certain simplification, both HLP and HNP rely on field crops at similar level. Nevertheless, the share of Specialist field crops is slightly bigger for HNP than for HLP.

On the basis of the example of Mixed crops – livestock holdings can be concluded that HNP have simplified their commodity composition in the recent years. Particularly, the interest in traditional ways of animal rearing has decreased among HNP while among HLP, Mixed crops – livestock has still been a key type of farming in most of regions. Approximately one half of Mixed crops – livestock production type in the total number of holdings is typical for kraj Vysočina and more than 30% share can be found in majority of the regions, especially in Pardubický kraj, Olomoucký kraj, Jihočeský kraj and Královéhradecký kraj.

In Jihomoravský kraj, in both legal forms an important share of holdings belongs to **Specialist permanent crops**, which fact influences the total structure of types of farming (see Annex C12). It concerns especially **Specialist vineyards**, reaching almost three-fifths share of the total number of HNP in Jihomoravský kraj, while the share in HLP is about one third. **Specialist horticulture** and **Specialist permanent crops** play a certain role also among holdings of both legal forms in Zlínský kraj, Ústecký kraj and Středočeský kraj (Fig. 5 in Annexes).

The Farm Structure Survey 2010 also included a small group of holdings, whose type of farming and economic size could not have been determined. It concerns in total 125 holdings with fallow land or permanent grassland no longer used for production purposes and eligible for the payment of subsidies. EU methodology sets a value of standard output as equal to zero for such cases; therefore their classification was not possible.