IRRIGATION IN POLAND
- CURRENT STATUS AFTER REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Leszek Łabędzki
Institute for Land Reclamation and Grassland Farming at Falenty,
Regional Research Center in Bydgoszcz,
Glinki 60, 85-174 Bydgoszcz, Poland;
imuzbyd@by.onet.pl ; labl@poczta.onet.pl

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Abstract:
The paper characterizes the status, trends and perspectives of irrigation in Poland after the reforms in agriculture and technology. Irrigation in Poland has supplemental character. It is used in short periods during the growing season and plays an important role in mitigating the effects of drought on crop production. Sub-irrigation from ditches is applied on permanent grasslands, sprinkling - in field cultivation of arable crops, sprinkling and drip irrigation - in vegetable growing in open areas, micro-jets and drip irrigation systems - in orchards. Drip irrigation and micro-jets systems are also applied in plant cultivation in greenhouses.

Under the economic conditions of Polish agriculture irrigation is often an unprofitable measure. The existing irrigation systems and facilities are only used to a small extent. After changes in the forms of ownership in agriculture, the large-area sprinkling systems were degraded. Small irrigation systems, mainly drip irrigation and micro-sprinkler irrigation, have recently become more common in private farms. Sub-irrigation systems are largely degraded and used only to a small extent if at all. In order to use these systems more effectively, it is necessary to reconstruct and modernize them. In many cases the factor preventing the use of irrigation systems is the deficit of water of required quality and its availability. Besides unfavourable economic conditions, it is one of the main limitations in the development of irrigation in Poland.