

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, AIMS AND TASKS OF THE UNION

Edward Korczyk

Polish Union of Oil Plants Growers, Warsaw, Poland

I represent the Polish Union of Oil Plant Growers. In my address I would like to make you acquainted with the origins of the Union, its organizational form, aims and tasks.

From the point of view of ownership, in Poland there are state farms, co-operative farms and private farms owned by individual farmers.

Our Union represents private farmers who grow rape. The size of rape production in the private sector is big. In 1986 more than 570 tons of rape were bought from individual farmers, which makes about 40 percent of the total production of rape. In former years the percentage was more or less the same. Such a big size of rape production and number of growers has created a need for establishing a social organization of oil plant growers to represent interests of its members.

Our Union was established in 1957 as the Polish Union of Oil Plant Growers and keeps its name unchanged.

Our organization is self-managed and self-financed. It operates on the basis of its own statute and state legislative acts. Membership is voluntary. The organizatio-

nal structure of the Union includes the Central Board operating at the central level, voivod and regional boards, and groups of rape growers from one or several villages.

At the moment the Union has a membership of more than 130 thousand rape growers and several thousand poppy and mustard growers. The participation of members in the leadership of the Union results exclusively from free elections.

The Union employs 72 specialists who are well qualified for work in the organization to fulfil its aims and tasks. The financial activity of the Union is based on voluntary contributions of individual members, proportional to the amount of produce sold.

It is the task of the Union to protect interests of its members - oil plant growers and to stimulate progress in agriculture to increase crops per one unit of land area. This is done on many levels. Representatives of the Union take active part in negotiating terms of contracts for rape, poppy and mustard growing, in setting standards for seed classification and in other matters pertaining to the effectiveness of production in question.

Annual talks to negotiate purchase prices, in case of rape fixed by the state, are of particular importance to growers. These negotiations usually determine terms of contracts and for this reason the Union pays great attention to a thorough drafting of agreements. The whole production of rape, grown by the Union's members is under contract.

Parties to contract are state undertakings of the oil plant industry.

Contracting incorporates the area of rape growing as declared by the farmer and the quantity of seeds he estimates he will have from this area for sale.

The contract is fulfilled on the basis of the quantity of rape the farmer sells. Practically every quantity of rape grown on the contracted area must be bought by the contracting party, which is of vital importance to rape growers.

In case of a damage of crops by weather or due to an accident, the grower is free from legal responsibility for not having met the terms of the contract.

The contract also contains a number of other clauses to encourage farmers to grow rape, mustard and poppy. An important area of the Union's activity is the supervision of the purchase of crops in special delivery centres. The right of the Union to supervise the purchase of crops is sanctioned by major legislative acts. Specially qualified rape growers whose another function is mediation exercise supervision which involves such issues as the proper application of quality standards in fixing prices for crops, the correct settlement of accounts for crops sold, and a number of other issues connected with the sale of seeds.

The range of measures the Union takes to raise the output of seed per hectare is wide.

Agrotechnical recommendations by the Institute of Plant

Cultivation and Acclimation as to the technology of rape growing are leading in our schooling-informative activity. The specialistic service of the Union to implement and popularize these recommendations among growers takes various forms of lectures, shows and practical examples of use.

Every year about 20 thousand farmers attend courses of instruction. In addition there are field demonstrations /about one thousand in a year/ to promote new pesticides, recommendations for plant growing or new varieties of rape.

Recently our Union in co-operation with the Institute of Plant Protection has started field experiments upon the effectiveness of new plant pesticides. We also co-operate with foreign manufacturers of rape pesticides.

We plan to continue and expand the exchange of experience. Further plans of work at the Union are to follow the same line and apart from it to aim at selecting a number of growers who produce successful crops or are likely to have them in the nearest future. Other growers who will not get the right high level of productivity, considering the rising prices for means of production, will automatically get eliminated.

Another major line of our activity is the improvement of the quality of seeds produced. Growers should meet deadlines and apply methods of seed harvesting which ensure a low level of leftovers, especially useful ones, humidity

and the quality of oil in seeds.

We are aware of the fact that along with the development of rape growing technology the Union's tasks will be more numerous and methods of work will be further modified.

In conclusion I would like to say a few words about myself. I have been elected to be Chairman of the Central Board of the Polish Union of Oil Plant Growers. In every day life I am a farmer. I have a 16 hectare area of land. Every year I grow rape on the area of 3 - 6 hectares, and I get crops from 35 to 40 quintals.

Thank you for your attention. On behalf of the Central Board of the Polish Union of Oil Plant Growers and personally, I wish all participants of the 7th Rape Congress good health and much success in work and personal life.

I would also like to ask you to give my warm regards to all rape growers in your countries.