

ABSTRACT

Knowledge—Space—Village. The presented monograph has two objectives. The scientific goal is to analyze key aspects of rural development. The second objective, no less important, is to commemorate the scientific activity and person of Professor Konrad Czapiewski.

The publication begins with a reminder of Konrad Czapiewski's biography and scientific achievements (including publications). The following sections are substantive chapters on key challenges of rural development.

The first chapter addresses the relationship between the two approaches, i.e. structural (rural areas) and social settlement (countryside). The research reflection undertaken in the chapter deals not only with the transformation of structures and processes but also points to a change in methodological approaches and the need for local research.

The second chapter, which is a combination of a research article and an essay, deals with considerations related to the future—the vision of rural development in the 2035 perspective. The authors note that just as it is difficult to clearly define the countryside (these are very diverse areas), it is also difficult to formulate a single vision for the development of these areas.

The third chapter—the authors of the study attempted to identify the characteristics that differentiate the suburban area from the city and the countryside. Their goal was to identify the features that may indicate its distinctiveness. Using the example of several Polish cities, the authors tried to identify indicators that can be used to determine the spatial extent of the suburban zone.

The aim of the fourth chapter is to characterize the basic trends of changes taking place in rural areas and to determine the main types of areas that can be observed in terms of “moving away from agriculture” on the territory of Poland. Quantitative research was conducted in the system of statistical localities for data available through the Local Data Bank (for the period 2004–2019) based on the method of obtaining a Perkal's synthetic development indicator.

Chapter five addresses the growing complexity of the policies towards agriculture and rural areas calls for filling in the data and knowledge gaps being identified in the process of policy design and implementation. The creation of data and knowledge is crucial for better policy governance but this is not sufficient. The new evidence-base must be effectively transferred to stakeholders to shape their activities. Based on the analysis of knowledge transfer aspects in the CAP and the EU research policy the paper shows the interlinkages between research and agriculture in the EU. The study shows that they are getting stronger and multi-directional but there is still need to make them operate more effectively.

Chapter six deals with the implementation of innovation in rural areas. As a case study, the Lubelskie Voivodeship, which is counted among the problem areas throughout Europe, is analysed. Counteracting the negative effects of socio-economic transformations observed in Lubelskie Voivodeship implies taking innovative measures that improve the quality of life and increase the stock of human and social capital.

Chapter seven indicates that the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted a number of problems in rural areas, including those related to remote learning. Access to this form of learning was a major challenge, especially in post state farms areas, often classified as areas at risk of permanent marginalization. As the authors point out, the pandemic revealed difficulties in accessing public services, a shortage of computer equipment, or difficulties in accessing the Internet, which affected children's fulfillment of their school duties.

Keywords: Agricultural policy, development of rural areas, digitization, innovation rural areas, knowledge transfer.