

Patryk Kalinowski, “A family farm as a component of Poland's food security - a legal assessment”

Summary of doctoral dissertation:

The chosen doctoral thesis topic regards two primary research assumptions. The first one implies that there is a need for a legal analysis of the food security domain, and the second that particular attention should be paid to a family farm institution as part of such an analysis.

Food security - as defined by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations - is a state “*when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life*”. Nowadays, it is one of the primary challenges for humanity and the task of every state to achieve and maintain the food security. The topicality of these issues became apparent for instance at the time of the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemics or the war in Ukraine. Hence, the work is somehow a part of a trend of this issue getting on importance.

The subject matter of the work has been brought down to the family farm institution and regulations governing it. This choice is justified with a unique place this institution holds in a food security system. The work adopts concepts of a family farm that differ from those found in Polish regulations; in a nutshell, it can be said to refer to farms that supply food to the market and have a family character.

Research objectives of the work are related to a research gap related to legal aspects of food security and legal instruments for its implementation, especially with regard to the institution of a family farm. Furthermore, an additional objective is to develop *de lege ferenda* postulates for reinforcing the position of those farms in the food security system.

Research hypotheses refer to a unique (in legal and factual terms) role played by the family farm institution in Poland. They concern such issues as hypotheses regarding: the provision of majority of key resources for national food security by those farms; food security as a meta-function of family farms; special features of family farms in terms of shaping the national food security; insufficient regulations governing this institution in the context of food security; strong grounds (arising from international law, EU law, the Constitution of the Republic of Poland and various policies implemented by Poland) for treating the family farm institution as a fundamental one in the regulations for the national food security; lack of comprehensive and

food security oriented regulation for the family farm, hindering the implementation of objectives in this respect.

In all seven chapters, the main axis for deliberation is the food security. The family farm institution itself is analysed precisely from the food security perspective. Therefore, starting from a general concept of food security, the deliberations move towards a legal institution of a family farm and its significance for food security. The adopted assumption required a presentation of some broader, more general and introductory notions on food security, without which the reception of the work would be very difficult (e.g., conceptual issues, food security measurement, its main threats). The last chapter includes conclusions from the research hypotheses and *de lege ferenda* postulates for changes in legal instruments which can be used for shaping of food security within the framework of a family farm institution. What is more, postulates for the creation of a food security policy in Poland were presented.