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AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN SLOVAKIA

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Abstract: In spite of a decreased number of agricultural cooperatives and a loss of cultivated land acreage, the agricultural cooperatives in Slovakia still represent the most important legal form of enterprise in agriculture. The paper tries to answer the question why the agricultural cooperatives in Slovakia still maintain their dominant position in agricultural business while in other countries of Central Europe agricultural cooperatives play only an insignificant role. Based on the results of the study, the authors state that also in the future the Slovak agricultural cooperatives will continue to be not only the main producer of agricultural commodities but also they will play a growing role in social and environmental spheres and other non-agricultural activities in rural areas.

JEL Classification: Q13, Q18

Key words: cooperatives, legal form, rural development, economic situation

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