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## Organization and aims of the Union of Growers and Processors of Oilseed Crops in Prague and oilseed rape growing in the Czech Republic

### Organizacja i cele Zrzeszenia Plantatorów i Przetwórców Nasion Roślin Oleistych w Pradze oraz uprawa rzepaku w Republice Czeskiej

Key words: oilseed rape, cultivation technology

Słowa kluczowe: rzepak ozimy, technologia uprawy

W pracy przedstawiono powody powołania, historię, strukturę i pozycję Zrzeszenia (SPZO) w sektorze rolnym Republiki Czeskiej. Szczegółowo omówiono działalność SPZO w przekazywaniu podstawowych informacji naukowo-technicznych (mechanizacja, stosowanie regulatorów wzrostu, herbicydów i innych preparatów, prowadzenie prezentacji marketingowych), o praktycznym stosowaniu wiedzy naukowej przez plantatorów. Zadaniem naszego Zrzeszenia jest udzielanie obiektywnych informacji — bez czerpania z tego żadnych korzyści finansowych — które mają służyć plantatorom pomocą przy wyborze optymalnej technologii uprawy rzepaku. Obecnie bardzo ważną sprawą jest sposób wykorzystywania rzepaku w powiązaniu z rynkiem europejskim. Śledzimy rozwój produkcji nasion oleistych w Republice Czeskiej, koszty i zasadnicze zmiany w pomocy rządu dla paliwa „bio diesel” w kontekście przystąpienia do Unii Europejskiej. Jednym z podstawowych zakresów działalności SPZO jest badanie w doświadczeniach różnych czynników wpływających na uprawę rzepaku. Wśród licznych doświadczeń najważniejsze są prowadzone w warunkach półprodukcyjnych badania odmian i przekazywanie wyników rolnikom. Wyniki te znacząco uzupełniają dane z oficjalnych małopoletkowych doświadczeń ÚKZÚZ (Centralny Instytut Nadzoru

The paper describes the origins, history, structure of membership and the position of SPZO in agricultural sector in the Czech Republic. The activities of SPZO connected with the transmission of basic scientific and technical information (mechanization, growth regulators application, herbicides, other agrochemicals, crop management and marketing) and practical applying of scientific knowledge by growers are depicted here in detail. Our union's effort is to give objective information without any commercial interests, which later serves for better choice of an optimal rape growing technology. Recently the balance of using rape and the attachment to the European market is a very important sphere. We are watching the production development of oil plants in the Czech Republic, costs and the latest changes in government sphere for supporting the bio diesel, in the context of joining the European Union. One of the principal activities of SPZO is experimental testing of various factors that influence rape growing. Among various experimental trials the most important is the semi-operating testing of varieties and consecutive showing of the results to agricultural public. These results considerably complete official small-plot testing of ÚKZÚZ (Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture). The activity and counselling of

i Badań w Rolnictwie). Opinia SPZO jest decydującą przy wyborze odmian do uprawy w praktyce.

SPZO become decisive for choosing the varieties for growing in practice.

## History

The System of Rapeseed Production (SVR) was established at the Czech University of Agriculture, Prague in 1983. Based on it — after social changes in Czechoslovakia (1989) — Union of Growers and Processors of Oilseed Crops (SPZO) was set up in 1990. The organization structure and the name was changed, but the targets are still the same.

This association of researchers, growers and processors determined their own targets in rapeseed production: to enlarge growing area, to increase and stabilise yields, and – last but not least – to improve quality of delivered rapeseed (change from 0 to 00 varieties). These aims were fulfilled step by step (Fig. 1, 2, 3).

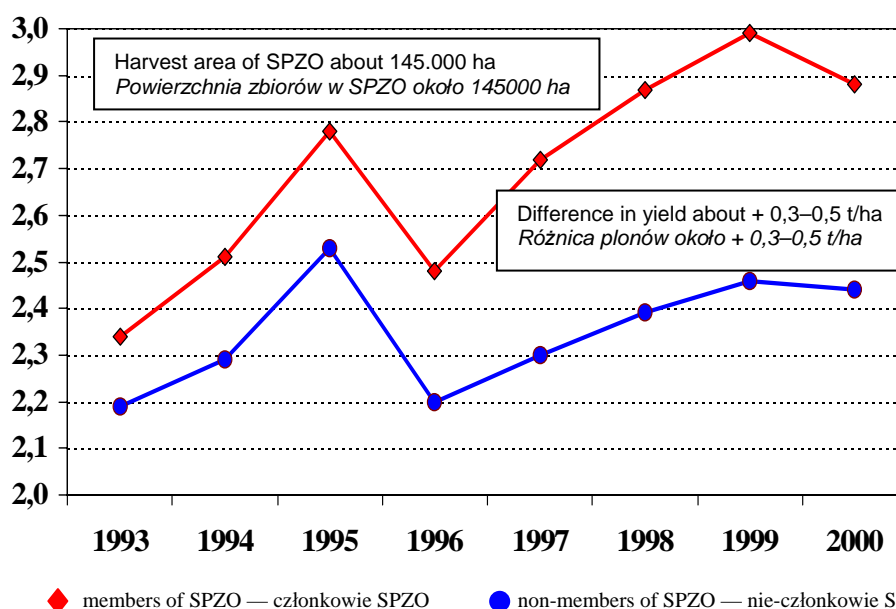


Fig. 1. Rapeseed yield comparison between members and non-members of SPZO — Porównanie plonów rzepaku (t/ha) u członków i nie-członków SPZO

The area of grown rapeseed gradually increased in Czech Republic to approximately 350 thousand ha. Average national yield is about 2.6 t/ha, with members of SPZO having yield by 300–400 kg/ha higher in average. The total production reaches around 900 thousand t of rapeseed now.

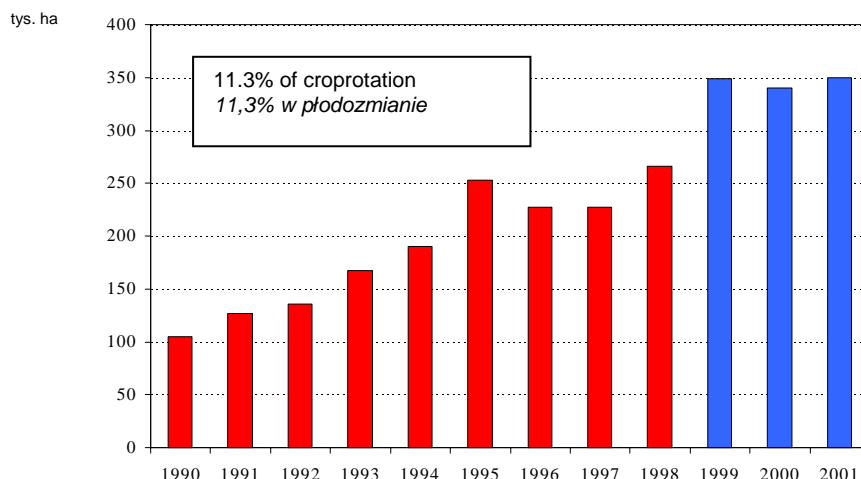


Fig. 2. Rapeseed Area in the Czech Republic — *Powierzchnia rzepaku w Republice Czeskiej*

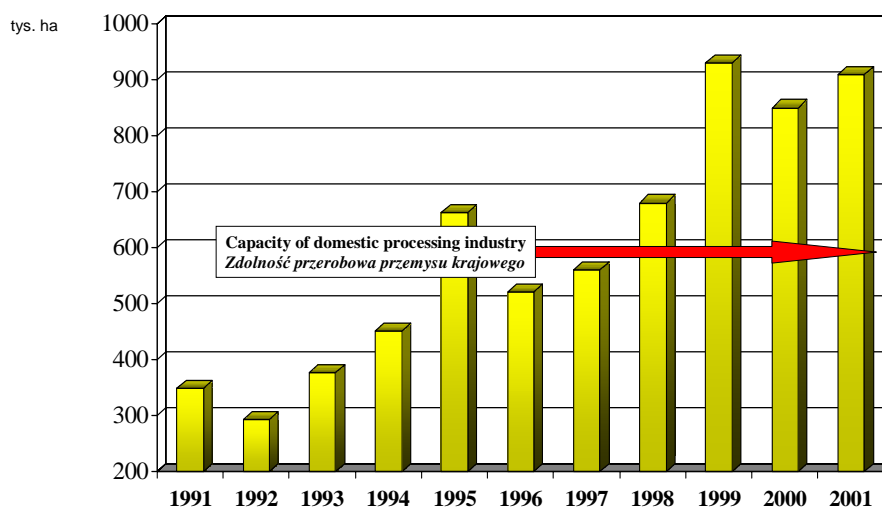


Fig. 3. Rapeseed Production in the Czech Republic — *Produkcja rzepaku w Republice Czeskiej*

For better contacts with farmers and for the improvement of information transfer the SPZO-agroservice has been organized since 1990. This service comprises 9 advisers. Each adviser has his own region with more or less specific climatic and agroecological conditions. This is why very different yields are reached in these regions (Fig. 4).

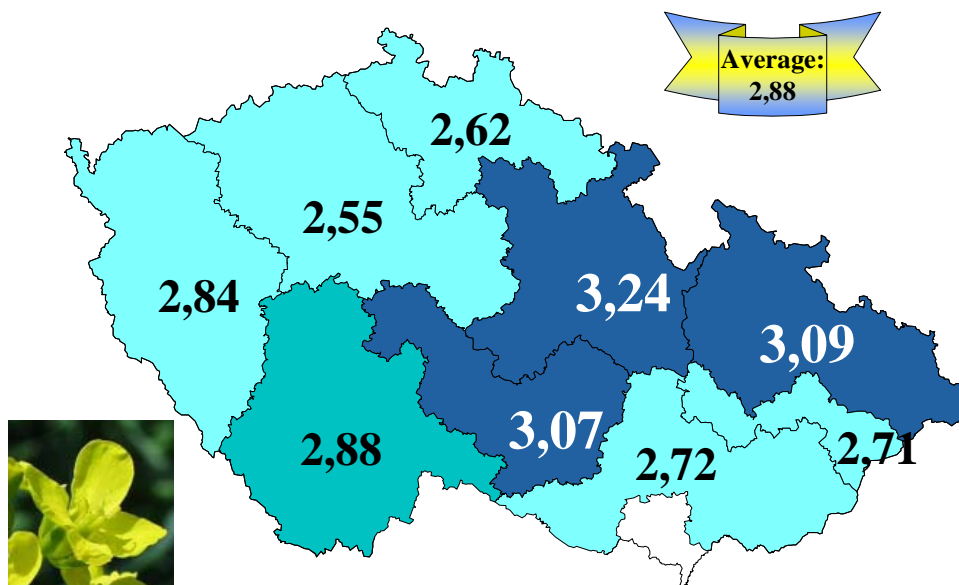


Fig. 4. Yields in different regions of SPZO, 2000, t/ha — *Plony w różnych rejonach SPZO, 2000, t/ha*

Individual members of SPZO achieve also different yields. It is important that most of members are above national average level due to quick information transfer and counselling activities of SPZO. 42% of them have more than 3 t/ha, actually (Fig. 5).

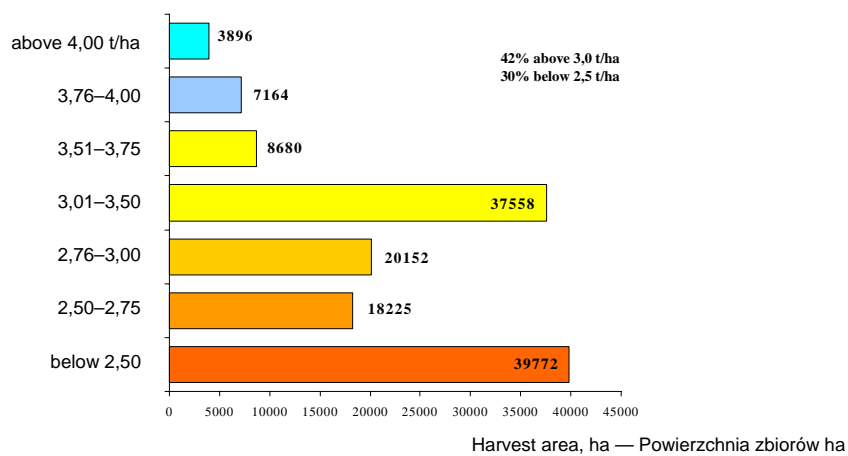


Fig. 5. Yield structure of SPZO members, harvest 2000 — *Struktura plonów u członków SPZO, zbiory 2000*

## Structure

The structure of SPZO-members is as following — *Struktura członkostwa w SPZO jest następująca:*

No. of members <i>Liczba członków</i>	Description — <i>Opis</i>	Market share — <i>Udział w rynku</i>
820	Growers — <i>Plantatorzy</i>	42% of rapeseed area <i>42% powierzchni uprawy rzepaku</i>
20	Trading organizations — <i>Organizacje handlowe</i>	—
5	Seed companies — <i>Przedsiębiorstwa nasienne</i>	85% of certified seeds <i>85% nasion kwalifikowanych</i>
5	Processors — <i>Przetwórcy</i>	80% of domestic processing <i>80% przerobów</i>
3	Research institutes and universities <i>Instytuty badawcze i uniwersytety</i>	—
853	Members in total — <i>Członkowie ogółem</i>	

## Activities

There are many periodic and also irregular activities of SPZO. SPZO gives and organizes yearly some seminars and trials. To the main activities of SPZO can be designated

- About 10 spring seminars
- About 15 field days with viewing of semi-operating testing of varieties
- One 3-day national seminar for about 800 members
- Many of both small-plot and semi-operating trials
  - Varieties of winter and spring rape — 40 localities
  - Variety of sunflower — 6 localities
  - Growth regulators — 12 localities
  - Fertilizing — 11 localities
  - Regulation of ripening — 4 localities
  - Seed treatment — 2 localities
  - Fungicides — 12 localities
  - Crop management — 4 localities

SPZO also publishes for its members approximately twice a month information bulletin *Flowers of oilseeds*. It offers actual information on growing and trading of rapeseed. Another regular publishing activity (1 × per year) is Standpoint on rapeseed varieties and Standpoint on pesticides.

Chemical (pesticide) firms are not members of SPZO. It ensures independence of SPZO from their trade interests. SPZO can therefore recommend objectively individual pesticides on the basis of own trials and experience of its members.

## Varieties in farmers' conditions

SPZO analyses characteristics of varieties not only in trials, but also by farmers in real practice. We have statistics from about 135 thousand ha each year. Varieties are divided into two groups — for “small” and “large”. Criterion for it is harvest area (5000 ha). Yield data from the year 2000 are shown in Fig. 6, and 7.

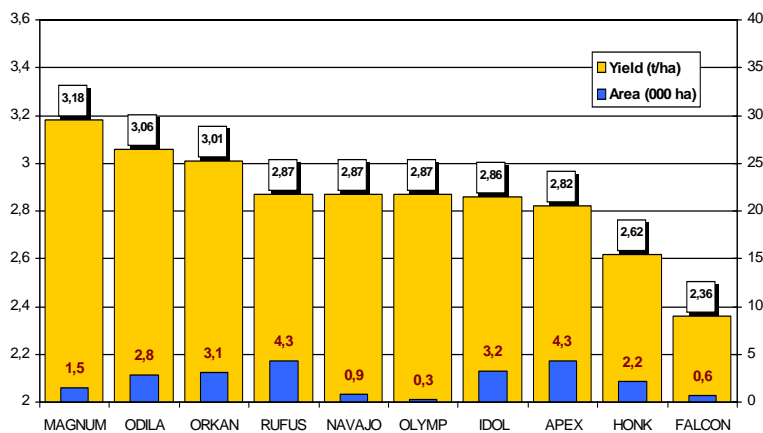


Fig. 6. Yield of varieties by farmers in practice I (harvest area below 5000 ha in 2000, members of SPZO) — *Plony odmian w praktyce u rolników I (powierzchnia zbiorów poniżej 5000 ha w 2000, członkowie SPZO)*

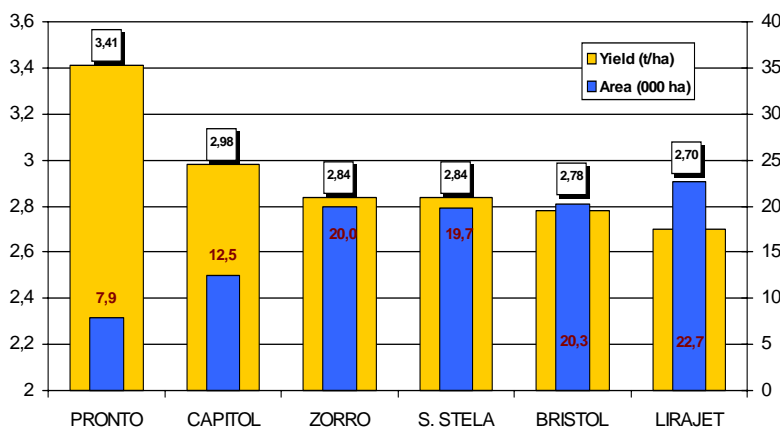


Fig. 7. Yield of varieties by farmers in practice II. (harvest area above 5000 ha in 2000, members of SPZO) — *Plony odmian w praktyce u rolników II (Powierzchnia zbiorów powyżej 5000 ha w 2000, członkowie SPZO)*