

Marian Błażejczyk, Apoloniusz Kostecki, Waldemar Michna, *Zagadnienia prawne między kółkowymi baz maszynowych* [Legal Questions of Inter-circle Agricultural Machines Centres]. Warszawa 1968, Wydawnictwo Prawnicze, 222 pages.

It is a collective work contributed by an economist and two lawyers one of whom is a specialist in agricultural law and the other in financial law. The cooperation of the three authors each of whom examines the problem from another viewpoint proved very useful and fruitful.

The subject itself played certainly an important role here. It deals with agricultural machines centres owned collectively by several agricultural circles and hence called inter-circle agricultural machines centres. It is quite a new organizational unit that has no counterpart among agricultural organizations in Poland. A full understanding of the function of the centres in question is possible only when one knows the needs which prompted their creation. The economic part of the work (contributed by W. Michna) deals with the problems of mechanization of agriculture against the background of the specific agrarian structure, in Poland still based on private farms whose land is often divided into small strips. These farms are usually unable to bring in mechanization on their own. Hence came the idea to set up agricultural circles as social organizations rendering necessary services to private farmers. The experience of recent years has proved however that agricultural circles (acting usually within one village only) are too weak to use effectively the machinery or provide adequate repair services. Besides, they often suffered from the shortage of skilled tractor drivers. So, it was decided to use machines from several circles by one larger body, an inter-circle machines centre.

The centres are called into being on two basic organizational-legal principles: either they are set up at a leading agricultural circle which supervises then the machinery under its control and the finances, or the centre is affiliated to one of the State Agricultural Machines Centres (but has its own bank account). M. Błażejczyk, the author of the juridical part of the work, reviews the experience of the first period of the centres' operation (from the organizational point of view). He has collected interesting materials showing the actual relationships between the managing bodies of inter-circle centres and the organs of social control. The latter are so-called councils of users which represent the interests of peasants to whom the centres lend their machinery. He also examines legal and organizational solutions used in practice.

Financial and legal problems are another aspect of the centres. These problems are arising because agricultural circles are recipients of the Agricultural Development Fund set up to promote mechanization of farming. The

State allocates to that purpose a large amount of 4,000 million zlotys every year. Inter-circle centres get their annual share from the Fund on the strength of resolutions adopted at general meetings of several agricultural circles which have joined their machine pool to set up an inter-circle centre. The procedure generates many problems both of organizational and legal nature. They are discussed by the third author, A. Kostecki. He speaks of the sources from which the work of the centres is financed (exploitation and investments), pointing, among other things, to the importance of the so-called anticipatory credits granted by the Agricultural Bank on account of future revenues from the Agricultural Development Fund.

The authors do not confine their work to a description of the mechanism under which inter-circle agricultural machines centres are operating. They also suggest a number of proposals to improve in practice the work of the centres. So, it is a valuable study which permits to get to know new forms of organization of services for farmers in Poland. Summaries are in Russian and German.

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