



SWIFT

Supporting Women-led
Innovations in Farming
and rural Territories

FACES OF POLISH RURAL FEMINISM - FROM ACTING ALONE TO WOMEN'S COOPERATION

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MAIN GOALS



BARIERS



to identify the structural barriers and challenges woman farmers face in Poland, with focus on those that could limit the implementation of woman farmers' interests in agricultural settings at various level

01

FEMINISM



to identify how the rural feminism manifests itself and what is the level of knowledge regarding the agroecology

02

METHODOLOGY



elaborate on the various methodologies we would like to employ in further research, are useful in in-depth analysis of Central and Eastern European feminism in agriculture

03

analysis of already existing methodology, quite limited research on the farming women in Poland in XXI century, semi-structured in-depth interviews

RESPONDENTS

* sampling method



snowball

* basic criteria



social activities of the female interviewees. Due to the limited amount of studies on Polish female farmers and their low self-identification, we wanted to talk to people who represent the interests of farmers on a daily basis and have a broader view of the rural areas and its issues.

* our aim



we wanted to diversify the group of female respondents to include:

- representatives of industrial, large-scale and conventional agriculture
- representatives of organic family farms
- members of agricultural organizations, associations and circles
- members of agricultural women's councils, representatives of authorities
- country housewives' association affiliates

WHY FAST METHODOLOGY

FAST – theoretical framework used in our research as a structuring theoretical framework/general theoretical approach (Sachs et al. 2016) **not all the six themes explored extensively in interviews conducted*

Formulating **interview's questions adjusted to local social, economic, political, geographical context**

First stage of our study – **mapping the context, focusing on socio-cultural, historical, organisational and institutional issues and structural barriers** of agricultural feminism and identifying challenges that female farmers are facing

Respondents – **female representatives of agricultural organisations**, institutions, public bodies, circles having wider (general) views, opinions on the research problem (than farmers do have)

Female farmers to be interviewed at the second stage of our study

WHY FAST METHODOLOGY

- ✱ (1) Greater Equality for Women in Agriculture
- ✱ (2) Assert Identity of Farmer
- ✱ (3) Accessing the Resources they need to farm (land, labour, and capital)
- ✱ (4) Shaping New Food and Farming Systems
- ✱ (5) Navigating Agricultural Organizations and Institutions
- ✱ (6) Forming New Networking Organizations for Women Farmers

FAST

RESEARCH FOCUS ON SIX INTERRELATED THEMES

AXIS 1

Greater Equality for
Women in Agriculture



AXIS 2

Assert Identity
of Farmer



AXIS 3

Accessing the Resources
they need to farm
(land, labour, and capital)



AXIS 4

Shaping New Food
and Farming Systems



AXIS 5

Navigating
Agricultural
Organizations
and Institutions



AXIS 6

Forming New Networking
Organizations
for Women Farmers



RESEARCH TOOL

Interview questionnaire - 4 thematic blocks:

1. Identity, social roles

identity question: "peasant woman" and/or "farmer woman"?

2. Problems and challenges in the Polish agricultural sector

most serious problems of the sector, diagnosis of the situation of Polish agriculture

3. Individual problems and challenges faced by farmers

challenges faced by farmers, differences between the problems of female and male farmers

4. Social and political activism of female farmers

position of women in agricultural organisations, women's agricultural organisations, informal forms of mutual support among women in agriculture, political activity

CHALLENGES WE FACED



The f-word

feminism perceived as an alien/urban ideology



Low gender sensitivity

interviewees don't perceive gender inequality in agriculture, when asked directly

they describe examples of inequality

gender equality as a common phenomenon (something normal, natural)



Lack of cooperation between female farmers

low female farmers' social and political activity

lack of grassroots forms of mutual support among female farmers



Low awareness of agroecology

low knowledge of agroecology

linking agroecology to European Union policy

poor ecological knowledge among farmers

NEXT STEPS

what we are planning to
do in upcoming months

1 PUBLICATION

Polish Journal "Sociological Review"



 WYDZIAŁ
EKONOMICZNO-SOCJOLOGICZNY
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2 2ND STAGE OF RESEARCH

Research on farmers