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SPATIAL ASSESSMENT OF ADVERSE MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS

**Key words:** agriculture, GIS, rural areas, protected areas

**Summary**

The agricultural production in Poland is carried out on almost 60% of the country area. Much of this activity takes place in areas which are protected by law or the ones which had adverse natural conditions for agricultural production. This creates a number of restrictions for agricultural intensification. These limitations have a different character and different degree of nuisance for the farmer. Moreover, very often the difficulties of various types overlap in a given area. The purpose of this study was to present the spatial distribution of these limitations by using GIS tools. The most adverse conditions for farming were found in podkarpackie, lubelskie and malopolskie voivodships (over 80% of agricultural land there is situated in areas difficult for agricultural production) The least unfavourable conditions (53% of lands in areas of difficult agricultural production) were noted in kujawsko-pomorskie voivodship.