

THE FEMALE FACE OF AGRICULTURE

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WOMEN FARMERS...



The past decades have seen dynamic changes throughout the Polish economy, including in food production and agriculture. This trend has strengthened considerably after Poland's accession to the European Union and the support it received under the Common Agricultural Policy. At the same time, recent years show that women are beginning to play an increasingly important role in this sector, and this is not at all due to legal changes.

The increase in the number of women working in agriculture and food production is a global phenomenon, and their contribution to raising competitiveness or meeting new sustainability challenges is not only significant, but also professional and innovative. Women in agriculture not only take on traditional agricultural duties, such as growing crops or raising animals, but also take an active role in making strategic decisions on farm development. The number of women who are boldly stepping into management and leadership roles in agriculture has increased.

In today's dynamic agricultural environment, women are also the initiators of innovative solutions. They implement modern technologies, implement inspiring projects, adopt sustainable practices, and are involved in the local community and the development of agritourism and food production. Their presence brings a new quality and perspective to agricultural development, becoming an important factor transforming the field.

WHAT ARE THEY?



COMMITTED AND PROFESSIONAL

They engage professionally and personally in various forms of activities for the benefit of Polish agriculture and rural areas. They take up challenges, set new trends and significantly improve the quality of what they do.



INNOVATIVE

They implement modern and innovative solutions, take care of the climate and environment, and use sustainable practices.

LEARN ABOUT SOME OF THEM...



Katarzyna Maziec Innovator in Polish beekeeping



EDUCATIONAL FARM WARMIŃSKA BEE

WARMIŃSKO-
MAZURSKIE
VOIVODESHIP



2023 was a phenomenal year for Katarzyna Maziec, what with her winning the title of the best beekeeper in the land, the first woman beekeeper to do so the history of this competition. Her passion for bees and ability to solve problems innovatively resulted in a change in her life and in the development of the farm run together with her husband. Her story started with the purchase of a meadow in a picturesque village Purda in 2009. With its historical and local roots dating back to the 14th century, when beekeepers founded this village, Katarzyna discovered her vocation – beekeeping. The bees not only became her passion, but also the foundation of her life in the countryside.

Currently, Katarzyna manages 350 hives in her apiary, dealing not only with breeding bees, but also processing the result of their work. They became the basis for providing more services and products, allowing for a diversification of farm income, all the time emphasizing the history of this place. The development of the farm and its offer was possible thanks to support received in under the Rural Development Programme. This funded the construction of a tourist cottage, enabling provision of agritourism services. The farm joined the National Network of Educational Farms, where beekeeping and organic farming workshops are carried out for children, teenagers and adults under a common brand. The farm provides study visits and workshops for beekeepers and farmers. She is also an active promoter of the WARMIA brand.

From the beginning of its activity, Katarzyna was guided by the vision of creating a self-sufficient, thrifty and ecological space. All buildings, equipment and farm infrastructure meet energy efficiency standards. The farm is equipped with a heat pump and solar panels as well as two biological sewage treatment plants – one serving the house, the other the tourist cottage. The farm uses its own deep well and water treatment system. This makes the farm almost completely independent and works practically as a whole in the spirit of environmental sustainability and significantly reduces its own impact on the climate.

Katarzyna Maziec can be proud of her impressive string of successes, such as recognition of the Warmian apiary as the best commercial farm in Poland. She also received the Agribusiness Laurel in the category Specialist Farm, a distinction in the competition of the National Rural Network "Friendly Village", second place in the category family in the national competition "Way to Success", as well as many other prestigious prizes. Her activities are not only a model for beekeepers, but also an inspiration for all those who want to combine tradition with modernity, achieving success in harmony with nature.



AGATA KRÓLICZAK Jadzia's ekscepcjonalny cheese



In the picturesque village of Dobieżyn, located 30 km west of Poznań, lies hidden one of the most charming, yet enterprising family farms. Since 2020, Agata Króliczak, along with her husband and parents, as part of the agricultural retail business, have been engaged in the artisanal production of cheeses from milk obtained from cows raised on their farm. Agata's story is not only about processing fresh cow's milk, but also about daring to change, emerging passion and developing traditions in a modern way, adapted to the changing market and consumers.

This story, goes back to the very roots, when Agata's mother, thanks to a traditional recipe passed down from her grandmother Helena, began the adventure of making cottage cheese in the family. Over the years, thanks to word-of-mouth and at local markets, she attracted customers increasingly attached to the delicious, tender and fresh cottage cheese straight from the farmer.

The breakthrough came in 2019, when Agata Króliczak decided to join her parents in their agricultural venture. The pandemic that limited the movement in the direct market provided the impetus to act and look for alternatives. The idea for Jadzia's Cheese was born and the tradition of making cottage cheese continued. The first cottage cheeses, combining the traditional recipe and modern attention to quality, attracted great interest in local sales groups operating on the Internet. This gave her the motivation to continue. Agata decided to explore the secrets of cheesemaking by attending workshops and trainings. Currently, the farmer is a member of the Association of Farm and Homestead Cheesemakers. Increasing knowledge and raising

competence makes the farm's product range constantly expand in response to consumer tastes. At the same time, Agata is continually working on the quality of production at every stage. She has opened a farm shop, giving customers direct access to her unique products. Thanks to support received from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, Agata is in the process of purchasing a refrigerated truck, necessary for transporting the cheeses and maintaining the cold chain during transport.

Jadzia's cheese offer is not only fresh cheeses, which won first place in a competition at the Great Cheesemaking in Wrocław. Also distinguished are a rennet cheese with the original name "Dobieżyński Kąsek" and a smoked cheese that won the title "Best Taste of Poznań County."

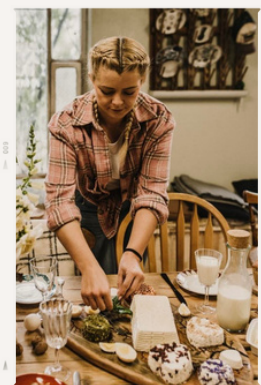
Agata's activities are not limited to production. On social media on Facebook and Instagram, she shares stories about daily life in the countryside and the work involved in cheese production. Her activities are followed by a group of more than 7.5 thousand followers. Jadzia's cheeses can be purchased at local markets, in towns such as Stęszew, Grodzisk Wielkopolski, Buk, Dopiewo, Nowe Tomyśl, as well as at the Lazarski Market in Poznań.

Agata Króliczak's story and actions are not only about cheese, but also about the courage to take on challenges and develop traditions in a modern way. SER-ce Jadzi is a brand, but also a message of love for nature, rural work and exceptional taste.

**SER-CE
JADZI**



WIELKOPOLSKIE
VOIVODESHIP





DARIA LATAŁA

Pumpkin means can



Daria Latała is a woman with a passion, connected to the Polish countryside from the earliest years of her life. Her story is not only about working in the fields, but also about transforming passion into a way of life and self. Today Daria Latała combines earning a living with caring for nature and the environment and supporting local artists and small entrepreneurs.

Daria comes from a family with agricultural roots. Passing the land from generation to generation has been a family tradition for her. Her parents ran a thriving farm, involving her in field work from an early age.

Field work is all about harsh physical and weather conditions, the uncertainty of the size of the harvest, the worry of selling the harvested crops, and wages - this made her want to live differently and went into science. However, she quickly found that she longed for life in the countryside, close to nature, where she felt comfortable and at ease. Working with codes and paragraphs did not bring her satisfaction. Returning from the city, she enjoyed spending time in the fields, working. At the same time, she was already selling products from her small crop, run with the help of her mother, at the Parsley Market in Kraków and establishing contacts with individual customers, chefs, restaurateurs.

She was so fascinated by the nature of this form of work and, above all, the sale of products, so different from her parents' previous wholesale model, that she decided to expand in this direction. At the same time, she began to open a seasonal pumpkin store next to the farm, initially with a few pumpkins, and in subsequent years with more than a hundred varieties of pumpkins.

The farm is an example of care for biodiversity. The leading crop is pumpkins, but the offer includes novelties that until recently were not on the Polish market. These include mustard greens, pak choi, Chinese beans, okra, zucchini flowers. Daria is also eager to go back to her roots and recreate old, forgotten vegetable species with crab apples, parsnips, rutabagas, black salsify. She also collects edible weeds and wild herbs.

The farmer is not only involved in cultivation, but also cares about the climate and the environment. Her commitment includes providing habitat for wild birds and animals, sourcing wild plants, and supporting pollinators. She is making changes on her farm, giving up several hectares of cover crops.

It also strives to educate about the mental and physical hygiene of farmers, artisans, groups affected by depression, workaholism, lack of access to rest. It supports local artists, small producers and handicrafts. She inspires others to take a zero waste approach and eat healthily. She shares her tips and thoughts on these topics with others on social media.

Daria Latała is not only a farmer, but also a passionate person who has found her place in the world by combining farm work with education, environmental protection and support for local initiatives. Her story is an inspiration for those who seek a balance between tradition and modernity, between work and passion, and for those who want to live sustainably.

FARM ECOLOGY AND EDUCATION



MAŁOPOLSKI VOIVODSHIP



Elżbieta, Aleksandra, Marta Buła Orchard passion for generations



GARDENING FARM SZCZEPANÓWKA ELIZABETH BUŁA

LUBELSKIE
VOIVODSHIP



The Szczepanówka farm in Świdnik Mały in Lublin voivodship has been growing apple trees for more than a century, with more than a dozen varieties of apples. The farm is currently run by the fifth generation of its founder, Szczepan. Marta, Ola and their mother Elżbieta Buła run orchard crops, a honeybee apiary and a fruit and vegetable processing plant - they press healthy juices, make preserves and traditional cider.

The year 2010 was a turning point in the development of the business. It was then that Elżbieta Buła decided to take on new challenges and get into fruit and vegetable processing, inspired by the high-quality raw materials available on their own farm. That's how the Processing Plant - Natural Cloudy Juice Pressing Plant and Cidery - was launched. Today, the farm offers nearly 200 different products, including pressed fruit juices, vinegars, fruit and herb syrups, pickles, jams, jam, preserves, traditional honeys and artisanal cider.

Products from Szczepanowka are natural and produced using traditional methods. They have a unique and genuine taste that recalls the carefree years of childhood.

The goals for Elisabeth, Ola and Marta's business are not only to produce high-quality products, but also to promote healthy eating and living in harmony with nature.

The farmers have permanent plantings of dessert varieties of apple, pear, cherry, sour cherry. They cultivate tunnel crops of dessert raspberries. Their crops are certified for Integrated Production.

They also sustainably grow vegetables and herbs.

On the farm, activities are carried out that aim to increase the number of pollinators. The farm has hives for honey bees and garden mason bees.

Bumblebee houses and nesting boxes for tits have been introduced in the orchards, and nesting sites for birds of prey have been created. Activities are being carried out to restore biodiversity.

The farm has forage areas for pollinating insects (floral meadows with phacelia, buckwheat, borage, clover and borage). The farm also uses renewable energy sources such as photovoltaic panels.

The women also seek fulfilment through educational classes for children and young people on environmental protection, beekeeping, agriculture and agricultural environmental activities in the broadest sense.

A long list of achievements and awards confirms the high quality of the products and the commitment of the Szczepanówka women farmers to the development of sustainable agriculture. Certificates, awards, medals and acknowledgments attest to their professionalism and noticeable impact on the local community and environment. Elżbieta Buła is also recognized in terms of innovation and safety in agriculture.

Szczepanówka farm is not only a place of production, but first and foremost the fulfilment of passion, cultivation of tradition and principles of sustainable development. The legacy that Elżbieta, Ola and Marta Buła continue inspires the local community to appreciate natural flavours and care for the environment.



Lidia Moroń-Morawska

Innovative ideas to improve competitiveness



ECOMODS AND APIARY MORAWSKICH

MAŁOPOLSKIE
VOIVODSHIP



In the world of agriculture, where tradition is intertwined with modernity, Lidia Moroń-Morawska stands out as an extraordinary person. She is not only passionate about beekeeping, but is also one of the innovators introducing new ideas to this sector, which allow her to increase the competitiveness not only of her farm, but also to build a local brand together with other farmers.

Starting her adventure in agriculture with a passion for beekeeping, Lidia Moroń-Morawska did not anticipate that this adventure would quickly turn into a way of professional and personal life. In 2008, while studying two majors at the same time, she began accompanying her husband in running a bee apiary. This experience opened the farmer's eyes to the potential of bees and bee products in a healthy lifestyle.

In 2015, she decided to set up the first organic apiary in Malopolska, focusing her business on keeping bees and producing honey in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way. In Poland, where there are more than 80,000 registered apiaries, and only 18 of them are organic, one is run exclusively by a woman - Lidia is an inspiring example of female perseverance in pursuit of development in agriculture.

As the author of "The Great Encyclopedia of Beekeeping", which she wrote together with her husband, Lidia actively participates in the life of the beekeeping community. Together they conduct workshops, lectures and conferences, sharing their knowledge not only domestically, but also internationally, participating in meetings of the European CAP Network, among others.

The innovative approach to managing hives has made Lidia an excellent example of an active farmer not only participating in operational groups (OGs), but being their initiator. She is the founder and leader of the OG "Malopolska Food Producers Group", which brings together 10 farmers, 2 entrepreneurs, a forest owner and a scientific unit. The result of their joint work will be an innovative product - honey with increased viscosity. In addition, she is an active member of the OG "Malopolska Group for Development and Innovation in Agriculture," Lidia Moroń-Morawska contributes to increasing the competitiveness of short food supply chains and creating a local market in southern Malopolska.

For her exceptional dedication and innovative approach to agricultural development, the farmer has won many awards, including the title of Best Farmer in the 2023 "Woman for the Polish Countryside" competition and 3rd place in the "Innovative Woman and Entrepreneurship in Rural Areas" competition. Her products regularly win recognition at various festivals, and Mr. and Mrs. Morawski's apiary was even included in the "Gault&Millau Poland" culinary guide. In 2023, she made it to the final 10 most innovative ideas in the agri-food industry in the Empowering Women in Agrifood competition.

Lidia Moroń-Morawska is not only a beekeeper, but also an innovation and community leader. Her work to date is proof that with determination, passion and an innovative approach, one can succeed in agriculture.



MARIA ZDEBSKA

Natural success with innovation in the background



**PIEROŻKI
GRANDMOTHER
LORD
"MAGI" S.C.**

**MAŁOPOLSKIE
VOIVODSHIP**



■ Maria Zdebska, owner of "MAGI" s.c. and cofounder of five EIP operational groups, is not only a successful entrepreneur, but also passionate about agricultural innovation.

Maria Zdebska and a friend founded "MAGI" in the picturesque village of Trzciana near Bochnia in 2013. The beginnings were difficult - a small production facility, lack of cash to start, but determination and love for traditional pierogi recipes made by hand from local products made her "Pierogi Babci Władzi" gain recognition at the Kraków Pierogi Festival and the Malopolska Festival of Taste.

Maria is an example of how to leverage local assets and turn her passion for culinary tradition into a successful business. Not only has she won awards and strengthened the market position of her company, but she has also created jobs for local women, enabling them to develop personally and reconcile their roles as mothers with their professional responsibilities.

Running the business from the very beginning, she benefited from the support of European funds for its development. Thanks to Maria's efforts, Grandma Władzia's dumplings have won numerous awards, and the company has become a leading producer of traditional delicatessen products made from local products. In 2019, thanks to a cooperative project and financial support received from the LAG "Valley of the Raba" for the development of the local development strategy, a new, modern production facility was established.

Maria Zdebska is also involved in a number of innovative development projects. Working with EIP-AGRI, she participates in seminars and events on a European scale, gaining knowledge

and inspiration. Under the M16 "Cooperation" measure of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme, she implements projects developing short food supply chains with innovative solutions in product, logistics and delivery areas. Maria has also been honored with many awards, such as the Bochnia County Governor's Office award and the title of "Entrepreneurial Woman in Rural Areas."

Concern for environmental and climate protection is very important to Maria. She knows that doing business poses challenges for the environment, so from the very beginning she has been trying to take concrete steps to minimize the negative impact of operations on the planet. One of the main priorities is sustainable sourcing of raw materials. She works with local suppliers, promoting environmentally friendly production and reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation. She seeks opportunities to optimize production processes to reduce the carbon footprint of its products. It invests in energy-efficient equipment and uses renewable energy sources.

As an entrepreneurial woman, Maria Zdebska sets new standards. She achieves business success and works for sustainable community development. Her innovation, social commitment and determination are an inspiration to other entrepreneurs in rural areas.



COUNCIL OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

The support of Polish women in rural areas is handled by the Council of Women in Agriculture, established in March 2021 on the basis of the Decision of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, which includes women associated with the agricultural community.



The tasks of the Council of Women in Agriculture include:

- Analyzing the current situation of women in rural areas and identifying problems
- Recommending and undertaking initiatives to improve or strengthen the position and role of women in rural areas and their activation, as well as to counter discrimination in particular against women with special needs.
- Initiating and supporting social actions, trainings, debates, conferences and social programmes and campaigns, raising public awareness of women's rights.
- Within the scope of its authority, the Council recommends measures to promote good practices in agriculture and processing, including in the production of organic food, as well as rural heritage and culture and the positive aspects of life in non-urbanized areas.

[COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL - OPEN](#)

[MEETINGS - OPEN](#)

[NEWS - OPEN](#)

[OTHER - OPEN](#)

**MORE
ABOUT
THE
COUNCIL**

WOMEN CHANGING POLISH AGRICULTURE

Read the first edition (2022) of the brochure published by the Polish Innovation Network on women, who are successful in running farms, developing their own businesses related to agriculture and the countryside, as well as women who are passionate about creating unique traditional and local products.



[Download the brochure \(ver. EN\)](#)

PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY WOMEN



Agroforestry in the Zielawa Valley



Pstrąg Ojcowski



Angelic Gardens

INNOVATION FARMERS



Emilia Sznajder's Kingdom of Pickles



Agnieszka Wierzbicka-Baxter from the plum valley



Janina Rzepka - a woman at a shepherd's hut



Elizabeth Cipora and a vineyard on a plot of land



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