A BRIEF OVERIVEW OF HUNGARIAN AGRICULTURE

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During the interwar period, Hungary remained an agrarian society with an agricultural system that was largely feudal in nature. Sixty percent of the working population was engaged in farm-related work, growing over thirty different crops and producing enough to make Hungary a net exporter of agricultural products. The vast majority of farm workers, however, owned no land, while roughly four percent of the population owned two-thirds of the land (Fischer and Uren, 19). Yet, this concentration of land ownership did not result in the advantages usually associated with large-scale operations. Productive efficiency was very low, and production was not adjusted to the demand for food of nutritional value. Of those who owned the remaining third of the land, most owned less than six hectares (Volgyes, "Modernization" 109). So, as Ferenc Fekete observes, "at the same time, Hungary experienced the prevalence of farms which were too large to cultivate intensely and of farms which were too small to operate efficiently" (Fekete 23).

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