marketing and distribution of a single product. Agro-industrial collectives are usually cooperatives which have expanded their activities to include part of the industrial sector, such as manufacturing implements or food-processing equipment.

The 1980s

Since the late seventies, agricultural production in Hungary has more or less been stagnant. Corn production peaked in 1982 at 7.9 million tons and has since remained near 7 million tons per year. Barley yields reached 4.5 metric tons per hectare in 1984, but have since declined. Livestock production has also stagnated, with slight gains in pork production. Meat and meat product exports have declined significantly, from 347 thousand tons in 1980 to 172 thousand tons in 1987 (Agricultural Statistics 48,54).

The stagnation has been caused by several factors, the most prominent of which is a lack of capital and hard currency. Like other countries in the region, Hungary's stock of machinery is largely outdated. Parts for machines produced in socialist countries are chronically unavailable, and Western machinery and parts must be purchased with scarce hard currency. Hungary's external debt is roughly 20 billion US dollars, the highest per capita debt of any of the Central European countries. The lack of capital has also caused fertilizer and pesticide shortages.

Another factor in the stagnation is the continuing problem of an aging agrarian work force, and poor leadership. For the last two decades, most of Hungary's young people have been moving to the urban centers, unwilling to devote themselves to a life of difficult agricultural work and a lower standard of living. As a result, the average age of the agrarian worker has been steadily increasing, and the number of pensioners on the cooperatives has also continued to rise. Furthermore, the farm sector has