

from 2.14 to 4.76 tons per hectare over the same period. Hungary once again became a net grain exporter, after having been a net grain importer since the war. Meat and vegetable production also grew quite rapidly, as did consumption of these products (Agricultural Statistics 40,42).

An interesting aspect of the tremendous growth in Hungarian agriculture in the 1970s is the role of the household plots of the cooperative members. As a means of transition during collectivization, the government allowed the peasants joining a cooperative to retain a very small piece of land, usually located immediately around the peasant's house (hence the term "household plot"), for the purpose of growing products for consumption by the peasant's family. The small-scale production of livestock and fruits and vegetables on these plots continued during the sixties as a more or less unrecognized portion of the agricultural system.

As part of the New Economic Mechanism in 1968, however, the government officially recognized the household plots as an important part of the Hungarian agricultural sector and began to seek out ways to integrate these private efforts into the national productive effort. For example, the 48-hour work week aided in this effort by giving agricultural workers more time to work on their own plots. Furthermore, official recognition by the government led to easier access to capital and inputs, particularly fertilizer.

The direction of small-scale and household plot farming changed from economic self-sufficiency to market orientation. Their output is impressive. In 1975, small-scale production activities, which took place on about 15 percent of the total arable land, accounted for 36 percent of all agricultural output. In 1976, such plots produced more than forty percent of all livestock products, 58 percent of potatoes, and more than half of all fruit crops. During that same year, small-scale plots produced