

wheat production reached 3.6 million tons. Rapeseed had the largest advancement with nearly 350 percent more tons harvested than before World War II (average 1934-38). Production of sugarbeets was boosted by 128 percent, while a more moderate increase was seen for potatoes (22%) and barley (31%).

This quarter century of increases in agricultural production followed the devastation of the second World War and the reconstruction of the Polish economy. Adverse times, however, came in the 1970's during global food shortages. During this period a number of countries instituted policies to stimulate agricultural production. However, Polish agricultural production slumped severely during the same period. For instance, wheat production in 1985 was 4 percent less than in 1972, production of potatoes dropped by 20 percent, in contrast to the 22 percent increase seen during the early communist years. Rapeseed increased by only 16 percent between 1972 and 1985 and there was no change in the production of barley.¹⁰

Agricultural exports were insignificant during the communist period primarily due to government regulations which encouraged domestic consumption over exports, and which subsidized imports which provided food at prices lower than the world prices.

¹⁰ERS "Agricultural Statistics".