

**Opinion of the Journal Section of the Committee of Agronomic Sciences,  
Division II of the Faculty of Biological and Agricultural Sciences,  
Polish Academy of Sciences**

On the basis of the surveys obtained from 36 Polish scientific journals, related to the discipline agriculture and horticulture, and the discussion at the meeting of the Committee of Agronomic Sciences, the Journal Section of the Committee has formulated the following conclusions:

1. Polish journals assigned to the discipline of agriculture and horticulture are mostly quarterlies (67%), almost all of them have a website (97%), are published in paper and electronic version (61%) or only electronic version (33%), with a circulation below 100 copies (54%) or up to 250 copies (27%), published only in English (67%) or in Polish and English (25%). All journals are indexed in databases, the majority of them are on the list of ranked journals of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (83%), but 67% have no IF. All journals have an open access policy.
2. In the Ministry list of ranked journals, Polish journals are not always correctly estimated in terms of the number of points awarded compared to their international counterparts. Most of them were assigned 20 points (36%) or 40 points (33%), even those with IF. This leads to the marginalisation of national journals. This is highlighted by 63% of respondents and considered as a major difficulty for publishing. The under-scoring of Polish journals, especially those with IF, causes a decrease in the number of articles submitted, including the share of national articles, leading to a situation where it is difficult to maintain the high level of the journal.
3. The Editorial Boards of journals indicate that there is also a noticeable lack of systemic support for journals in Poland, with 37% of respondents pointing to a lack of funding and problems in obtaining financial resources.
4. A major obstacle to the implementation of a rational publishing policy is the lack of long-term ministerial guidelines on journal evaluation criteria. This concerns all journals, both those with IF and those without allocated ministerial points. The demand for transparency in the journal evaluation system also applies to international journals listed in the international databases Scopus and WoS, as there is also a lot of ambiguity in this area, and the latest versions of the list of ranked journals add to these doubts.
5. A separate problem is posed by professional journals, such as Polish Potato (Ziemiak Polski) or journals published by scientific societies, such as Fragmenta Agronomica, which have not been included in the list of ranked journals. These journals have been published for more than 30 years and constitute a direct transfer of scientific knowledge to broadly understood economic practice. Apart from typical scientific articles, quarterly magazines address issues of importance to farmers, growers, breeders, the potato industry or phytopharmaceutical companies. Placing this type of publication on the list of ranked journals would make it easier to attract a wider range of authors and reviewers.
6. A long-term, transparent policy of support for journals is needed. The current framework defining publishing activities in the discipline of agriculture and horticulture raises concerns and makes IF journals less competitive, especially in relation to foreign journals with high impact indicators. There is no defined policy for the development of journals applying for indexing, and professional dissemination journals without support may disappear from the market, even though the need for their publication in the scientific and professional community is obvious.