

SAFETY AND QUALITY OF POLISH FOOD

Magdalena Dykiel. Carpathion State College in Krosno (Poland).

E-mail: magdalena.dykiel@kpu.krosno.pl

Bernadetta Bienia. Carpathion State College in Krosno (Poland).

E-mail: bernadetta.bienia@kpu.krosno.pl

Barbara Krochmal-Marczak. Carpathion State College in Krosno (Poland).

E-mail: barbara.marczak@kpu.krosno.pl

Elżbieta Brągiel. Carpathion State College in Krosno, (Poland).

E-mail: elzbieta.bragiel@kpu.krosno.pl

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Food is a special good. It is special because of its place in the world economy and a set of products setting the latest trends in the economy. Nowadays, more and more attention is paid not only to food supply and availability but also to its quality and adulteration. It results, above all, from the more and more common phenomenon of food adulteration on a global scale. The phenomenon being a consequence of, first of all, liberalization of commodity exchange and development of food trade (Kowalczyk 2009), generally, therefore, a consequence of progressing globalization (Kowalczyk 2014). For these reasons, the problem of food safety and quality becomes an essential topic of consideration both at the national, regional (e.g. European Union - EU) and global (Codex Alimentarius) level.

The aim of this article was to assess the level of quality and food safety in Poland during the last several years. Formation of quality and food safety requires precise control, which is possible thanks to the creation of quality and food safety management systems. These systems concern the control of food at all stages of its production, i.e. from the producer to the consumer.

The analysis showed that it is difficult to assess unequivocally the level of food quality and safety in Poland. The study was based on the analysis of literature on the analyzed subject, including numerous, selected reports and post-inspection reports of various organizations studying the quality and safety of food in Poland.

The level of food safety on the Polish market is good and comparable to other EU countries. However, it is not free from irregularities that may periodically increase. Minimizing these threats is possible, among others, by consistent controls, promotion of participation in voluntary quality systems and high requirements in terms of quality standards.

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