

LARGE - SCALE SOIL CARTOGRAPHY FOR RURAL LAND  
DEVELOPMENT IN POLAND

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The paper presents soil maps and maps of soil-agricultural complexes and <sup>the</sup> capability for the shaping spatial structure of rural areas. Both have been accomplished for the whole area of Poland in the scale of 1:5000.

The soil maps distinguishing 8 soil classes have been worked up according to the studies of soils and also water conditions, local relief, climate etc. and are mainly used for fiscal purposes.

The soil-agricultural cartography distinguishes 13 soil-agricultural complexes grouping lands of similar usefulness for plants, whose distinction has been based on such criteria as: soil properties, morphological situation, agroclimate and water conditions. Large-scale soil maps and connected with them detailed documentation create valuable information about natural environment useful in the range of spatial development of the agricultural lands. Transforming data from the soil maps one may obtain many aggregates of the natural elements very important from the viewpoint of both local planning and rural land management works.

Studies carried out by the author proved, that information contained in the soil maps and detailed documentation is sufficient for completing many aspect of this development, eg: distinguishing the areas of intensive agriculture, soil erosion control, water melioration, fertilization, land transformation, land comparative assessment, matching machines and tools etc.

The separate problem is the current state of the information. In this range the author distinguishes 4 degrees of needs of large-scale soil maps updating.

Large-scale soil maps are also used when completing data bases in the Polish systems concerning natural environment. Making use of this information for the local planing of rural areas was emphasized.