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Sharma T., Kwatra, G. (2008) Effectiveness of Social Advertising: A Study of Selected Campaigns, Corporate Social Responsibility, Edited by David Crowther & Nicholas Capaldi, Ashgate Research Companion to Corporate Social Responsibility, Chapter 15, pp 287-303.

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## TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY ANALYSIS AND INFLUENCE OF SUBSIDIES ON THE TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY OF FARMS IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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### **ABSTRACT**

Economic efficiency deals with effective evaluation of alteration of company's inputs on its outputs. Measurement of economic efficiency and its value is considerable background for competitiveness estimation of a company. In the paper we aimed at the technical efficiency analysis of farms in the Slovak Republic. For an evaluation of economic efficiency were used model of linear programming - DEA (Data Envelopment Analysis). With applied methods we found out a productivity growth of farms. The results show us that subsidies have a considerable influence on productivity and efficiency of farms. In the followed ten year period was shown high variability of followed input efficiency parameters in the agriculture. The growth of productivity was noticed during this period. The most expressive increase of productivity was after the entrance of Slovakia to the European Union when the subsidies increased and the foreign markets were opened without macroeconomic barriers.

### **KEYWORDS**

Economic efficiency, Farms, DEA model, BCC model, CCR model.

### JEL CLASSIFICATION

Q12, Q14, D24

### **INTRODUCTION**

n present conditions of increasing globalisation of world economy and by stronger fight for higher share on markets, the companies should keep the most productive agriculture. The agricultural efficiency is influenced by the different natural conditions. The main factors which have impact on the productive process of companies are soil, granularity of land, steep land, depth of land and climate conditions. Other factors which influence the company are political, economic, social, technical and technological conditions and skills and quality of management of company. The ability of companies to be successful is showed in their results of earnings. For objective development evaluation of efficiency is good to know information from environment in which the companies are operating. It is information about financial situation of competitors, requests of financial and credit institutions and economic measures of government and their impact on company activity.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

In connection with appraisal of competitiveness and capital resources of Slovak agriculture after the entrance to the European Union was facility of agriculture deficient and stagnated till 2004. Structural changes were not so marked in agricultural primary production to evocate pressure for changes in the structure of fixed capital. (Grznár, Szabo, 2005).

On the basis of the preliminary analysis were changes in the group of commercial companies, which was in 2004 the most widespread legal form of operating in agricultural primary production. Agricultural cooperatives remained dominancy of area and operate on around 50% of agricultural land use. In the group of physical persons continues the increase of subjects and trend of increasing average farm area (Gubová, 2005).

The accession of the Slovak Republic to the European Union influenced operating of the agricultural companies. For the most important thing is considered the change of agrarian policy of Slovakia. In 2004 agriculture reached positive income, which was the highest after 1990. Economy measures, mainly subsidies contributed to this positive result. The value of subsidies was higher as in the years before accession to the European Union (Chrastinová, 2005).

Subsidies for the agriculture are very important and help to reach better income not just for companies but profitability of the commodities branch too. Without subsidies would be the majority of the agricultural producers in loss so in productive areas as in less favoured areas (Kubanková, 2005).

The effect on good results of earning in the branch of agriculture of the Czech Republic had the increasing growth of subsidies. After the first year of the entrance the Czech Republic to the European Union came to the changes in economic and social life. The obvious impact of the entrance Czech Republic to EU was shown in agrarian market and companies earning (Vaňek et col, 2005).

Mathijs (2002) in his studies compared the farm efficiency of different organisation forms of chosen companies from 1998 in Hungary and Bulgaria. The results of Hungarian companies specialized to the crop production showed that the highest average measure of efficiency reached the family farms (58%) then followed

commercial companies (50%) and co-operatives (44%). Analogical analyse in Bulgaria presents that the most effective were commercial companies (51%) after followed the family farms (44%) and co-operatives (43%). In the case of milk farms, in Hungary are the most effective family farms (43%), the same percentage of efficiency as family farms reached commercial companies and the lowest level of efficiency reached co-operatives.

Basic efficiency expression of company is presented by many authors as the relation of inputs which companies produce and outputs which are required to be used on transformation in the productive process.

Efficiency is maximizing output per unit from input, agricultural efficiency reflects a complex relationship among factors of production and the exogenous influence of nature (Macauley, 2007)

Total efficiency of company is created from two components: technical efficiency (TE) – it is called as managerial efficiency and allocation efficiency (AE) which is called as efficiency of input usage to their prices. Allocation efficiency or efficiency of input usage shows the company ability to use the inputs in optimal relation to their prices (Farrell, 1957). The company operates on production possibility frontier. From the point of quantitative analyses is needed this argument to correct.

Lissitsa and Balmann (2003) dealt with analyse of technical efficiency in Germany. They compared the efficiency during 1992 – 1995 and found out that big farms with the goal to be effective were restructured on smaller producing units and smaller farms reached better results as big co-operative and companies which during the transformation process were not restructured. From the point of productive program the companies specialized on animal production did not reach very high efficiency with comparing with companies specialized on crop production. The reason of higher efficiency of crop production was because of higher labour productivity and higher investment subsidies as by companies specialized on animal production.

In Slovakia Fandel (2002) compared the efficiency of companies on the base of agricultural land. According to his results found out that in the chosen size groups were quite the same average values of technical efficiency. The efficiency of companies depends on inputs usage to produce outputs and the regulation of inputs is in the competence of company management. The higher technical efficiency reached private farms in comparison with co-operatives. The co-operatives reached higher measure of efficiency of scale but after testing were not detected statistical proved differences between organisation forms of companies. The average efficiency were different but we can't say expressly which organisation form is the most effective.

Swinnen and Vranken (2005) compared technical efficiency between countries. They compared the efficiency of five countries by aggregate data. On the base of their analyses found out the differences in measures of technical efficiency of companies in country and so differences between countries. Reforms in followed countries have influence on the amount of technical efficiency. Higher measure of technical efficiency was reached by companies in countries with higher level of reforms. In the countries with lower level of reforms were just few effective companies. To the most effective countries belong Slovakia, Czech Republic and Hungary. Albania reached the technical efficiency on the level of 25 %.

Most of literature related to the measurement of economic efficiency has based its analysis either on parametric or on non-parametric frontier methods. The choice of estimation method has been an issue of debate, with some researches prefferint the parametric and other the non-parametric approach (Murillo-Zamorano, 2004).

For following of the economic efficiency development is used non-parametric method DEA (data envelopment analysis). This method was used successfully many times by analysis of similar character. The analysis of efficiency by using of this method appears from the theory of efficiency and productivity (Fandel, 2002). The principle of this methodology is determining of linear convex envelopment which characterize the technology of product producing in the sence of production economy. The technology is presented as the reference set for estimation of relative efficiency of all products. Technological relation between inputs and outputs can be expressed as linear input transformation set (Debreu, 1951, Koopmans, 1951).

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Quantification of technical efficiency is very demanding on company data. The data which are needed for analyse have to be exact and completely for each year and each company. Panel data has to go out from real data. If there is by input or output not standard value e.g. negative or equal to zero this company can't be analysed. The data we used in this paper we utilised from Research Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics in Slovakia. Total amount of companies was 721 – co-operatives, farmers and commercial companies but after data correction we worked with collection of 490 agricultural companies in Slovakia.

By DEA analysis we used input model which is oriented of inputs by the set point of production. Inputs are: material, number of employers, stocks and not controllable input – tangible fixed assets. Output is revenue. We quantified the technical efficiency (TE) for every company before and after given subsidies with help of Kruskal – Wallis test. We verified if there is statistical arguable change between technical efficiency before and after given subsidies.

### **RESULTS**

On the base of the results in table 1 and 2 the minimum value of total efficiency did not change either after subsidies in the collection of agricultural companies. The influence of the subsidies increased and the average efficiency was around 2 % what was statistical affirmed from the P-value. In next years of followed period the minimal efficiency increased after subsidies except of 2003 and 2006, when its value decreased about 1.81 % and 2.41 %. These changes are not statistical affirmed on the base of Kruskal-Wallis test. In 2003 farmers was not sure what will bring the entrance of Slovakia to the European Union. In this year the farmers had access to the bank loans because of not favourable natural conditions which followed into the low yield of crop commodities. The average efficiency increased after the subsidies in each year of followed except 2006. In this year the average efficiency decreased about 3,26 %. In 2005 average efficiency of companies was higher because of subsidies and it was about 4,36 %. In this year the farmers received more subsidies which had impact on the average value of efficiency.

TABLE 1: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS 1998-2009 TE WITHOUT SUBSIDIES	ŝ
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	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Min	3,29	10,52	15,19	13,06	13,74	16,71	17,08	16,9	11,68	8,45	12,78	9,01
Average	32,717	38,480	44,874	41,815	50,045	49,054	40,481	46,777	40,637	27,752	38,58	28,12
Max	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Standard Deviation	23,213	23,830	21,397	21,960	20,830	21,223	16,042	21,360	21,088	18,374	22,01	19,26

Source: own calculation

### TABLE 2: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS 1998-2009 TE WITH SUBSIDIES

			IADLL 2.	DESCINII IIVI	- 31A11311	C3 1330 2	DOD IL WIII	ODDIDIES				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Min	3,29	11,52	15,76	15,85	13,94	14,9	17,51	18,16	9,27	8,47	12,69	8,79
Average	34,788	41,237	48,163	43,450	51,213	49,114	42,577	51,132	37,376	30,610	39,67	31,05
Max	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
P-Value	1,97E-07	2,80E-07	2,66E-07	1,84E-07	0,235	0,723	1,69E-07	2,12E-07	1,77E-07	1,66E-07	1,69E-07	1,65E-07
Standard Deviation	23,519	23,747	20,786	22,099	20,436	21,209	16,107	21,077	22,558	19,844	21,971	19,882

Source: own calculation

By efficiency evaluation of company is important to tell how outputs will change because of inputs increasing. The return of scale describes this relation. In 1978 authors Charnes, Cooper and Rhodes evolved the model cCR model. This model informs about that each unit of input produces the same amount of output. It is the constant return of scale. Model CCR can be input oriented – its intention is to decrease inputs by no change of outputs. On the other hand the model CCR can be output oriented – it means that this model increases the outputs without to change the inputs. The key of new approach is a participation of the optimal frontier into three parts to increasing, constant and decreasing returns to scale [Banker, Thrall, 1992].

In 1984 authors Banker, Charnes and Cooper evolved modified model CCR which was marked as BCC model. This model works with variable returns of scale – decreased, increased and constant. By BCC models the canonical form of data is changing on convex what means that models mark higher amount of unit as effective.

By analyse of agricultural companies' collection we used models CCR and quantified the measure of technical efficiency by the constant returns of scale. If this collection of agricultural companies would be evaluated by BCC model on the level of variable returns of scale we detected that all companies which are effective by constant returns of scale are effective too by variable returns of scale. Other way around it is not valid. On the level of variable returns of scale are effective that companies too which transform the inputs on outputs but their size is not optimal.

To quantify if the company is effective according to the size we have to count the efficiency of scale on the base of relation of technical efficiency by the conditions of constant returns of scale and technical efficiency by the conditions of variable returns of scale. If this relation is equal to one then the size of company is optimal.

TABLE 3: CONSTANT REVENUES, DECREASING REVENUES AND INCREASING REVENUES IN AGRICULTURAL COMPANIES

Indicator/ Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Constant revenues	26	39	29	34	35	32	13	39	23	24	28	15
Increasing revenues	359	217	358	176	281	327	352	363	304	161	341	302
Decreasing revenues	105	234	103	280	174	131	125	88	163	305	121	173

Source: own calculation

From total amount of 490 companies in 1998 were on the level of constant return of scale 26 companies and other companies were insufficient. 105 companies were in the area of decreased returns of scale what mean that they should decrease their production to increase the efficiency of scale. 359 companies operated with increased returns of scale what means that unit of input brings higher marginal income and from this reason they should increase their production by rational input usage. To the next year the amount of companies with optimal size increased on 39 companies. In this year the amount of companies in the area of decreased returns of scale grew up and 234 companies should cut down the scale. In 2000 the number of companies in area of increased returns of scale grew up on 141 companies what means that the companies should enlarge their operating activities to be closer with productivity to the most effective companies. In 2001 in the branch were 456 companies which not have the optimal scale of their production. From these companies 280 companies were too big and their efficiency should be increasing if they decreased the scale of their production. 176 companies were in the area of the increasing returns of scale so from rational point of view it means that they should increase the production. In that case the total productivity of branch would be higher about 0.03% above maximum if they would reduce amount of inputs on optimal level. In 2003 from the point of view of scale the optimal structure had just few producers. Constant returns of scale reached just 32 companies so it is at least as was total amount of producers operated on the production possibilities frontier. 131 companies should decrease their production and 327 companies (66.7%) are in the area of increased returns of scale so for more effective production they should the scale of production increase. Companies with growing returns of scale was predominating the companies with decreased returns of scale before 2007. In the last followed ten year period in the area of increased returns of scale were just 161 companies and the decreased returns of scale reached 305 companies. From these results we can say that companies wanted to produce lot of products without to pay attention on efficiency. Majority of companies should reduce their production scale.

TABLE 4: DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY IN AGRICULTURAL COMPANIES WITHOUT SUBSIDIES

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
0-20%	186	91	13	33	3	2	5	9	48	193	59	132
20,1% -40%	185	245	253	269	183	200	298	226	249	235	218	223
40,1%-60%	57	73	130	102	176	179	142	154	121	30	134	62
60,1%-80%	26	31	47	43	74	57	23	49	38	13	44	47
80,1%-99,9%	11	18	18	13	18	18	10	16	9	2	11	14
100%	25	32	29	30	36	34	12	36	25	17	24	12

Source: own calculation

TABLE 5: DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY IN AGRICULTURAL COMPANIES WITH SUBSIDIES

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
0-20%	156	54	4	15	2	5	3	1	116	119	22	95
20,1% -40%	197	252	219	277	168	188	261	187	209	294	189	201
40,1%-60%	66	94	159	106	198	179	176	170	93	32	179	106
60,1%-80%	31	38	55	47	66	66	26	71	39	20	58	57
80,1%-99,9%	14	12	25	11	21	19	11	24	10	1	14	16
100%	26	40	28	34	35	33	13	37	23	24	28	15

Source: own calculation

In 1998 before reallocation of subsidies the most farms (76%) operated in the interval of technical efficiency 0 – 40%. After reallocation of subsidies grew up the amount of agricultural companies in interval of 20,1 – 40 % about 12 companies. On the production possibilities frontier 25 companies were operating (it is about 5%) before subsidies and this amount increased about 1 company after reallocation of subsidies. In 1999 the most of companies reached the efficiency up to 60%. The efficiency without subsidies reached 91 companies lower than 20 % from total amount of companies' collection. The allocation of subsidies this number decreased on 54 producers. According to this decrease after allocation of subsidies came to increase of companies on the level of efficiency between 20,1 – 40% about 7 companies. In the interval of efficiency from 40,1% up to 60% came to increasing of companies about 21. On the production possibilities frontier begun to produce after subsidies 40 companies what is increase about 14 companies in comparison with year before.

Significant efficiency increase is conspicuously in 2000, where were in the branch only 13 companies on level till 20% and after given subsidies, this share decreased on 4 companies. It was change opposite 1999 about 50 companies. The share of companies with efficiency between 20,1% till 40% decreased. In this interval were around 50% of all production units. Abrupt increase of efficiency was in range 40,1% till 60%, where reached their results of operating about 159 companies. By the subsidies influence one of the company diverted from production possibility frontier to interval till 99,9%.

In 2001 the amount of producers in range up to 20% scaled up after subsidies allocation about 11 producers. The highest number of producers operated in the interval of efficiency from 20,1% up to 40%. Before subsidies it was 54,9% of producers and after subsidies increased this amount about 1,64%. In comparison with 2000 the count of companies increased on the branch level of production frontier on 34 companies. After this came to decreasing of producer's count with efficiency from 80,1 to 99,9 % from current amount 25 companies after subsidies on 11.

Continually increasing of input usage efficiency has impact on the companies which operate in not effective intervals. In the interval up to 20 % (the less effective level) were 3 % of companies without supports and just 2 companies after supports in 2002. The lower count of companies reached the efficiency in the range 20,1 – 40% in comparison with the most effective companies of the last year. We can see the increase of companies in the range from 60,1 to 80% on 74 companies (without subsidies) and 66 companies (after subsidies). Medium increase we can follow by companies which produce on the production possibilities frontier, where the count of companies after subsidies increased on 35 companies.

Year 2003 was not so successful for farmers as other years because of not positive climate conditions. In this year companies reached very low level of profitability and crops. Because of these reasons the companies had better conditions from banks to take loans for their activities and to reach better results

after year 2003. Technical efficiency was in these conditions on the lower level as in the last period. The state support had positive effect but just by few companies because not all companies received subsidies from the state and the subsidies was not in the same amount for each company. Partially the count of companies after subsidies decreased in the range of efficiency from 20,1% to 40 % about 12 companies. Constant count of companies (179) was in the interval from 40,1 to 60%. The efficiency level from 60,1% up to 80% were able to increase just 9 producers after the allocation of subsidies.

Year 2004 was important because of entrance to the European Union and from first May was applied Common Agricultural Policy of EU. CAP adapted approach of subsidies payment. The new rules of agrarian policy had impact on reached efficiency in this branch. In agricultural operated before given subsidies 60,81% companies with efficiency from 20,1% till 40% against 12 companies which operated on the production possibility frontier. After given subsidies this number of companies decreased from 298 on 261 companies and so the number of companies with efficiency from 40,1% till 60% increased from 142 on 176 companies. The number of companies on the level from 60% - 80% increased from 23 on 26 companies because of subsidies. One company reached efficiency till 100% and so the group of producers on production possibility frontier increased about 1 company on final count 13 companies.

In 2005 the amount of companies with technical efficiency from 20,1% to 40% decreased and it came to increasing of companies in the range of technical efficiency from 60,1% to 80% (increase about 45 companies after subsidies in comparison with year before). 37 companies operated on the production possibilities frontier after subsidies what means the growth about 24 producers in comparison with 2004.

According to our results we can say that the share of companies with efficiency 0 – 40% scaled up in 2006. The efficiency in the branch should get worst after allocation of subsidies. This situation is caused by higher amount of subsidies to 23 companies which produced on the production possibilities frontier and to these companies amain increased the efficiency and the production possibilities frontier. The companies were not competitive without subsidies what caused the decrease of companies' efficiency. 93,2 % of companies would be not able to reach the production possibilities frontier.

Similar like in 2006 also in 2007 the share of companies with efficiency up to 40% increased. Companies which invested to the technologies used European founds and were not afraid to take loans. In last period companies have production function higher as the average value of low effective companies and it was because of investing activities. The low effective group of companies contains 90,8% of companies. 17 companies produced on the production possibility frontier before given subsidies. After given subsidies this number increased around 7 companies.

Year 2009 is signed by economic crises which hit all branch of agriculture of Slovakia. From total amount of analysed companies operated on the production possibility frontier after subsidies 15 farms what is with comparison with 2008 about 13 farms less. Around 41% of companies were in the interval from 20,1% - 40% after subsidies.

### CONCLUSION

On the base of our analyse we detected that the efficiency of companies increased by subsidies allocation in particular years in average about 0,06% up to 4,36%. All these changes were statistical approved except 2003. The reason of this situation was that except of subsidies the companies took special loans from the state for bypassing higher loss caused by worst climate conditions. In general we can say that the subsidies had positive impact on the technical efficiency of companies which reached the values of efficiency up to 40% compared with companies which produced on the production possibilities frontier. It means that financial support was good divided and helped mainly to companies which really needed that help. On other hand these subsidies were for companies very important but in the consequence of subsidies can endanger degeneration of production environment. Some companies are prosperous just because of subsidies and without them they would be not competitive. Except of based company production envoi the agricultural producers have other function too. We are talking about keeping of employment and regional development in many areas which are not interesting for investors from secondary sector.

The allocation of subsidies leaded into decrease of companies which produced on the production possibilities frontier about 1 company in 2000, 2002 and 2003. In 2006 the count of the most effective companies decreased about 2 companies. The opposite effect we can see in 2007. After allocation of subsidies the level of efficiency increased in each year and on the production possibilities frontier started to produce around 24 companies.

From the point of companies size the majority of producers were in the area of increased returns of scale what means that companies were not conveyable in followed period. These companies should increase their scale of production. In the last year of followed period the situation changed and in the area of increased returns of scale was just around 161 companies.

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