



A Partner of

**VISION
ZERO** 

Safety.Health.
Wellbeing.

Implementation of Vision Zero
Strategy in Agriculture in Poland –
the Agricultural Social Insurance
Fund activities

Implementation of Vision Zero Strategy in Agriculture in Poland – the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund activities

The **Agricultural Social Insurance Fund of Poland (KRUS)**, is an institution established to realize tasks connected with full servicing of farmers' social insurance. The purpose of establishing KRUS was to create an independent, **specialized organization in Poland** which, as a manager of **farmers' social insurance**, could take over and assure efficient realization of tasks connected with servicing the insurance, as well as to assume new tasks which by then had not been realized by any insurance institution in the country. KRUS is headed by the **President** appointed by the Prime Minister on application of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

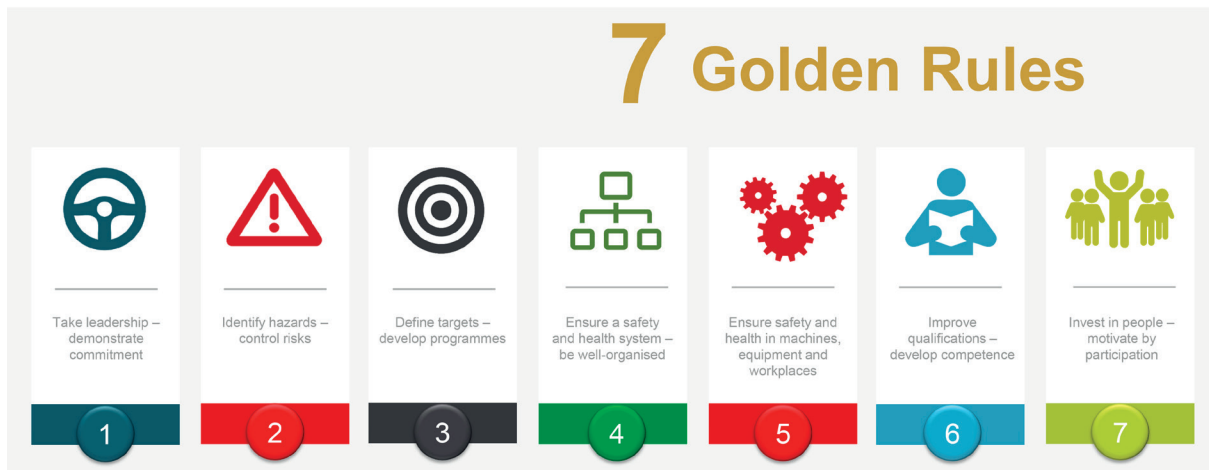
As it is well known, the agriculture is one of the pillars of national safety, next to energy and defense sectors. **Agriculture** is also ranked as one of the three most hazardous sectors together with mining and construction, measured by work related injuries, illnesses, disabilities and deaths. But it does not have to be that way. Accidents at work are neither fateful nor unavoidable – they always have causes. When all the people engaged in this sector work together to eliminate these causes, accidents and occupational illnesses can be prevented.

The ISSA prevention strategy – known as “**Vision Zero**” – is based on **3 pillars: safety, health and wellbeing** and the conviction that every accident is preventable if the right steps are taken in advance. It is possible to design the working environment so that nobody is killed or harmed at work.

Therefore agriculture is the right place for Vision Zero implementation.

This Strategy is based on **7 Golden Rules**, which form the roadmap towards Vision Zero, based on successful, practical management concepts.

We compare the Vision Zero implementation to **juggling of three balls** which is not easy. And you need time and effort to be successful in it. It is the same with three pillars of Vision Zero. They are all equally important for implementation.



The meaning of seven golden principles of Vision Zero should be explained in a more detailed way.

Rule no. 1 – every farmer is responsible for the safety of himself and others who work or stay on a farm; the quality of this safety depends on the farmer’s level of awareness; the greater the awareness, the more visible the initiative and commitment to safety.

Rule no. 2 – if there is awareness of safety and health, the first step is to identify the hazards that occur in the farmer’s work environment.

Rule no. 3 – if we know the threats to the farm, the next step is to define the goals that the farmer will be motivated to achieve in a defined perspective; some goals can be achieved without much time and financial commitment, others – perhaps in the long run – as they may involve bigger expenses; as shown on the KRUS experience in preventive activities that have been carried out for over 25 years, it is possible to improve the safety conditions on the farm without significant financial outlays.

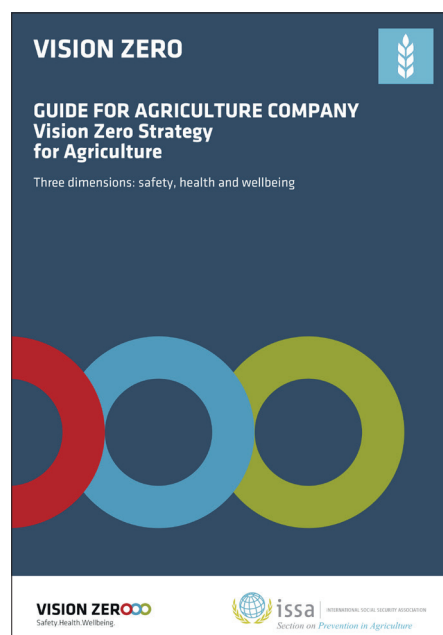
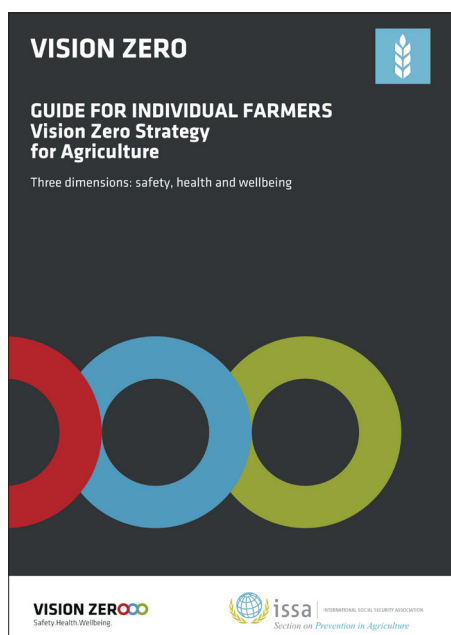
Rule no. 4 – the definition of goals implies the need to answer the question by what methods goals can be achieved – a comprehensive approach should be used in this respect, which will translate into well-organized jobs on the farm – both for the farmer himself and all people who work or stay on the farm.

Rule no. 5 – this principle is self-evident: whenever possible, care should be taken to ensure the best possible solutions in the field of work environment – i.e. agricultural machinery and equipment.

Rule no. 6 – if we are guided by a principle and a desire to constantly broaden our knowledge about safety, which may often lead to a change in the current approach, change of habits, compliance with rule 6 will not be problematic in any way.

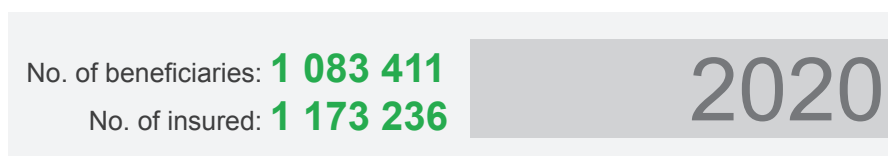
Rule no. 7 – it is worth repeating here that prevention begins with each of us; everyone should set a good example to others in their work environment and motivate them to stay safe; this rule is closely linked to rule number 1, which emphasizes the role of the farmer – the farm owner as a prevention ambassador.

KRUS is the institution leading the **ISSA Agriculture Section** on Vision Zero. As a Section we have worked out **two guides: one for individual farmers and one for agriculture companies** – we realised that their ways of functioning were significantly different so we decided to adapt the content of each guide to the reader. We have produced the **Section’s Annual Review** on the activities of the Section’s member institutions related to Vision Zero. We held the **International Colloquium in Cordoba**, in Spain. During the Colloquium we launched **Vision Zero as the World Prevention Strategy in Agriculture**. We organised an international symposium during **XXII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Toronto**.



When dealing with a **national level**, we would like first to describe shortly the KRUS’s main activities. They involve four areas:

- the **coverage of social insurance** of farmers, household members and family members and the collection of contributions for this insurance;
- pecuniary **benefits** from old-age and disability insurance, as well as accident, health and maternity insurance;
- **prevention activity** aimed at popularising safe work rules on farms and eliminating safety hazards at work and place of living of farmers;
- offering voluntary **medical rehabilitation**, covered by KRUS, for persons entitled to KRUS insurance benefits.



The scale of KRUS activities is represented by the number of beneficiaries and the insured. It is worth to mention that from the very beginning KRUS wanted to be the member of the international family of social security and that is why **we joined ISSA in 1991**. We have **run the secretariat** of the International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in Agriculture **since 2007**, and have been the **official partner** of Vision Zero project **since 2018**.

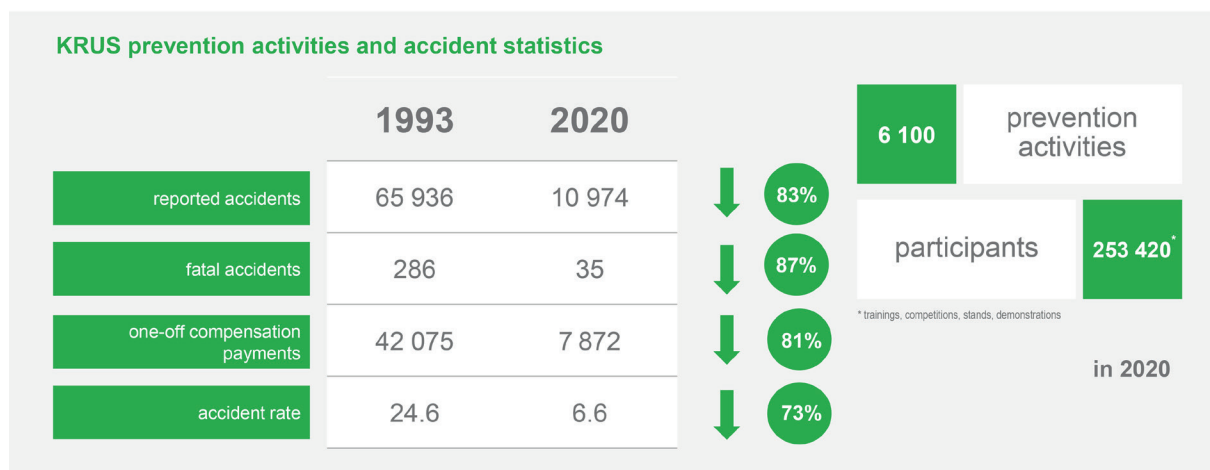


All KRUS prevention activities undertaken for over thirty years have been compliant with Vision Zero strategy. Please look below at our statistics. We have noticed a **significant drop in reported accidents, fatal accidents, compensation payments and accident rate** which means our prevention activities were successful. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, which limited our activities, we tried to keep reminding our beneficiaries about the principles of protecting health and life in a farm.

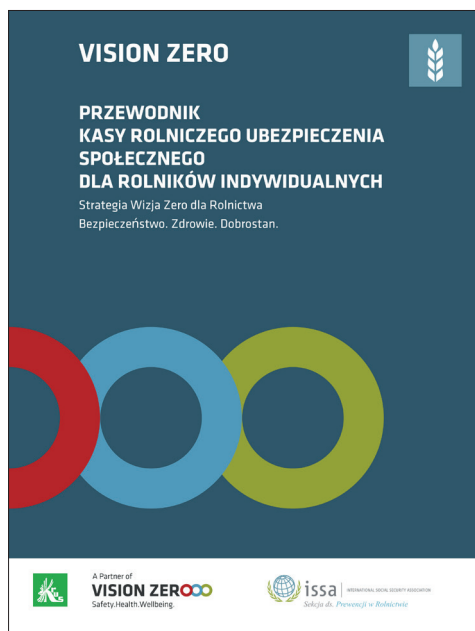
Towards Vision Zero in Agriculture



A Partner of
VISION ZERO
 Safety. Health. Wellbeing.



KRUS wanted to enhance the importance of work prevention in agriculture using the Vision Zero concept. That is why we organised the **launch of Vision Zero Strategy in Agriculture in Poland**. It was carried out with the cooperation of the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the support of the ISSA Secretariat in Geneva. For that occasion we prepared the Polish version of the **guidelines for farmers** and in order to enhance the publicity we produced the promotional **movie on Vision Zero in agriculture**. You can watch it here: <https://www.krus.gov.pl/en/vision-zero/video/>



KRUS has prepared the **implementation plan for the Vision Zero** which contains various methods and tools. As you can see below, we use all possible channels to communicate our mission. However, in our opinion, we should not forget about the importance of direct contact with farmers which we find as the most effective way of communication despite the more and more digitalised world.



All KRUS prevention activities are in close relation to Vision Zero and its 3 pillars: Safety, Health and Wellbeing. We make sure that all the 7 golden rules are met. We would like to draw your attention to **our competitions aimed at building awareness of safety**, which are offered to active farmers, farmers' children and teenagers on annual basis:

- The Safe Farm contest,
- The National Art Competition “We are safe in the countryside”,
- A Rhyme Poem Competition For Children on Safety in Agriculture,
- e-learning course “Staying safe in the countryside – preventing falls”.

Just to mention our competitions in numbers: we received 500 000 preventive pictures, we had 3500 schools cooperating, and around 1000 farms per year taking part in the Safe Farm Contest – these numbers make us very happy. The last year was an exception, when due to a pandemic this competition was postponed till the next year.



In connection with joining the Vision Zero Strategy, KRUS announced a new **National Youth Competition “My Vision Zero”** in 2019. The competition aims to promote safe farm work behaviours among young people, particularly secondary school and university students with an agricultural focus.

The main objective of the Vision Zero Strategy is to reduce occupational accidents and diseases, which involves improving the working conditions and health of farmers. Throughout 2021, KRUS paid special attention to the farmer’s occupational safety – hence the competition slogan: Farmer as a leader in safety. Safety is one of the three pillars of Vision Zero, alongside health and well-being and the first of the Seven Golden Rules of Vision Zero: “Take the initiative – get involved”. We believe that the commitment and passion of young people interested in tying their future to agriculture will help raise the living and working conditions of farmers to a new, higher level and create a better image of the countryside and its people. It is young farmers who will decide about the future and competitiveness of the Polish agriculture internationally.

We hope this article helped you become familiar with the concept of Vision Zero and the idea of its implementation on national level.

If you are interested in obtaining additional information on activities undertaken by KRUS or on the Vision Zero campaign in agriculture in Poland, please **contact the Communications and International Cooperation Office** of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund Headquarters. Our contact details: e-mail: kwm@krus.gov.pl, phone: +48 22 592 64 05, al. Niepodleglosci 190, 00–608 Warszawa. Poland



KASA ROLNICZEGO
UBEZPIECZENIA SPOŁECZNEGO