Structural change in the post-socialist transformation of Central European agriculture: Studies from the Czech and Slovak Republics
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Preface

I have greatly enjoyed doing this Ph.D. project. It has offered me a combination of advantages that, I assume, is rarely found in a job: freedom in the content and planning of my work within very generous margins; the pleasant obligation to study, discuss and write about topics of my own liking, again within limits that were never constraints; the opportunity to travel and explore other countries; and best of all, it is considered a job!

There were minor drawbacks. My car was stolen in Slovakia. A bank where I had, after time-consuming preparations, been allowed to conduct a survey among its local branch managers, went bankrupt and that research was cancelled. Farm managers whom I visited for interviews always insisted on having a few drinks and inspecting the pigsty. You now hold the result of all this, and a lot more, in your hands. I have tried to make a contribution to what we know about the recent market reforms and their effects in Central European agriculture. If that is of interest to you, I hope you indeed find new and relevant facts and interpretations in this book, and enjoy the read. If not – thanks for your interest!

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Dirk Bezemer