Countryreport

ECOFARMING AUSTRIA

Content

Countryreport: Austria

Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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IMPRESSUM

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FH Wiener Neustadt Wieselburg

Content

1 Introduction

1.1. General Information Regarding Biological Farming in Austria

Biological (or ecological) farming or agriculture combines all types of such farming in Austria. Originally such farming started as private initiatives and was at the beginning regulated by Harvesting, Demeter and other requirements as published by the various cooperatives, became subject of the Austrian Food Codex of 1983, and is now regulated by the EU Codex 2092/91, which delineates in detail what qualifications biological farming must have: An optimized biological process of feeding, leguminosic farming, limitation on fertilizers (only natural fertilizes is permitted), use of organic means for the protection of plants, variations in planting and seeding of produce and fields and avoidance of the use of any chemical or synthetic pesticides and mineral fertilizer. Any supportative supplements for purposes of organic farming or for rising of animals must be of organic origin. Organic agriculture must fulfill the highest ecological standards, and only then will be financially supported by the EU, the Government of Austria, and local authorities.

In Austria, any food produced under ecological labels experienced over the last years a steady rise in demand with a growing market share. Austria today provides a continuous chain of biological production, based on a well organized farming environment and a distribution system. However, also biological farming experiences the tensions between more professionalization in production and marketing, including the readiness of the consumers to buy such products.

Austria has a national and regional system of biological farming and marketing which provides regional supply of such products. Biological products, delivered by the distribution systems to the local super markets or are sold in bio-product-outlets or farmer`s markets. The direct contact between the bio-farmer and customer is a specialty of the Austrian market for such products.

2 Biological agriculture in Austria

2.1 The Origins of Bio-Agriculture

The early pioneers of biological agriculture lay the foundation of developments which created its own dynamics: In 1927 a number of small farmers – much influenced by the ideas of Rudolf Steiner who began his “Agricultural Courses” in the estates of Koberwitz, in Poland – were willing to change the common methods of farming. Originally detested by other farmers and considered as nuts, they encountered opposition of many kinds in these years (which was described by Pirklhuber and Gründlinger in their book, published in 1993).

In the years after 1962 a number of regional planning groups were created to work out recommendations and provide advise and training courses. The exchange of information was another step to enhance knowledge and how to expand bio-agriculture. These initiatives saw the creation of the first regional bio-agriculture cooperatives, like the Demeterbund, the Association or Organic-Biological Farmer of Austria (today “Bio-Harvest Austria”) and others. The federal radio and television system in Austria (OEF) promoted in its programs “Bodenkultur” or “Planquadrat Ländlicher Raum” biological initiatives and products. In 1980 there were approximately 200 ecologically-oriented farms in Austria.

In 1980 the then Federal Ministry for Health and Food created a commission to look into biological agriculture and especially production. This commission enacted a number of rules that specified the qualifications for ecological plants (Chapter A, 1985), and ecological animal raising (Chapter B, 1989), supplanted by an additional regulation for the follow-on treatment of bio-products during processing (Chapter C, 1993). Only products following these regulations were permitted to use the label “biological” or “organic”. In the years following 1989 and especially even more after 1993 bio-farming was supported by the government and also subsidized. More and more farms switched over to organic farming while the government began to specify even more strictly what farms world be permitted to sell on the market “organic” merchandise, now regulated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

The government supported bio-farms after 1992, based on the size of the farms. The rules for such payments was usually changed every year, but when Austria was accepted as a member of the European Union in 1995, EU regulations replaced the national rules or were implemented into Austrian law. Now bio-farming was regulated by the Austrian Program to Support Ecological and Natural Agriculture and Regions (ÖPUL, 1995). Now subsidizes were not provided by the size of the ecological areas but there were upper limits paid out for cultivated areas (measured in Hektars). Also, farmers would have to maintain biological agriculture by five years at least. Especially eco-farms in the mountain region of Austria were supported. The Federal Agency for Alpine Farming began to separate such farm into classes like landscape farming, animal raising, and forest products, however many farms combine their operations.

In 1995 the number of bio-farms also went up because there was a higher demand for such products from consumers. Consumers became the biggest single factor for eco-farming and selling. When the large super market chains began to offer bio-lines on their shelves, such lines got special labels like *Ja! Natürlich* (*Yes! Naturally*) in 1993, or *Natur Pur* (*Nature Pure*) in 1994, supply and demand multiplied.

Regarding the prices, bio-products must orient their costs for the consumer on the prices demanded for non-biological products. There are other pressures on bio-products too: The competition of the markets is also a price competition, and there are other products which try to indicate to the customer that their products are also of higher or natural quality. Bio-products must sell for rather low prices to maintain their market-share. Also there is a limit of consumers which are ready to pay a higher price so prices are often below costs. When the ÖPUL (1995) subsidiaries ended in 1999, many bio-farmers went out of business: Of 4834 registered bio-farms in 1999 until 2002 1700 closed down leaving only 3131 farms of this category, which is a decline of 355 within three years.

The transformation of theses years was remarkable in another way: Vienna is creating the largest demand for biological products and therefore the numbers ecological farms increased in Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland, but declined in all other regions like Carinthia and Styria. The increase was especially remarkable for grains and potatoes. Therefore we have a shift from western Austria at the beginning of ecological agriculture to the eastern parts of Austria. This was felt especially in Tyrol were the overall number of farms is declining.

Another program for enhancing biological farms began in 2001 and was limited for five years; the main purpose was the promotion of organic farming with education, training, research, marketing and public relations. Additionally, Austria tried to present its agriculture as especially “ecological” within Europe. Compared to other European states, Austria is leading in the number of biological farming. The idea is to raise the acreage by a factor of 50% and within the first two years some 22% of additional acreage was added. The total demand of bio products in the sale of food is now 3%.

The next two years saw improvements in regard to expand the sale of bio-products to the large kitchens of public services, hospitals, schools etc. In 2006 the acreage reaches 115.000 Hektars after it peaked in 2003 with 120.000 Hektars with is in fact an increase of 100% over the figure of 1999 with 64.917 Hektars. In 2009 the overall total acreage of biological farms had reached 518.000 Hektars.

Number of Bio-Farms in Austria and Acreage in the Political Regions 2009:

(Quelle: Grüner Bericht 2010)

Country	Numbers of Farms	Bio-Fläche in Hektar
Burgenland	838	36.649
Kärnten	1.388	40.502
Niederösterreich	4.430	134.637
Oberösterreich	3.864	69.553
Salzburg	3.593	93.140
Steiermark	3.611	75.023
Tirol	2.652	54.571
Vorarlberg	472	12.693
Wien	22	1.404
Austria	**20.870**	**518.172**

2.2 Current Situation of Austria`s Biological Farms

The total number of such farms in now 21.000 which represents 15% of all farms. The 518.000 Hektars resembles 18% of the total area or agriculture in Austria. This number might increase in 2010 again. The average size of these farms in 19 Hektars the average size of all farms in 17 Hektars. 19.074 farms obtained direct subsidizes from the EU, the federal and regional governments, which totaled 88,5 Mio. Euro. But other supports must be included in this figure as well therefore ecological farming included 139 Mio. €uro which represents 29% of all support all Austrian farms could collect. Part of these additional funds went into construction of stables for animals.

2.3 Numbers and Facts

Structure of organic farms 2008 (1) Table 3.1.15

Holdings, areas, size categories, animals and livestock units (LU)	Burgen-land	Carinthia	Lower Austria	Upper Austria	Salzburg	Styria	Tyrol	Vorarlberg	Vienna	Austria
Holdings and areas										
Subsidised organic farms, total	**764**	**1.333**	**4.232**	**3.702**	**3.515**	**3.370**	**2.580**	**444**	**21**	**19.961**
Organic farms without UAA (2)	**3**	**21**	**26**	**9**	**1**	**29**	**7**	**16**		**112**
Organic farms with UAA (not incl. alpine pastures)	**761**	**1.312**	**4.206**	**3.693**	**3.514**	**3.341**	**2.573**	**428**	**21**	**19.849**
Total utilised agric. area (UAA), (ha) (3)	33.251	25.107	120.942	65.409	50.771	53.738	26.878	5.723	1.131	382.949
Average UAA per holding (ha)	43,7	19,1	28,8	17,7	14,4	16,1	10,4	13,4	53,9	19,3
Holdings by size categories (ha UAA)										
less than 5 ha	98	136	282	456	322	449	641	107	8	2.499
5 to less than 10 ha	129	321	542	750	1.002	824	936	98		4.602
10 to less than 20 ha	150	451	1.299	1.309	1.459	1.171	736	125	2	6.702
20 to less than 30 ha	78	192	822	658	513	535	184	63	1	3.046
30 to less than 50 ha	95	152	715	410	188	280	65	31	4	1.940
50 ha and more	211	60	546	110	30	82	11	4	6	1.060
Organic farms with arable land	**702**	**717**	**2.945**	**2.690**	**463**	**1.467**	**615**	**43**	**14**	**9.656**
Total arable area (AA) (ha)	29.644	8.296	80.307	24.707	2.231	10.025	1.040	187	1.092	157.530
Average AA per holding (ha)	42,2	11,6	27,3	9,2	4,8	6,8	1,7	4,3	78,0	16,3
Organic farms with AA by size categ. (ha AA)										
less than 5 ha	109	331	573	1.135	313	826	563	32	2	3.884
5 to less than 10 ha	111	160	487	773	93	315	33	5		1.977
10 to less than 20 ha	127	129	651	527	45	247	17	4	2	1.749
20 to less than 30 ha	77	46	391	140	10	43	1	2		710
30 to less than 50 ha	82	31	423	88	1	29	1		4	659
50 ha and more	196	20	420	27	1	7			6	677
Organic farms with grassland	**358**	**1.284**	**3.421**	**3.641**	**3.514**	**3.234**	**2.569**	**424**	**4**	**18.449**
Total area of grassland (GL) (ha)	2.454	16.786	38.465	40.601	48.535	42.559	25.809	5.526	11	220.746
of which intensive grassland	184	5.932	21.054	30.568	29.900	22.675	9.600	3.245	0	123.159
of which extensive grassland	2.270	10.855	17.411	10.033	18.635	19.884	16.209	2.281	11	97.587
Average GL area per holding (ha) (3)	6,9	13,1	11,2	11,2	13,8	13,2	10,0	13,0	2,7	12,0
Org. farms with GL by size categories (ha GL)										
less than 5 ha	282	272	1.280	1.014	373	826	703	105	3	4.858
5 to less than 10 ha	36	362	669	1.085	1.031	750	913	103	1	4.950
10 to less than 20 ha	22	406	864	1.044	1.473	984	716	124		5.633
20 to less than 30 ha	7	151	393	308	452	428	172	61		1.972
30 to less than 50 ha	4	79	179	168	159	202	56	27		874
50 ha and more	7	14	36	22	26	44	9	4		162
Organic farms with vineyards	**167**	**3**	**279**	**1**		**87**		**4**	**6**	**547**
Vineyard area (ha)	959	1	1.626	0		159		3,1	23,2	2.773
Average vineyard area per holding with vineyards (ha)	5,7	0,5	5,8	0,4		1,8		0,8	3,9	5,1
Organic farms with orchards	**80**	**13**	**191**	**44**	**2**	**206**	**16**	**13**	**1**	**566**
Orchard area (ha)	194	22	537	86	5	984	28	7	1	1.863
Average orchard area per holding with orchards (ha)	2,4	1,7	2,8	1,9	2,4	4,8	1,7	0,5	0,5	3,3

Structure of organic farms 2008 (1)

Holdings, areas, size categories, animals and livestock units (LU)	Burgen-land	Carinthia	Lower Austria	Upper Austria	Salzburg	Styria	Tyrol	Vorarlberg	Vienna	Austria
Groups of crops										
Cereals (5)										
Organic farms with cereals	609	443	2.591	2.137	224	941	189	19	12	7.165
Cereals, total (ha)	17.527	3.218	44.569	11.941	445	3.865	141	41	650	82.396
Area under cereals per holding (ha) (4)	28,8	7,3	17,2	5,6	2,0	4,1	0,7	2,2	54,1	11,5
Pulses (Legumes)										
Organic farms with pulses	330	54	1.207	449	7	105		1	5	2.158
Pulses, total (ha)	2.517	576	5.034	1.564	10	281		0	45	10.027
Area under pulses per holding (ha) (4)	7,6	10,7	4,2	3,5	1,5	2,7		0,1	9,0	4,6
Oilfruit										
Organic farms with oilfruit	177	43	570	138	1	300	2	1	5	1.237
Oilfruit, total (ha)	1.341	338	3.058	463	0	611	0	0	28	5.839
Area under oilfruit per holding (ha) (4)	7,6	7,9	5,4	3,4	0,4	2,0	0,1	0,1	5,5	4,7
Potatoes										
Organic farms with potatoes	39	174	870	1.100	194	220	332	13	7	2.949
Potatoes, total (ha)	134	56	2.506	317	64	34	49	5	21	3.187
Area under potatoes per holding (ha) (4)	3,4	0,3	2,9	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,1	0,4	3,1	1,1
Field fodder (6)										
Organic farms with field fodder	562	663	2.604	2.414	447	1.183	534	38	10	8.455
Field fodder, total (ha)	5.593	3.969	18.483	9.710	1.688	4.813	820	124	120	45.319
Area under field fodder per holding (ha) (4)	10,0	6,0	7,1	4,0	3,8	4,1	1,5	3,3	12,0	5,4
Field vegetables										
Organic farms with field vegetables	44	21	257	87	16	47	37	14	7	530
Field vegetables, total (ha)	213	8	1.750	176	12	71	11	10	92	2.342
Area under field veget. per holding (ha) (4)	4,8	0,4	6,8	2,0	0,8	1,5	0,3	0,7	13,1	4,4
Livestock holders and farmed animals										
Cattle										
Cattle holders	53	1.023	2.159	2.637	3.237	2.431	2.186	355	1	14.082
Total cattle (head)	2.907	27.633	58.754	71.160	77.818	66.296	40.268	7.944	1	352.781
Cattle per holding (head)	54,8	27,0	27,2	27,0	24,0	27,3	18,4	22,4	1,0	25,1
Dairy cows										
Holders of dairy cows	23	517	1.270	1.489	2.380	1.365	1.508	219		8.771
Total dairy cows (head)	300	4.454	12.233	17.103	24.422	12.497	11.671	2.427		85.107
Dairy cows per holding (head)	13,0	8,6	9,6	11,5	10,3	9,2	7,7	11,1		9,7
Suckler cows										
Holders of suckler cows	40	870	1.685	2.105	2.158	1.879	1.596	235		10.568
Total suckler cows (head)	723	9.556	14.565	17.093	12.930	17.587	6.905	1.382		80.741
Suckler cows per holding (head)	18,1	11,0	8,6	8,1	6,0	9,4	4,3	5,9		7,6
Pigs										
Pig holders	54	361	920	967	761	898	538	46	3	4.548
Total pigs (head)	3.010	3.744	33.946	12.708	2.113	9.446	1.905	307	59	67.238
Pigs per holding (head)	55,7	10,4	36,9	13,1	2,8	10,5	3,5	6,7	19,7	14,8
Poultry										
Poultry holders	119	623	1.457	1.795	1.619	1.655	815	115	4	8.202
Total poultry (head)	34.808	178.587	127.717	251.155	52.676	478.198	18.123	4.518	246	1.146.028
Poultry per holding (head)	292,5	286,7	87,7	139,9	32,5	288,9	22,2	39,3	61,5	139,7
Sheep										
Sheep holders	49	194	494	429	528	391	424	48	3	2.560
Total sheep (head)	1.718	7.200	20.516	15.926	12.740	12.479	13.784	1.152	92	85.607
Sheep per holding (head)	35,1	37,1	41,5	37,1	24,1	31,9	32,5	24,0	30,7	33,4

Structure of organic farms 2008 (1)

Holdings, areas, size categories, animals and livestock units (LU)	Burgen-land	Carinthia	Lower Austria	Upper Austria	Salzburg	Styria	Tyrol	Vorarlberg	Vienna	Austria
Dairy quotas										
Organic farms with quotas	**9**	**403**	**967**	**1.142**	**2.208**	**1.002**	**1.336**	**192**		**7.259**
Quota (A-, D- & alp. past. quota) (t)	1.734	22.739	59.910	85.712	121.061	63.649	56.671	13.894		425.371
Quotas per holding (t)	192,7	56,4	62,0	75,1	54,8	63,5	42,4	72,4		58,6
Organic farms by size c. (kg quota)										
up to 20.000 kg	1	136	196	184	548	180	489	41		1.775
20.001 to 40.000 kg		89	215	217	608	272	332	24		1.757
40.001 to 70.000 kg		70	237	261	466	244	260	45		1.583
70.001 to 100.000 kg	4	37	143	178	268	130	136	38		934
100.001 to 200.000 kg	2	52	149	253	264	143	108	31		1.002
more than 200.000 kg	2	19	27	49	54	33	11	13		208
Dairy quota f. organic farming by size category (kg quota)										
up to 20.000 kg	14	1.063	1.859	1.822	5.951	2.059	4.315	393		17.476
20.001 to 40.000 kg		2.522	6.409	6.503	17.655	8.023	9.633	685		51.431
40.001 to 70.000 kg		3.777	12.762	13.955	24.673	13.317	14.033	2.388		84.905
70.001 to 100.000 kg	358	3.079	11.903	14.939	22.314	10.877	11.290	3.146		77.905
100.001 to 200.000 kg	287	7.319	19.442	34.138	35.800	19.518	14.407	3.927		134.837
more than 200.000 kg	1.075	4.979	7.534	14.355	14.669	9.856	2.993	3.355		58.816
Organic farms with A-dairy quotas	**8**	**323**	**884**	**1.083**	**2.045**	**949**	**1.125**	**168**		**6.585**
Total A-quota (t)	1.626	20.379	56.662	81.501	112.659	60.556	47.898	11.971		393.252
A-quota per holding (t)	203,3	63,1	64,1	75,3	55,1	63,8	42,6	71,3		59,7
Organic farms with D-dairy quotas	**5**	**251**	**412**	**444**	**931**	**362**	**720**	**122**		**3.247**
Total D-quota (t)	108	1.995	3.199	4.166	3.258	2.338	2.871	797		18.731
D-quota per holding (t)	21,5	7,9	7,8	9,4	3,5	6,5	4,0	6,5		5,8
Organic farms with alp. past. quotas		**26**	**3**	**3**	**303**	**50**	**331**	**63**		**779**
Total alp. past. quota (t)		366	49	45	5.144	756	5.903	1.126		13.388
Alp. past. quota per holding (t)		14,1	16,2	15,0	17,0	15,1	17,8	17,9		17,2
Livestock units (LU)										
Organic farms with LU	209	1.214	2.968	3.373	3.455	3.011	2.503	397	6	17.136
Total LU	2.930	24.106	54.803	62.703	65.224	57.303	34.319	6.521	35	307.945
LU per holding	14,0	19,9	18,5	18,6	18,9	19,0	13,7	16,4	5,9	18,0

1) All subsidised organic farms are registered in IACS.
2) Comprises all holdings without UAA (p.e. fish farmers, bee holders, etc.) and the holdings managing exclusively alpine pastures.
3) UAA not including alpine pastures and mountain meadows.
4) Average area of holdings with the relevant area (e.g. arable area).
5) Including grain maize and corn-cob-mix and silage maize.

Source: BMLFUW, Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics; AMA, IACS data, as of June 2009.

Table 3.1.14

Development of organic farms and organically managed areas

Year	Number of organic farms						Subsidies in mill. euro			
	Total number of organic farms (1)	of which					Measure for organic farm management		All other subsidisation measures for organic farms under the Agri-environmental programme	Subsidies for organic farming associations (6)
		Organic farms subsidised under IACS (2)	of which							
			Organic farms subsidised under ÖPUL	of which						
				Measure "Organic farming"	Measure "Ecopoints Lower Austria" (3)	Other ÖPUL measures	Total (4)	of which aid for the inspection of organic farms (5)		
Holdings							**Premiums**			
1990	1.539	300					0,4			0,4
1995	18.542	15.944	15.944	15.917	27		52,7	4,8		1,6
1996	19.433	18.316	18.316	18.288	28		60,4	5,5	38,6	1,7
1997	19.996	18.582	18.582	18.485	97		63,2	5,6	41,1	1,7
1998	20.316	19.598	19.523	18.780	149	594	65,0	5,7	46,4	1,7
1999	20.121	19.963	19.733	18.959	172	602	66,3	5,8	47,2	1,7
2000	19.028	18.645	18.434	17.521	233	680	63,6	5,3	45,1	1,7
2001	18.292	17.773	17.538	16.306	256	976	69,5	5,1	52,9	1,4
2002	18.576	18.191	17.916	17.020	336	560	75,9	5,4	55,9	1,4
2003	19.056	18.760	18.597	17.757	385	455	86,0	5,6	62,3	1,4
2004	19.826	19.577	19.272	18.292	409	571	90,6	5,8	66,8	1,4
2005	20.310	20.104	19.901	18.850	454	597	96,4	6,0	71,6	1,4
2006	20.162	19.986	19.486	18.505	436	545	95,3	5,9	71,0	1,4
2007	19.997	19.826	19.410	18.458		952	85,8		50,3	1,4
2008	20.102	19.961	19.638	19.074		564	88,5	1,9	50,4	1,4
Utilised agricultural area (in ha, not including alpine pastures)										
1998	290.335	280.966	273.552	264.696	2.997	5.859				
1999	284.086	283.123	277.735	267.993	3.496	6.246				
2000	277.729	275.789	266.056	253.893	4.765	7.398				
2001	280.267	278.297	267.607	250.002	5.280	12.326				
2002	300.862	299.454	282.652	268.302	6.563	7.786				
2003	328.803	326.703	308.413	294.801	8.105	5.507				
2004	344.916	343.183	324.984	309.325	8.725	6.934				
2005	360.969	360.369	343.424	326.986	9.475	6.962				
2006	361.817	361.487	338.067	321.971	9.295	6.801				
2007	372.026	371.326	358.057	345.400		12.658				
2008	383.756	382.949	373.021	364.924		8.097				

Development of organic farms and organically managed areas (in ha) by Federal Provinces										
	Burgenland	Carinthia	Lower Austria	Upper Austria	Salzburg	Styria	Tyrol	Vorarlberg	Vienna	**Austria**
Total number of organic farms										
2000	348	1.572	3.240	2.603	3.414	3.399	4.041	403	8	19.028
2001	401	1.457	3.299	2.697	3.336	3.488	3.190	413	11	18.292
2002	489	1.390	3.574	2.900	3.368	3.281	3.131	428	15	18.576
2003	602	1.337	3.902	3.038	3.337	3.315	3.100	406	19	19.056
2004	700	1.387	4.080	3.189	3.401	3.460	3.152	438	19	19.826
2005	759	1.383	4.199	3.373	3.459	3.500	3.180	438	19	20.310
2006	730	1.393	4.211	3.349	3.434	3.460	3.117	449	19	20.162
2007	774	1.388	4.259	3.521	3.475	3.453	2.632	473	22	19.997
2008	780	1.347	4.256	3.722	3.528	3.409	2.587	450	23	20.102
Organic farms subsidised under IACS										
2000	321	1.539	3.166	2.549	3.386	3.306	3.985	385	8	18.645
2001	371	1.395	3.214	2.634	3.311	3.298	3.155	388	7	17.773
2002	455	1.361	3.491	2.825	3.342	3.196	3.106	405	10	18.191
2003	580	1.314	3.849	2.991	3.308	3.240	3.071	391	16	18.760
2004	676	1.367	4.030	3.157	3.384	3.382	3.137	427	17	19.577
2005	739	1.365	4.159	3.342	3.445	3.440	3.165	432	17	20.104
2006	715	1.379	4.172	3.322	3.421	3.412	3.108	440	17	19.986
2007	752	1.372	4.233	3.497	3.460	3.407	2.620	465	20	19.826
2008	764	1.333	4.232	3.702	3.515	3.370	2.580	444	21	19.961
Utilised agricultural areas of organic farms subsidised under IACS (in ha, not incl. alpine pastures and mountain meadows)										
2000	8.457	22.777	67.232	41.311	46.326	48.494	35.988	4.823	380	275.789
2001	10.983	21.922	71.667	43.608	45.848	49.452	29.665	4.838	314	278.297
2002	14.628	23.040	82.832	47.578	46.505	48.056	30.950	5.056	810	299.454
2003	21.855	22.945	99.209	51.636	46.293	49.082	29.531	5.160	992	326.703
2004	24.928	23.704	105.006	54.462	47.634	50.840	30.173	5.424	1.012	343.183
2005	27.271	24.577	111.755	58.128	48.667	52.489	30.688	5.715	1.080	360.369
2006	28.389	24.708	112.459	58.198	48.332	51.958	30.652	5.668	1.122	361.487
2007	30.781	25.161	118.849	60.770	49.394	52.782	26.570	5.871	1.149	371.326
2008	33.251	25.107	120.942	65.409	50.771	53.738	26.878	5.723	1.131	382.949
Arable land (in ha) of organic farms subsidised under IACS										
2000	7.035	5.742	29.517	14.331	2.353	7.569	1.617	182	245	68.592
2001	9.393	5.696	35.077	15.817	2.331	7.832	1.284	190	310	77.930
2002	12.791	6.918	44.220	17.383	2.361	7.743	1.255	182	826	93.679
2003	19.643	7.403	59.710	19.969	2.417	8.445	1.260	177	986	120.010
2004	22.518	7.826	64.495	21.379	2.464	9.378	1.284	197	1.005	130.547
2005	24.659	8.210	70.557	23.166	2.480	9.931	1.313	204	1.073	141.594
2006	25.616	8.264	71.166	22.951	2.465	9.873	1.310	205	1.114	142.964
2007	27.533	8.547	78.296	23.655	2.462	9.993	1.101	196	1.117	152.900
2008	29.644	8.296	80.307	24.707	2.231	10.025	1.040	187	1.092	157.530
Grassland (not incl. alpine pastures and mountain meadows - in ha) of organic farms subsidised under IACS										
2000	968	16.940	36.544	26.675	43.957	40.340	34.335	4.635	0,1	204.394
2001	1.152	16.076	35.723	27.656	43.505	40.912	28.368	4.638	0,1	198.031
2002	1.308	15.676	37.239	29.893	43.863	39.341	28.161	4.848	0,1	200.329
2003	1.701	15.511	38.124	31.583	43.876	39.900	28.260	4.973	0,1	203.929
2004	1.873	15.847	39.019	33.016	45.165	40.681	28.877	5.218	0,1	209.697
2005	2.218	16.335	39.356	34.890	46.183	41.708	29.367	5.500		215.557
2006	2.158	16.418	39.646	35.173	45.862	41.234	29.333	5.454		215.279
2007	2.296	16.589	38.506	37.035	46.927	41.848	25.454	5.665	9	214.329
2008	2.454	16.786	38.465	40.601	48.535	42.559	25.809	5.526	11	220.746

Development of organic farms and organically managed areas (in ha) by Federal Provinces										
	Burgenland	Carinthia	Lower Austria	Upper Austria	Salzburg	Styria	Tyrol	Vorarlberg	Vienna	**Austria**
of which intensive grassland (agricultural grassland - in ha) of organic farms subsidised under IACS										
2000	602	14.193	35.100	25.922	32.994	34.233	28.427	3.299	0,1	174.771
2001	723	13.450	34.265	26.928	33.146	34.883	23.215	3.382	0,1	169.993
2002	874	13.103	34.873	29.084	34.282	33.652	23.167	3.643	0,1	172.677
2003	1.035	13.038	35.706	30.738	34.615	34.141	23.080	3.764	0,1	176.117
2004	1.193	13.294	36.412	32.090	35.642	34.900	23.595	3.947	0,1	181.073
2005	1.260	13.648	37.076	33.921	36.768	35.800	24.062	4.150		186.686
2006	1.200	13.731	37.366	34.205	36.447	35.327	24.029	4.104		186.407
2007	111	5.754	20.486	27.406	28.907	22.320	9.497	3.415		117.896
2008	184	5.932	21.054	30.568	29.900	22.675	9.600	3.245	0,2	123.159
of which extensive grassland (not incl. alpine pastures and mountain meadows - in ha) of organic farms subsidised under IACS (7)										
2000	366	2.747	1.443	752	10.964	6.107	5.908	1.336		29.623
2001	429	2.626	1.458	728	10.359	6.029	5.153	1.256		28.037
2002	434	2.573	2.366	810	9.580	5.689	4.994	1.206		27.652
2003	666	2.473	2.418	845	9.261	5.759	5.181	1.209		27.812
2004	681	2.553	2.607	925	9.523	5.782	5.283	1.271		28.624
2005	958	2.687	2.280	968	9.415	5.908	5.305	1.350		28.871
2006	945	2.744	2.715	981	8.972	5.866	5.244	1.313		28.779
2007	2.185	10.835	18.021	9.628	18.020	19.528	15.957	2.250	9	96.433
2008	2.270	10.855	17.411	10.033	18.635	19.884	16.209	2.281	11	97.587
Vineyards (in ha) of organic farms subsidised under IACS										
2000	246		472	0,1		43		1	2	764
2001	283		564	0,1		51		1	1	900
2002	317		728	0,1		65		3	2	1.114
2003	370		1.089			70		3	4	1.536
2004	382	0,1	1.173			95		3	4	1.657
2005	467	0,1	1.201			115		3	4	1.791
2006	429	0,1	1.215			114		3	5	1.766
2007	766	1	1.534			154		3	19	2.477
2008	959	1	1.626	0,4		159		3	23	2.773
Orchards (in ha) of organic farms subsidised under IACS										
2000										0
2001										0
2002										0
2003										0
2004										0
2005										0
2006	186	26	424	65	5	734	7	6	1	1.453
2007	185	23	505	67	5	779	14	7	1	1.586
2008	194	22	537	86	5	984	28	7	1	1.863

1) According to information provided to the Provincial Governor.
2) Including the organic farms which cultivate only areas of alpine pastures.
3) Will not be disclosed extra anymore in the new programme period RD for 2007-2013.
4) The subsidisation of organic farms began in 1990; since 1995 the premiums paid for ÖPUL in the framework of IACS have been considered.
5) The aid for the inspection of organic farms will be paid by the new programme RD for 2007-2013 for the measure 132 of axis 1. The grant for 2007 was transferred for totally 12,445 holdings in 2008.
6) This subsidisation concerns only the national aid financed by Austria - Organic farming.
7) The grassland will be recorded more detailled with ÖPUL 2007 (in addition there are meadow/pasture mown with three and more utilisations and permanent pastures). The
meadows mown twice will be assigned to the extensive grassland. That is why there exists a rise of areas from 2006 to 2007 concerning the extensive grassland.

Source: BMLFUW, AMA.

2.4 Support for Adapting Organic Farming

The suggested first step for farmers wanting to switch to organic farming practices is to contact the district's farmers association, or the eco department of the provincial chamber of agriculture. The organic farming associations and chambers of agriculture offer on-site support for farmers, training courses and excursions. In some provinces special assistance teams offer in-depth support for the organic cultivation of vegetables and fruits, and for hog breeding. Adapting organic farming practices requires two years on average, since regulations require at least two years to be accepted as an organic farm. Shorter periods, however, are possible for organic animal farms.

2.5 The Organic Farming Associations

Of the 20.000 Austrian organic farms, two thirds are member of one of the several organic farming associations. Their commitment in marketing and their expertise are one of the key reasons why Austria is the leading organic farming country in Europe. With the establishment of BIO AUSTRIA in late January 2005 and the consolidation of 16 organic farming associations (These associations have merged into BIO AUSTRIA: Bio Ernte Austria, Dachverband ARGE Biolandbau, Dachverband OEIG Biolandbau, Demeter, ORBI, Biolandwirtschaft Ennstal, BAF, Freiland Verband, Hofmarke, Erde & Saat, Dinatur, KOPRA, organisch-biologischer Landbau Weinviertel, Oekowirte Infoservice, Arche Noah) 13.000 organized farmers continued the success of Austrian organic farming with a new joint organization. Today BIO AUSTRIA is Europe's largest organic farming association and is networking consumers, processors, retailers, politics and media on federal and provincial levels. But still, small and at times regional organic farming associations play an important part as advisors, in marketing, and in consumer information.

BIO AUSTRIA Wien
Theresianumgasse 11/1
A-1040 Vienna
Telephone: +43 - 1 - 403 70 50
Fax: +43 -1 - 403 70 50 - 190

BIO AUSTRIA Linz
Europaplatz 4
A-4020 Linz
Telephone: +43 - 732 - 65 48 84
Fax: +43 - 732 - 65 48 84 - 40
Email: office@bio-austria.at
www.bio-austria.at
www.bioinfo.at
www.biomaps.at

Products: Organic Farming Products
Awarded by: BIO AUSTRIA, governing body of all Austrian organic farming associations
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8, regulations of BIO AUSTRIA

With 13.000 members BIO AUSTRIA is Austria's largest organic farming association and is networking consumers, processors, retailers, politics and media on federal and provincial levels.

Biolandwirtschaft Ennstal
Stainach 160
A-8950 Stainach
Telephone: +43 - 3623 - 201 16
Fax: +43 - 3623 - 201 17
Email: office@bioland-ennstal.at
www.bioland-ennstal.at

Products: Organic Farming Products
Awarded by: BIO AUSTRIA, governing body of all Austrian organic farming associations
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8, regulations of Biolandwirtschaft Ennstal

Founded as a regional initiative in the Styrian town of Liezen, “Biolandwirtschaft Ennstal” with its 600 members focuses on organic milk and meat and is marketing these products via bulk buyers, but also yard sales and local businesses. Another important aspect, also for tourism is the groomed and cultivated landscape resulting from organic farming.

Verein der biologisch wirtschaftenden Ackerbaubetriebe BAF
2164 Alt-Prerau
Telephone: +43 - 2523 - 8412
Fax: +43 - 2523 - 8412 - 10
Email: alt-prerau@aon.at
www.bioackerfrucht.at

This regional association, founded in 1986, consists of 12 large organic farms in Lower Austria's Weinviertel and Waldviertel regions, and Upper Austria. Logistic measures like a joint machine park and joint warehousing optimize labor and production. Marketing is export oriented.

DEMETER – biologisch-dynamische Landwirtschaft
Theresianumgasse 11
A-1040 Wien
Telephone: +43 - 1 - 879 47 01
Fax: +43 - 1 - 879 47 22
info@demeter.at
www.demeter.at

Awarded by: Österreichischer Demeter Bund
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8, international DEMETER guidelines

The oldest and internally most prominent organic farming association is based on thoughts of Rudolf Steiner published in 1924. The Austrian DEMETER association was founded in 1969. Focus are not only the sustainable utilization of natural resources, but also the harmony of worldly and cosmic powers.

Bioverband ERDE & SAAT
Polsing 10
A-4072 Alkoven
Telephone: +43 - 7274 - 201 69
Fax: +43 - 7274 - 201 86
Email: kontakt@erde-saat.at
www.erde-saat.at

Products: Organic Farming Products
Awarded by: Erde & Saat – Fachverband für biologische Landwirtschaft
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8, regulations of Erde & Saat – Fachverband für biologische Landwirtschaft

Bioverband ERDE & SAAT wants to improve the harmony between men, animal, and plants and improve the quality of food in Upper and Lower Austria provinces. Goal is the creation of jointly organized, professional processing plants, the cooperation with business partners, the creation of a professional organic sector, and the conservation of the traditional farming landscape.

FGB – Förderungsgemeinschaft für gesundes Bauerntum
Noebauerstrasse 22
A-4060 Leonding
Telephone and Fax: +43 - 7326 - 753 63
www.orbi.or.at

Products: Organic Farming Products
Awarded by: Förderungsgemeinschaft für Gesundes Bauerntum
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8, ORBI guidelines

“Förderungsgemeinschaft für gesundes Bauerntum” [Association for the Promotion of a Healthy Peasantry], founded in 1959, was the first Austrian organic farming association and uses the method of Mueller-Rusch, which is based on the use of compost and rock flour. The around 1.000 members are composed of enthusiasts and around 70 farmers and garden owners with the goal of rapprochement between town and country. The association publishes the “Der bäuerliche Pionier” magazine and runs the ORBI farmers market in Linz since 1982.

Freiland – Verband für ökologisch-tiergerechte Nutztierhaltung und gesunde Ernährung
Seidengasse 33/13
A-1070 Wien
Telephone: +43 - 1 - 408 88 09
Fax: +43 - 1 - 907 63 13 - 20
Email: office@freiland.or.at
www.freiland.or.at

Products: Eggs, meat
Awarded by: Freiland Verband
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8, guidelines of “Freiland”

“Freiland” is a specialist for organic animal husbandry and consists of 84 members. The logo is awarded for best practice, like e.g. small group pens, free run, and short transport routes. Products, mostly eggs and meat, are marketed mostly at organic markets in the Vienna area.

Bioverband ökologischer Kreislauf Moorbad Harbach

Products: Meat, dairy products, eggs, vegetables, cereals
Awarded by: Bioverband ökologischer Kreislauf Moorbad Harbach
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8, internal guidelines
Website: www.oeko-kreislauf.at

Arche Noah – Gesellschaft zur Erhaltung und Verbreitung der Kulturpflanzenvielfalt
Obere Strasse 40
A-3553 Schloss Schiltern
Telephone: +43 - 2734 - 8626
Fax: +43 - 2734 - 8627
Email: info@arche-noah.at
www.arche-noah.at

ARCHE NOAH

Collecting, propagating, passing on, returning traditional seeds to the gardens is the goal of Arche Noah. Activities range from creating a seed bank, to advice on seeds, to public information campaigns. In addition Arche Noah runs a baroque show garden and publish an annual strains and seeds compendium.

A total of 1.51 million Euro was paid out for public relations, advisory work and organizational support of the ecological farming associations in 2009. (Grüner Bericht, 2009, BMLFUW).

2.6 Education and Counseling, Educational Training

The Austrian agricultural sector is endowed with a superb educational system, for which 130 Mio. Euro was spent in 2009. Core task remains the agricultural and forestry production, and the increase of the aggregated value. It is planned to increase the educational spectrum to fight the rural exodus. This means the expansion of current, secondary educational training opportunities, plus the closing of strategic gaps in sectors like environment, climate, noise, radiation, energy, waste management, and water management. There is a statistic correlation between education and income. One of the challenges is to support less successful students in their quest for a job. Additionally an increase in the number of high school graduates is desirable, and the goal is a 100% school education rate in farm operations. This will be supported by development programs and a bonus system. Special attention is to be paid to those unwilling to attend an educational program.

In 2009 a total of 18.270 students attended the 122 Austrian agronomy and forestry schools. The eleven polytechnic schools offer an innovative educational program with a high technical and social standard to their 3.500 students, nevertheless adjustments to syllabus are required. Challenges exist due to changing societal importance of the environment or changing focus of the different development programs after 2013. Concrete steps are drafted in the master plan "Unternehmen Landwirtschaft 2007" [Agrobusiness 2007] – www.hlfs.schule.at

2.7 Selected Research Establishments

Universidad fur Bodenkultur, Institut für ökologischen Landbau
[Vienna University for Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Department of Organic Farming]

Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau (FiBL) Österreich –
[Austrian Research Institute for Organic Farming – Interface between Research and Praxis]

Institut für biologische Landwirtschaft des Lehr- und Forschungszentrums Raumberg-Gumpenstein
[The Institute for Organic Farming of the Raumberg-Gumpenstein Research and Training Centre]

3 Legal Directives

3.1. Austria as Trailblazer

Austria is the first country worldwide with national directives for ecological and organic economic management, with the first directives issued by the Federal Ministry for Health and Environment in 1983. In 1989 these directives were included in the Codex Alimentarius Austricus as chapter A8. And in 1991 Austria was the first country to issue directives dealing with ecological animal husbandry and organic products from animals.

3.2. EU Regulations

With the Austrian accession to the EU in July 1994, all EU regulations covering organic farming and organic products became part of Austrian law. These regulations deal with the production, labeling, and inspections. Until 2008 these aspects were covered under EU regulation 2092/91, since 2009 **Council Regulation 834/2007**, while the implementation regulations are covered under **EU Regulation 889/2008**.

3.3. Inspection Authorities

In case an organic farming operation or processor is member of one of the organic farming associations, like e.g. Bio Austria, they have to adhere to the guidelines of that association. Organic farms and processors are inspected by independent associations which are approved by the provincial governors, and are themselves inspected by the agency for comestible goods [Lebensmittelbehoerde]. There are regular annual inspections and unannounced special inspections and it is required for all parties to keep exact records. An organic farmer has to declare the goods he is buying and has to present a cropping plan a year in advance. An organic processor has to keep records of his purchases and sales.

3.3.1. AMA-Subsidies Inspections

In case a farming operation receives organic farming subsidies – which 95% of Austrian farms do – the AMA Agency (Agrarmarkt Austria) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture does also check the conformity of these farms.

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3.3.2 Associations and Chain Stores

Two thirds of all Austrian organic farmers are member in one of the organic farming associations (especially Bio Austria). Thus the farmer has to adhere to more strict regulations than put down in the EU regulations of the Codex Alimentarius. This entitles him to the use of the logo of his association. The farmer is inspected by one of the above mentioned agencies for compliance with his association's guidelines. The organic logos of the chain stores guarantee additional quality assurance measures.

3.4 Sanctions

In case of violation of one of the guidelines a number of sanctions are possible, tiered according to the gravity of the violation: The farm can lose the privilege to use the organic logo for a specific product, or even in its entirety. In addition he might have to refund the subsidies he received.

3.5 Labeling

An Austrian organic product is discernible by featuring the following labels:“Ausbiologischer/ökologischer/organisch-biologischer/biologisch-dynamischer Landwirtschaft”, In addition the word “Bio” is allowed. A Reminder: NOT from organic production are products with these labels: “naturnah”, “umweltschonend”, “kontrolliert integriert”, “chemiefrei”, “alternativ” &c. Besides the label “aus biologischer Landwirtschaft” there has to be the number of the inspection authority printed on the package. An organic product is only allowed to be label “aus biologischer Landwirtschaft” in case ingredients and production cycle are from 100% organic production. In a few special cases up to 5% are allowed from conventional production. Since 2009 an organic product also needs to declare if it was produced in the EU, in which case it is allowed the EU Organic Production label (to be introduced in July 2010). In case less than 95% of the products are of organic origin, the label “organic” is only allowed in the list of ingredients. For example: A cereal is to be labeled as “Oats from organic production”, but on the frontside of the package the use of the word or label “Bio” is not allowed.

Synopsis:

1. Label “aus biologischer Landwirtschaft”
2. Also possible the label “Bio”
3. The ID code of the inspection agency (e.g. AT-N-01-BIO)
4. The EU Organic Product logo
5. The AMA logo

3.5.1 Organic Label Austria

AMA Logo: For consumers to be able to discern organic products the AMA logo was created by AMA Marketing GmbH. The logo exists in two versions, but both versions indicate that the product is from 100% organic farming.

Awarded by: Agrarmarkt Austria Marketing GmbH
Website: www.ama-marketing.at
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8, international guidelines (IFOAM)

The **AMA logo without regional label** is usually awarded for products with ingredients from different countries. It is also used with seasonal product like fruits and vegetables, which can originate from different countries during different seasons.

Products: Organic farming products
Awarded by: Agrarmarkt Austria Marketing GmbH
Website: www.ama-marketing.at
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8, 70% of ingredients have to originate from the on the label specified region

For the above pictured **label with the specifier "Austria"** all the ingredients have to originate in Austria, as far as they naturally grow there. In case they do not naturally grow in Austria, the label allows for one third of non-Austrian ingredients. For example: The milk in a banana yoghurt has always to be of 100% Austrian origin, but the on average 7% bananas in the yoghurt can originate from abroad.

Additional Austrian Organic Labels:

Austria Bio Garantie – Gesellschaft zur Kontrolle der Echtheit biologischer Produkte GmbH

Products: Organic Agriculture
Awarded by: Austria Bio Garantie – Gesellschaft zur Kontrolle der Echtheit biologischer Produkte GmbH
Website: www.abg.at
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8

Bios – Biokontrollservice Österreich

Awarded by: Bios – Biokontrollservice Österreich
Website: www.bios-kontrolle.at
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8

Lacon - Privatinstitut für Qualitätssicherung und Zertifizierung ökologisch erzeugter Lebensmittel GmbH

Products: Organic Agriculture
Awarded by: Lacon - Privatinstitut für Qualitätssicherung und Zertifizierung ökologisch
erzeugter Lebensmittel GmbH
Website: www.lacon-institut.at
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8

LVA – Lebensmittelversuchsanstalt

Products: Organic Agriculture
Awarded by: LVA – Lebensmittelversuchsanstalt
Website: www.lva.co.at
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8

Salzburger Landwirtschaftliche Kontrolle GesmbH

Products: Organic Agriculture
Awarded by: Salzburger Landwirtschaftliche Kontrolle GesmbH
Website: www.slk.at
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8

SGS Austria Controll-Co GmbH

Products: Organic Agriculture
Awarded by: SGS Austria Controll-Co GmbH
Website: www.at.sgs.com
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8

Verband Kontrollservice Tirol

Products: Organic Agriculture
Awarded by: Verband Kontrollservice Tirol
Website: www.biko.at
Award Criteria: EU Regulation 834/2007, OELK A8

3.5.2 EU Organic Labels

Copyright: EU Commission

Since 2009 Austrian organic products also needs to display the EU Organic Logo, which says “organic agriculture” or biological agriculture”, or a corresponding translation in one of the official languages of the EU.

Besides that other organic logos may be displayed. Optional are such labels on loose or imported goods. The new labeling regulations require the display of the region of origin and the ID code of the certifying authority tasked with compliance inspection. This new label will be introduced within two years.

4 Revenues and Purchasing Behavior

4.1 Why consumers buy organic products

50% of consumers answer with "**healthy nutrition**" as the major reason for their organic purchase. 13% name the absence of chemical additives, 9% the better taste, and 9% the support of farmers as reasons. Consumers of organic products have the certitude of species appropriate husbandry and that they contribute to the conservation of the traditional farming landscape and to climate protection. Another important factor is the absence of genetically modified crops and ingredients.

4.2 Organic Foodstuff – Revenues & Sales Locations

In 2008 six percent of all foodstuff sold in Austria were of organic origin, or a revenue of around 900 million Euro (according to Bio Austria). 66% were sold via supermarkets, 15% via organic stores, 5% via the service industry, 7% via direct farm sales, and 7% were exported.

4.3 Which organic products are most popular?

Organic foodstuff is continuously increasing its market share in Austria. Measured by revenue eggs are the most organic. According to AMA organic eggs worth 21.5 Mio. Euro were sold in 2009, corresponding to 16.5% of all eggs sold in Austria.

Second spot takes organic "Bio-ESL" milk (ESL = extended shelf life), with 19 Mio. Euro, then "Bio-Frischmilch" milk with Euro 10.6 Mio., various milk products (fruit yohurt 11.9 Mio., soft cheese 11 Mio, butter 9 Mio., sour yoghurt 8.1 Mio., hard cheese 7.7 Mio., and organic potatoes with 9.7 Mio. Euro. Volume-wise ESL and "Bio Frischmilch" milk take the lead before organic banana, potatoes, yoghurt and eggs. Not included in this statistic is bred, but it is known that organic bred is an important source of revenues.

5 Quo Vadis Organic Agriculture?

Even though in 2008 the organic market share stagnated, a future increase of the organic market share is expected by experts. The economic crises and the high oil price are seen as the main chock blocks, whereas the climate change and sustainability debate are seen as accelerants.

5.1 Goals

Austrian politics is providing appropriate conditions for further growth of the organic agriculture sector. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management holds annual conferences to discuss the organic topic with all parties. The results are included in the organic action program of the Ministry. These are the recent goals:

- Austria shall maintain its position as European “Organic Country” No.1
- The organic agricultural area shall be increased to 20% by 2020
- All organic products shall be marketed as such. The Austrian organic market demand shall be satisfied with Austrian products: Thus the market share in foodstuff sector with hitherto less demand for organic products (like meat, sausages) shall be expanded, and the production increased in sectors were demand can't be met with purely Austrian products (mostly vegetables and fruits)
- The positive environmental aspects of organic agriculture (protecting and conserving the climate, soil, water, and increasing biodiversity) shall be communicated better