Media release February 12, 2020

Global organic area continues to grow

Over 71.5 million hectares of farmland are organic

The latest data on organic farming worldwide will be presented by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and IFOAM – Organics International at BIOFACH, the world’s leading trade fair for organic food, in Nuremberg, Germany. The statistical yearbook “The World of Organic Agriculture” will be launched on Wednesday, 12 February, 2020, from 5 to 6 pm in Hall Shanghai, NCC East.

(Frick/Nuremberg, 12 February, 2020) 2018 was another record year for global organic agriculture. According to the latest FiBL survey on organic agriculture worldwide, organic farmland increased by 2.0 million hectares, and organic retail sales also continued to grow, reaching another all-time high, as shown by the data from 186 countries (data as of the end 2018). The 21st edition of the study “The World of Organic Agriculture” published by FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International shows a continuation of the positive trend seen in the past years. This annual survey on organic agriculture worldwide is supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Sustainability Fund of Coop Switzerland, and NürnbergMesse, the organizers of the BIOFACH fair.

The global organic market continues to grow and has passed the 100 billion US dollar mark

The market research company, Ecovia Intelligence, estimates that the global market for organic food surpassed 100 billion US dollars for the first time in 2018 (almost 97 billion euros). The United States is the leading market with 40.6 billion euros, followed by Germany (10.9 billion euros) and France (9.1 billion euros). In 2018, many major markets continued to show double-digit growth rates, and the French organic market grew by more than 15 percent. Danish and Swiss consumers spent the most on organic food (312 euros per capita in 2018). Denmark had the highest organic market share with 11.5 percent of its total food market.

2.8 million organic producers worldwide

In 2018, 2.8 million organic producers were reported. India continues to be the country with the highest number of producers (1’149’000), followed by Uganda (210’000), and Ethiopia (204’000).

Steady increase of organic farmland

A total of 71.5 million hectares were organically managed at the end of 2018, representing a growth of 2.9 percent or 2 million hectares compared to 2017. Australia has the largest organic agricultural area (35.7 million hectares), followed by Argentina (3.6 million hectares), and China (3.1 million hectares). Due to the large area of organic farmland in Australia, half of the global organic agricultural land is in Oceania (36.0 million hectares). Europe has the second largest area (15.6 million hectares), followed by Latin America (8 million hectares). The organic area increased in all continents compared to 2017.

Ten percent or more of the farmland is organic in 16 countries

Globally, 1.5 percent of farmland is organic. However, many countries have far higher shares. The countries with the largest organic share of their total farmland are Liechtenstein (38.5 percent), Samoa (34.5 percent), and Austria (24.7 percent). In sixteen countries, 10 percent or more of all agricultural land is organic.

Global organic statistics show the contribution of organic agriculture to the Sustainable Development Goals

According to Dr. Monica Rubiolo from SECO, “Access to good quality data on organic farming not only helps to measure success toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals but also to orient decision-makers and other stakeholders along the whole value chain.” Joseph Wozniak from ITC believes that “This publication provides key insights for those who attach importance to environmental conditions behind the products produced in their countries or sold in their nation’s shops.”

“The global organic statistics have proven useful for development programs and supporting strategies for organic agriculture and markets, and they are crucial for monitoring the impact of these activities. This publication shows our ongoing engagement with transparency in the organic sector” say Louise Luttikholt, IFOAM – Organics International Executive Director, and Professor Urs Niggli, director of FiBL.

More information

“The World of Organic Agriculture” - How to order/download

The printed version (30 euros + postage; affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International: 20 euros) can be ordered and downloaded at <https://shop.fibl.org> (order number 5011). Graphs and infographics can be downloaded at [www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020.html](http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020.html)

Online database

Tables and interactive infographics with more details on crops, markets, and international trade, as well as explanations about the data can be found on FiBL’s statistics website <https://statistics.fibl.org>.

Contacts

* Dr. Helga Willer, FiBL, Ackerstrasse 113, 5070 Frick, Switzerland  
  Phone +41 (0)79 218 06 26, [helga.willer@fibl.org](mailto:helga.willer@fibl.org), [www.fibl.org](http://www.fibl.org)
* Louise Luttikholt, IFOAM – Organics International, Charles-de-Gaulle-Strasse 5, 53113 Bonn, Germany  
  Phone +49 (0)160 8041557, Fax +49 (0)228 9265099, [l.luttikholt@ifoam.bio](mailto:l.luttikholt@ifoam.bio), [www.ifoam.bio](http://www.ifoam.bio)

Programme of the session “The World of Organic Agriculture – Statistics and Emerging Trends”

Wednesday, 12 February, 2020, 5 to 6 pm, Hall Shanghai (NCC East), NürnbergMesse, Nürnberg

* Louise Luttikholt, IFOAM – Organics International, Moderator
* Dr. Christian Robin, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
* Dr. Helga Willer, FiBL: Latest data on organic agriculture worldwide
* Joelle Katto-Andrighetto, IFOAM – Organics International: Standards and regulations
* Amarjit Sahota, Ecovia Intelligence, UK: The global market for organic food

More information at <https://biofach.fibl.org/en/biofach-all/biofach-2020-en.html>

Supporters

* Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Berne, Switzerland, <https://www.seco.admin.ch>
* International Trade Centre (ITC), Geneva, Switzerland, <http://www.intracen.org>
* Coop Sustainability Fund, Coop, Basel, Switzerland,   
  <https://www.actions-not-words.ch/en.html>
* NürnbergMesse, the organizers of the BIOFACH fair, Nuremberg, Germany, <https://www.nuernbergmesse.de/>

Book reference

Willer, Helga, Bernhard Schlatter, Jan Trávníček, Laura Kemper and Julia Lernoud (Eds.) (2020): The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2020. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Frick, and IFOAM – Organics International, Bonn. Available at [www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020.html](http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020.html)

This media release online

This media release and graphs can be accessed online at <https://www.fibl.org/en/info-centre/media.html>

About FiBL

The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) is one of the world’s leading institutes in the field of organic agriculture. FiBL’s strengths lie in its interdisciplinary research, innovations developed jointly with farmers and the food industry, and rapid knowledge transfer. FiBL employs some 300 staff at its various locations.

Homepage: [www.fibl.org](http://www.fibl.org)

Yearbook "The World of Organic Agriculture" at a glance

About "The World of Organic Agriculture"

The yearbook (333 pages) presents the results of the annual survey on organic agriculture worldwide and has numerous tables, graphs, maps, and infographics. Furthermore, it contains reports authored by experts on the organic sector and emerging trends in all regions and selected countries. In addition, background information on standards and legislation, policy support, and the global market for organic food is provided. Further information and download is available at [www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020.html](http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020.html).

Data collection

The data on organic agriculture is collected annually by FiBL in collaboration with various partners from around the world. The results are published jointly with IFOAM – Organics International. The activities are supported by SECO, ITC, the Coop Sustainability Fund, and NürnbergMesse, the organizers of the BIOFACH fair.

Quote

Willer, Helga, Bernhard Schlatter, Jan Trávníček, Laura Kemper and Julia Lernoud (Eds.) (2020): The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2020. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Frick, and IFOAM – Organics International, Bonn.

Order book and download

The printed version (30 Euros + postage; affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International: 20 Euros) can be ordered at <https://shop.fibl.org/chen> (order number 5011). At [www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020.html](http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020.html), the book is available for free download.

Online database

The data is available online at <https://statistics.fibl.org>.

**Pick up your copy at BIOFACH in Hall 1, Stands 1-553 (FiBL) and 1-451 (IFOAM – Organics International)**

Statistics sessions at BIOFACH 2020

Wednesday, 12 February 2020

* The European market for organic food   
  4 to 4:45 pm, Hall Shanghai, (NCC East)
* The World of Organic Agriculture   
  5 to 6 pm, Hall Shanghai (NCC East)

Thursday, 13 February 2020

* Global Organic Market Overview - facts, trends and opportunities  
  10:00 to 11:30 pm, Hall St. Petersburg (NCC East)
* Harmonisation of organic consumer data  
  5 to 6 pm, Hall Oslo, NCC East

More information:

https://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020/biofach-2020.html

# Organic Agriculture: Key Indicators and Top Countries 2018

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **World** | **Top countries** |
| **Countries with organic activities** | 186 countries |  |
| **Organic agricultural land** | 71.5 million hectares  (1999: 11 million hectares) | Australia (35.7 million hectares) Argentina (3.6 million hectares) China (3.1 million hectares) |
| **Organic share of total agricultural land** | 1.5 % | Liechtenstein (38.5 %) Samoa (34.5 %) Austria (24.7 %) |
| **Wild collection and further non-agricultural areas** | 35.7 million hectares  (1999: 4.1 million hectares) | Finland (11.3 million hectares) Zambia (3.2 million hectares) Tanzania (2.4 million hectares) |
| **Producers** | 2.8 million producers  (1999: 200’000 producers) | India (1'149'371) Uganda (210’352) Ethiopia (203'602) |
| **Organic market** | 96.7 billion euros (2000: 15.1 billion euros) | US (40.6 billion euros) Germany (10.9 billion euros) France (9.1 billion euros) |
| **Per capita consumption** | 12.8 euros | Switzerland (312 euros)  Denmark (312 euros) Sweden (231 euros) |
| **Number of countries with organic regulations** | 103 countries |  |

Source: FiBL survey 2020, based on national data sources and data from certifiers

Infographics









