Media release February 14, 2018

A booming organic sector: more farmers, more land and a growing market

57.8 million hectares of organic agricultural land – the organic market grows to almost 90 billion US Dollars

The latest global data on organic farming worldwide will be presented by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International at the BIOFACH world organic trade fair 2018 in Nuremberg. The statistical yearbook “The World of Organic Agriculture” will be launched on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, from 4:00 to 4:45 pm in Hall Shanghai, NCC East.

(Frick/Nuremberg, February 14, 2018) The 2018 edition of the study “The World of Organic Agriculture” (data per end of 2016) published by FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International shows that the positive trend seen in the past years continues: Consumer demand for organic products is increasing, more farmers cultivate organically, more land is certified organic, and 178 countries report organic farming activities. The survey is supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), and NürnbergMesse, the organizers of the BIOFACH fair.

The global organic market continues to grow

The market research company Ecovia Intelligence estimates that the global market for organic food reached 89.7 billion US dollars in 2016 (more than 80 billion euros). The United States is the leading market with 38.9 billion euros, followed by Germany (9.5 billion euros), France (6.7 billion euros), and China (5.9 billion euros). In 2016, most of the major markets continued to show double-digit growth rates, and the French organic market grew by 22 percent. The highest per capita spending was in Switzerland (274 Euros), and Denmark had the highest organic market share (9.7 percent of the total food market).

Almost three million producers worldwide

In 2016, 2.7 million organic producers were reported. India continues to be the country with the highest number of producers (835’200), followed by Uganda (210’352), and Mexico (210’000).
**Organic farmland increases by 15 percent to almost 58 million hectares**

A total of 57.8 million hectares were organically managed at the end of 2016, representing a growth of 7.5 million hectares over 2015, the largest growth ever recorded. Australia is the country with the largest organic agricultural area (27.2 million hectares), followed by Argentina (3 million hectares), and China (2.3 million hectares).

Almost half of the global organic agricultural land is in Oceania (27.3 million hectares), followed by Europe (23 percent; 13.5 million hectares), and Latin America (12 percent; 7.1 million hectares).

**Ten percent or more of the farmland is organic in fifteen countries**

The countries with the largest organic share of agricultural land of their total farmland are the Liechtenstein (37.7 percent), French Polynesia (31.3 percent), and Samoa (22.4 percent). In fifteen countries, 10 percent or more of all agricultural land is organic, a new record.

**More information**

**Download**


**Online database**

Tables with more details on organic land and crops, markets, and international trade, as well as explanations can be found on FiBL’s new statistics website [www.statistics.fibl.org](http://www.statistics.fibl.org)

**Contacts**

- Dr. Helga Willer, FiBL, Ackerstrasse 113, 5070 Frick, Switzerland
  Phone +41 (0)79 218 06 26, helga.willer@fibl.org, [www.fibl.org](http://www.fibl.org)
- Markus Arbenz, IFOAM – Organics International, Charles-de-Gaulle-Strasse 5, 53113 Bonn, Germany
  Phone +49 (0)160 8041557, Fax +49 (0)228 9265099, m.arbenz@ifoam.bio, [www.ifoam.bio](http://www.ifoam.bio)
Programme of the session “The World of Organic Agriculture – Statistics and Emerging Trends”

Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 4:00 to 4:45 pm, Hall Shanghai (NCC East), NürnbergMesse, Nuremberg

- Markus Arbenz, IFOAM – Organics International, Moderator
- Barbara Jäggin, SECO, Switzerland
- Dr. Helga Willer, FiBL: Latest data on organic agriculture worldwide
- Julia Lernoud, FiBL: Latest data on Voluntary Sustainability Standards worldwide
- Beate Huber, FiBL: Standards and regulations
- Amarjit Sahota, Ecovia Intelligence, UK: The global market for organic food


Supporters

- Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- NürnbergMesse, the organizers of the BIOFACH fair

Reference


This media release online

This media release and graphs can be accessed online at www.fibl.org/en/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 280 staff at its various locations.

- Homepage: www.fibl.org
- Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=U84NrjORFc
Yearbook "The World of Organic Agriculture"

About "The World of Organic Agriculture"

The study (352 pages) contains reports, authored by experts, on the organic sector and emerging trends in all regions and selected countries. The statistics are supported with graphs and tables. In addition, background information on issues such as standards and legislation, and an overview of the global market for organic food is provided. The book also contains an article about organic cotton and a chapter reviewing key commodities certified by selected Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS). Further information and download is available at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2018.html.

Data collection

The data on organic agriculture is collected annually by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL in collaboration with many partners from around the world. The results are published jointly with IFOAM – Organics International. The activities are supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), and NürnbergMesse, the organizers of the BIOFACH fair. The views expressed in this press release can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinions of SECO, ITC, or NürnbergMesse.

Reference


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 1076) and https://shop.ifoam.bio/. In the shops as well as at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2018.html, the book is available for download.

Online databases

The data is available online at statistics.fibl.org

Pick up your copy at BIOFACH in Hall 1, Stands 1-553 (FiBL) and 1-451 (IFOAM – Organics International)
According to the Central European Bank, 1 euro corresponded to 1.1069 US dollars in 2016.
**Graphs**

**Growth in organic food & drinks sales and farmland, 2001-2016**

Source: ECOVIA Intelligence 2018

![Graph showing growth in organic food & drinks sales and farmland, 2001-2016](image)

**Development of the number of countries with data on organic agriculture 1999-2016**

Source: FiBL-IFOAM-SOEL Surveys 1999-2018

![Graph showing development of the number of countries with data on organic agriculture, 1999-2016](image)
### The ten countries with the largest markets for organic food 2016

Source: FiBL-AMI survey 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Retail sales in million euros</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>38'938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>9'478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>6'736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>5'900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>3'002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2'644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>2'460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>2'298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1'944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1'686</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The ten countries with the highest per capita consumption 2016

Source: FiBL-AMI survey 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Per capita consumption in euros</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global market: Distribution of retail sales value by country 2016
Source: FiBL-AMI survey 2016

- USA: 46%
- Germany: 11%
- France: 8%
- China: 7%
- Canada: 4%
- Italy: 3%
- UK: 3%
- Switzerland: 3%
- Other: 15%

Global market: Distribution of retail sales value by single market 2016
Source: FiBL-AMI survey 2016

- USA: 46%
- EU-28: 36%
- Canada: 3%
- China: 7%
- Switzerland: 3%
- Other: 5%
The ten countries with the largest numbers of organic producers 2016
Source: FiBL survey 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Producers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>835'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>210'352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>210'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>203'602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>165'994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>148'610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>91'771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>67'879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>64'210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>58'258</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distribution of organic producers by region 2016
Source: FiBL survey 2018

- Asia: 40%
- Africa: 27%
- Latin America: 17%
- Europe: 14%
- North America: 1%
- Oceania: 1%
Distribution of organic agricultural land by region 2016
Source: FiBL survey 2018

Growth of the organic agricultural land 1999-2016
Source: FiBL-IFOAM-SOEL-Surveys 1999-2018
The ten countries with the largest areas of organic agricultural land 2016

Source: FiBL survey 2018

Countries with an organic share of at least 10 percent of the agricultural land 2016

Source: FiBL survey 2018
Development of the organic land by land use type
2004-2016

Source: FiBL-IFOAM-SOIL-Surveys 1999-2018
The World of Organic Agriculture 2016

**Organic Farmland 2016**
- 3.1 m ha North America
- 12.5 m ha Europe
- 6.9 m ha Asia
- 7.1 m ha Latin America
- 27.3 m ha Africa
- 22 m ha Oceania

**Organic Producers 2016**
- 2.7 million Organic farmers

**Organic Market 2016**
- More than 80 Global organic food market in billion euros

- Organic farmland in million hectares
  - 57.8 m
  - +19% From 2015

- Countries with organic farming
  - 178

- Top 3 countries (land in million of hectares)
  - Australia: 27.1
  - Argentina: 3.0
  - China: 2.3

- Number of producers: Top 3 countries
  - India: 210’352
  - Denmark: 210’000
  - Switzerland

Top 3 countries (market in billion euros)
- USA: 38.9
- Germany: 9.5
- France: 6.7

21.8% Organic market growth
9.7% Market share
274 € Highest per capita spending is in Switzerland

Source: FiBL survey based on national sources
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More information: www.organicworld.net
ORGANIC RETAIL SALES 2016

The largest single market is the USA followed by the EU (30.7 billion €) and China. By region, North America has the lead (41.9 billion €), followed by Europe (33.5 billion €) and Asia.

The five countries with the largest markets for organic food are the United States (38.9 billion €), followed by Germany (9.5 billion €), France (6.7 billion €) and China (5.9 billion €).

Switzerland has the highest per capita consumption worldwide, followed by Denmark and Sweden.

The highest shares the organic market of the total market is in Denmark, followed by Luxembourg, Switzerland, Sweden, and Austria.

Distribution of retail sales value by country 2016

The five countries with the highest per capita consumption 2016

The five countries with the highest organic shares of the total market 2016

Source: FiBL survey 2018 www.orgues-world.net

ORGANIC FARMLAND 2016

In Oceania there were 27.3 Mio ha, in Europe 13.5 Mio ha, and in Latin America 7.1 Mio ha.

The ten countries with the largest organic agricultural areas represent 76% of the world's organic agricultural land.

15 countries have 10% or more of their agricultural land under organic management.

In 2016, over 7.5 million hectares more were reported compared with 2015.

Distribution of organic agricultural land by region 2016

The five countries with the largest areas of organic agricultural land 2016

Top 5 countries with more than 1600000 hectares of organic agricultural land 2016

Growth of the organic agricultural land 2000-2016

Source: FiBL survey 2018 www.orgues-world.net
ORGANIC PRODUCERS 2016

The country with the most organic producers is India, followed by Uganda and Mexico.

More than 84% of the producers are in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

There has been an increase in the number of organic producers by more than 300,000, or over 13% since 2015.

ORGANIC LAND USE 2016

Arable land constitutes 18% of the world’s organic agricultural land, and 6.2% of the world’s arable crop land. It increased by 6.2% over 2015.

4.5 Mio ha, which is 2.8% of the world’s permanent cropland, and 6.8% more of the organic agricultural land.

38 Mio ha of grassland, and an almost 17% increase compared with 2015.

The organic wild collection areas are concentrated in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

ORGANIC LAND USE 2016

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38 Mio ha of grassland, and an almost 17% increase compared with 2015.

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Organic arable land region 2016
Organic arable land Key crops 2016

Organic permanent crops by region 2016
Organic permanent crops Key crops 2016

Organic permanent grassland region 2016
Organic permanent grassland The five countries with the largest areas 2016

Organic wild collection by region 2016
Organic wild collection: The five countries with the largest areas 2016

Source: FiBL survey 2016 www.organic-world.net
Sessions related to organic data at BIOFACH 2018

**Wednesday, 14 February 2018**

- The World of Organic Agriculture at BIOFACH 2018
  4 pm to 4:45 pm, Hall Shanghai (NCC East)
- The European market for organic food at BIOFACH 2018
  5 pm to 5:45 pm, Room Kiew, (NCC East)
- Innovation networks in the Central Eastern European region for increasing value chain development in the organic sector
  4 pm to 6 pm, Room Budapest (NCC East)

**Thursday, 15 February 2018**

- Global Organic Market Overview - facts, trends and opportunities
  10 am to 11:30 am, Room Istanbul (NCC East)