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

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.

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  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

Supporters

- Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Berne, Switzerland, https://www.seco.admin.ch
- NürnbergMesse, the organizers of the BIOFACH fair, Nuremberg, Germany, https://www.nuernbergmesse.de/

Book reference


This media release online

This media release and graphs can be accessed online at https://www.fibl.org/en/information/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
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.

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

Order book and 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:

## Organic Agriculture: Key Indicators and Top Countries 2018

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

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

Infographics

The World of Organic Agriculture 2018

Organic Market 2018

Almost 97%
The global market is growing and consumer demand is increasing

Global organic food market in billion euros

Top 3 countries (market in billion euros)

40.6
10.9
9.1

Organic Producers 2018

2.8 million
+55%
The number of organic producers is increasing

From 2009

Number of producers: Top 3 countries

11.49%
15.4%
11.5%

Organic Farmland 2018

71.5 million ha
+4.5%
Organic farmland in million hectares

From 2017

Countries with organic farming

186

Top 3 countries (land in million of hectares)

35.6
3.6
3.1

Supported by

8
ORGANIC RETAIL SALES 2018

- World: almost 97 billion €
- North America: almost 44 billion €
- Denmark and Switzerland: 312€ are spent per person in Denmark and Switzerland
- 11.5% of the food market in Denmark is organic

The largest single market is the USA (46.6 billion €), followed by the EU (37.4 billion €) and China. By region, North America has the lead (43.7 billion €), followed by Europe (40.7 billion €) and Asia.

The countries with the largest markets for organic food are the United States (41 billion €), Germany (11 billion €), France (9 billion €) and China (8 billion €).

Denmark and Switzerland have the highest per capita consumption worldwide, followed by Sweden, Luxembourg and Austria.

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

Distribution of retail sales value by country 2018

The five countries with the highest per capita consumption 2018

The five countries with the highest organic share of the total market 2018

ORGANIC PRODUCERS 2018

- World: 2.8 million producers
- 47% in Asia
- +1270% since 1999

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

More than 90% of the producers are in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

There has been an increase in the number of producers by almost 991,694, or over 55% over the past decade.

The five countries with the highest numbers of organic producers 2018

Distribution of organic producers by region 2018

Development of the number of organic producers 1999-2018

Source: FiBL survey 2020 - www.organic-world.net - statistics.fibl.org
ORGANIC FARMLAND 2018

World 71.5 Mio ha
Australia 35.69 Mio ha

1.5% of the world's farmland is organic

In Oceania there were 36.0 Mio ha, in Europe 15.6 Mio ha, and in Latin America 8.0 Mio ha.
The ten countries with the largest organic agricultural areas represent 79% of the world’s organic agricultural land.

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

Top 5 countries with more than 10 percent of organic agricultural land 2018

In 2018, over 2.0 million hectares more were reported compared with 2017.

Growth of the organic agricultural land 1999-2018

Distribution of organic agricultural land by region 2018

FiBL

ORGANIC LAND USE 2018

13.3 Mio ha arable land
4.8 Mio ha permanent crops
48.2 Mio ha permanent grassland
35.1 Mio ha wild collection

Organic arable land by region 2018

Organic permanent crops by region 2018

Organic permanent grassland by region 2018

Over 82% of the wild collection is in Europe (almost 18 million hectares) and Africa (over 14.3 million hectares)

Organic wild collection by region 2018

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Confederation suisse
Confédération suisse

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