

Media release

Global organic farmland and market continued to grow in 2021

Organic retail sales increased by 4 billion euros and reached almost 125 billion euros in 2021; organic farmland grew to 76.4 million hectares.

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. “The World of Organic Agriculture” yearbook gathering global data from 2021 will be launched on Tuesday, 14 February 2023, from 5 to 6 pm (CET).

(Frick, February 14, 2023) Organic farmland and retail sales both continued to show growth worldwide, according to data from 191 countries (data as of the end of 2021). Published by FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International, the 24th edition of “The World of Organic Agriculture” shows the trend of overall growth seen in past years continued into 2021, although at a slower pace.

This annual survey on global organic agriculture is supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the Sustainability Fund of Coop Switzerland, and NürnbergMesse, organisers of the BIOFACH trade fair.

The global organic market continued to grow, but slower

In 2021, the organic market reached almost 125 billion euros – an increase of nearly 4 billion euros or approximately 3 percent.

With 48.6 billion euros, the United States continued to be the world’s leading market, followed by Germany (15.9 billion euros) and France (12.7 billion euros). Swiss consumers spent the most on organic food (425 euros per capita on average), and Denmark continued to have the highest organic market share, with 13 percent of its total food market.

3.7 million organic producers worldwide

In 2021, 3.7 million organic producers were reported, an increase of 4.9 percent compared to 2020. India remained the country with the most organic producers (1.6 million).

Steady increase of organic farmland

A bit more than 76.4 million hectares were organically managed at the end of 2021, representing a growth of 1.7 percent or 1.3 million hectares compared to 2020.

Australia had the largest organic agricultural area (35.7 million hectares), followed by Argentina (4.1 million hectares) and France (2.8 million hectares). Organic farmland area increased in Africa, Asia, Europe and Oceania, while it decreased in the Americas. A bit less than half of the global organic agricultural land was in Oceania (35.9 million hectares). Europe had the second largest area (17.8 million hectares), followed by Latin America (9.9 million hectares).

Ten percent or more of farmland was organic in 20 countries

In 2021, 1.6 percent of farmland around the world was organic. However, many countries have far higher shares: Liechtenstein had the largest organic share of total farmland (40.2 percent), followed by Samoa (29.1 percent) and Austria (26.5 percent). In 20 countries, 10 percent or more of all agricultural land was organic.

National regulatory frameworks in 74 countries

Momentum for the organic sector continued to build around the world. Many countries kept up or initiated support activities for organic agriculture, including new action plans or policies aiming to foster growth. This positive trend was mirrored in the increase in fully implemented national regulatory frameworks for organic, which went up to a total of 74 globally.

More information

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This media release online

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

Download “The World of Organic Agriculture”

The yearbook can be downloaded at shop.fibl.org (item number 1254).

Graphs and infographics (see also following pages) can be downloaded at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2023.html.

Session “The World of Organic Agriculture – Statistics and Emerging Trends” on February 14, 2023

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 5:00 to 6:00 pm CET, BIOFACH Congress, NürnbergMesse, Hall Seoul

- Marco Schlüter, IFOAM – Organics International: Introduction and presentation of program and speakers, Moderator
- Silvan Hungerbühler, SECO: Welcome address from SECO
- Helga Willer, FiBL: Overview on global figures
- Vladyslav Zhmailo, IFOAM – Organics International: Global overview on policies and regulations
- Amarjit Sahota, Ecovia Intelligence, UK: The global market for organic food

Info: biofach.fibl.org/biofach-alle/biofach-2023#c68036

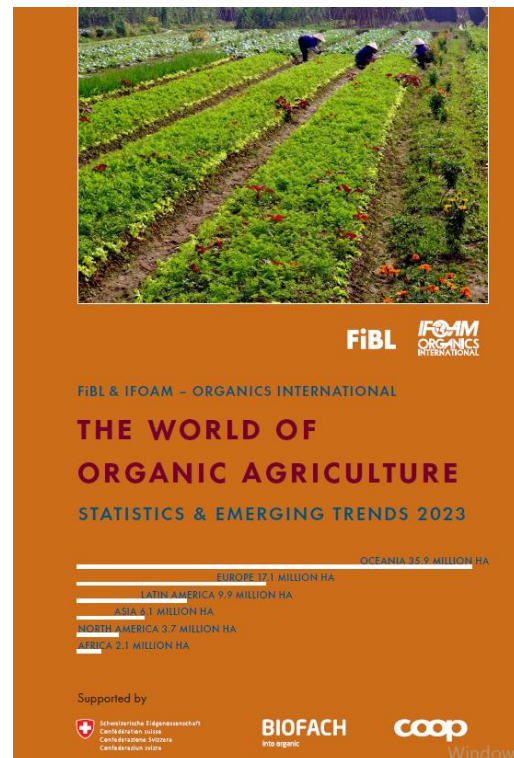
About FiBL

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. The FiBL Group currently includes FiBL Switzerland (founded in 1973), FiBL Germany (2001), FiBL Austria (2004), ÖMKi (Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, 2011), FiBL France (2017) and FiBL Europe (2017), which is jointly supported by the five national institutes. FiBL employs some 400 staff at its various locations.

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Yearbook "The World of Organic Agriculture" at a glance

The yearbook "The World of Organic Agriculture - Statistics and Emerging Trends 2023" (360 pages) presents the results of the annual survey on organic agriculture worldwide and has numerous tables, graphs, maps and infographics. It contains reports by experts on the organic sector and information on emerging trends across all regions as well as selected countries. It also provides background information on standards and legislation, policy support, and the global market for organic food. Further information and download link are available at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2023.html.



Data collection

The data on organic agriculture is collected annually by 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 of Economic Affairs SECO, the Coop Sustainability Fund, and NürnbergMesse, organisers of the BIOFACH trade fair.

Book citation

Willer, Helga, Bernhard Schlatter and Jan Trávníček (Eds.) (2023): The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2023. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, Frick, and IFOAM – Organics International, Bonn. Available at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2023.html.

Where to download

The book can be downloaded at shop.fibl.org (order number 1254).

Online database and interactive infographics

The data is available online at statistics.fibl.org.

Organic Agriculture: Key Indicators and Top Countries

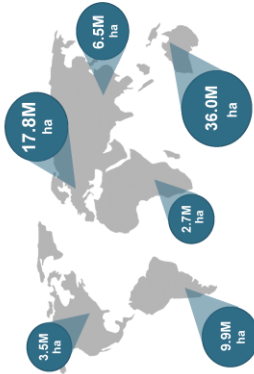
Indicator	World	Top countries
Countries/territories with organic activities	2021: 191	
Organic agricultural land	2021: 76.4 million hectares (1999: 11 million hectares)	Australia (35.7 million hectares) Argentina (4.1 million hectares) France (2.8 million hectares)
Organic share of total agricultural land	2021: 1.6 %	Liechtenstein (40.2 %) Samoa (29.1 %) Austria (26.5 %)
Increase of organic agricultural land 2020/2021	1.3 million hectares (ha); +1.7 %	China: 319'000 ha (+13 %), France: 228'000 ha (+9 %) Spain: 198'000 ha (+8%)
Wild collection areas	2021: 29.7 million hectares (ha) (1999: 4.1 million hectares)	Finland (6.9 million ha) Zambia (2.5 million ha) Namibia (2.3 million ha)
Producers	2021: 3.7 million producers (1999: 200'000 producers)	India (1'599'010) Uganda (404'246) Ethiopia (218'175)
Organic market	2021: 124.8 billion euros (2000: 15.1 billion euros)	US (48.6 billion euros) Germany (15.9 billion euros) France (12.7 billion euros)
Per capita consumption	2021: 15.7 euros	Switzerland (425 euros) Denmark (384 euros) Luxembourg (313 euros)
Number of countries/territories with organic regulations	2022: 74 (fully implemented)	
Number of affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International	2022: 791 affiliates	Germany: 81 affiliates China: 54 affiliates India: 46 affiliates USA: 45 affiliates

Source: FiBL survey 2023, based on national data sources, data from certifiers and IFOAM – Organics International

Infographics

Organic Agriculture Worldwide 2021

Organic Farmland



76.4M ha
Organic farmland in million (M) hectares (ha)

1.7%
Growth 2020/2021

191 Countries with organic farming

Organic Producers

The number of organic producers is increasing

3.7M
Organic farmers (million)

The increase of organic producers

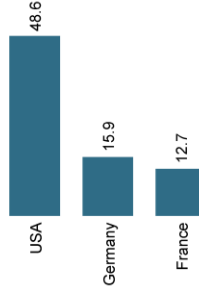
4.9%
From 2020

Organic Market

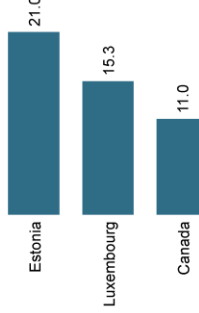
The global market is growing and consumer demand is increasing

Over 124.8
Global organic food market in billion euros

Market in billion euros
Top 3 countries



Market growth in percent
Top 3 countries

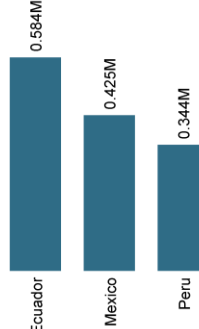


Imports/Exports

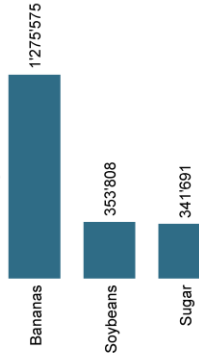
Organic imports into the European Union (EU) and the United States* (US)

4.7M
Total organic imports to the EU and US* in million metric tons (MT)

Imports to the EU and US* in million MT. Top 3 countries



Imports to the EU and US in metric tons. Top 3 commodities



*US organic imports: selected commodities only

WORLD: ORGANIC FARMLAND 2021

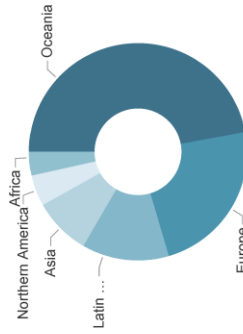
World
76.4M
hectares

Australia
35.7M
hectares

1.6%
of the world's
farmland is
organic

1.7%
growth
since 2020

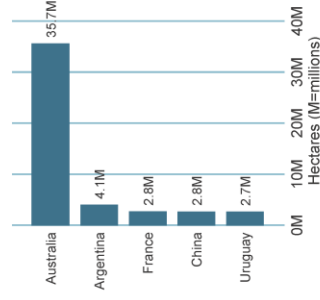
In Oceania there were 36.0 million (M) hectares (ha), in Europe 17.8 million ha and in Latin America 9.9 million ha.



Distribution of organic agricultural land by region 2021.

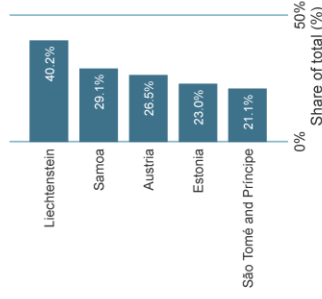
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The ten countries with the largest organic agricultural areas represented 78 % of the world's organic agricultural land.



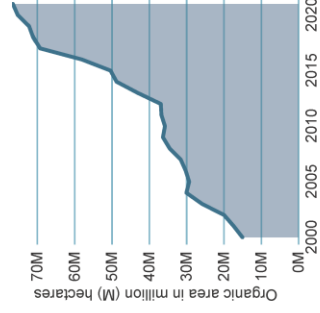
The five countries with the largest areas of organic agricultural land 2021.

20 countries had 10% or more of their agricultural land under organic management.



Top 5 countries with more than 10% of organic agricultural land 2021.

In 2021, 1.3 million hectares more were reported compared with 2020.



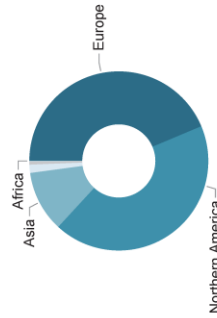
Growth of the organic agricultural land 2000-2021.

Source: FiBL 2023 www.organic-world.net - statistics.fibl.org

WORLD: ORGANIC RETAIL SALES 2021



The largest single market was the USA with 48.6 billion (bn) €, followed by the European Union (46.7 bn €). By region, Europe had the lead (54.5 bn €), followed by Northern America (53.9 bn €) and Asia (13.7 bn €).

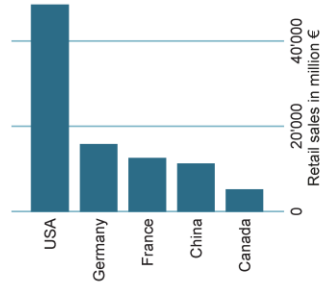


Distribution of retail sales by region 2021.

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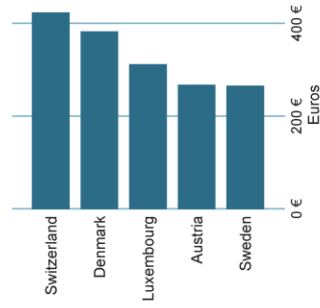
The countries with the largest markets for organic food were the USA with 48.6 billion (bn) €, Germany (15.9 bn €), France (12.7 bn €) and China (11.3 bn €).



The five countries with the largest markets for organic food in 2021.



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

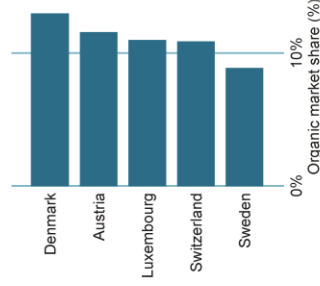


Top five countries with the highest per capita consumption in 2021.

Source: FiBL 2023 www.organic-world.net - statistics.fibl.org



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



The five countries with the highest organic shares of the total market in 2021.