

Organic Agriculture 2012: Key Indicators and Leading Countries

Indicator	World	Leading countries
Countries with data on certified organic agriculture¹	2010: 160 countries	
Organic agricultural land	2010: 37 million hectares (2009: 37.1 million hectares; 1999: 11 million hectares)	Australia (12 mio. hectares, 2009) Argentina (4.2 mio. hectares) US (1.9 mio. hectares, 2008)
Share of total agricultural land	2010: 0.9 %	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (35.9 %) Liechtenstein (27.3 %) Austria (19.7 %)
Growth of organic agricultural land	2010: -50'000 hectares = -0.1% (2009: +1.9 mio. hectares = +5%; 2008: +2.9 mio. hectares = +9%)	France: +168'000 hectares (+24 %) Poland: +155'000 hectares (+42 %) Spain: +126'000 hectares (+9%)
Further, non-agricultural organic areas (mainly wild collection)	2010: 43 million hectares (2009: 41 million hectares; 2008: 31.9 million hectares)	Finland (7.8 million hectares) Brazil (6.2 million hectares; 2007) Cameroon (6 million hectares)
Producers	1.6 million producers (2009: 1.8 million producers; 2008: 1.4 million producers)	India (400'551), Uganda (188'625), Mexico (128'826)
Organic market size	44.5 billion euros or 59.1 billion US dollars (2009: 54.1 billion US dollars 1999: 15.2 billion US dollars) Source: Organic Monitor	US (20.2 billion euros or 26.7 billion USD, Germany (6 billion euros or 8.4 billion US dollars) France (3.4 billion euros or 4.7 billion US dollars)
Per capita consumption	2010: 6.5 euros or 8.6 US dollars	Switzerland (153 euros or 213 USD), Denmark (142 euros or 198 USD) Luxemburg (127 euros or 177 USD)
Number of countries with organic regulations 2010	84 countries (2009: 74 countries)	
Organic certifiers 2010	2011: 549 certifiers (2010: 532; 2009 489)	Japan, USA, South Korea
Number of IFOAM affiliates	1.1.2012: 870 affiliates from 120 countries (2011: 757 from 115 countries; 2000: 606)	Germany: 105 affiliates; India: 50 affiliates; China: 41 affiliates; South Korea: 39 affiliates; United States: 39 affiliates

Source: FiBL and IFOAM; for total global market: Organic Monitor; for number of certifiers: Organic Standard/Grolink.

¹ Where the designation "country" appears in this book, it covers countries or territories.

The World of Organic Agriculture 2012: Summary

HELGA WILLER¹

Current status of organic agriculture

According to the latest FiBL-IFOAM Survey on certified organic agriculture worldwide,² (data as of end of 2010), data on organic agriculture are available from 160 countries.

There are 37 million hectares of organic agricultural land (including in-conversion areas). The regions with the largest areas of organic agricultural land are Oceania (12.1 million hectares), Europe (10 million hectares), and Latin America (8.4 million hectares). The countries with the most organic agricultural land are Australia, Argentina, and the United States.

Currently 0.9 percent of the agricultural land is organic.³ By region, the highest shares are in Oceania (2.9 percent) and in Europe (2.1 percent). In the European Union, 5.1 percent of the farmland is organic. However, some countries reach far higher shares: Falkland Islands: 35.9 percent; Liechtenstein: 27.3 percent; Austria 19.7 percent. In seven countries, more than ten percent of the agricultural land is organic.

Compared with the previous survey (data per end of 2009), the organic agricultural land decreased slightly (by 50'000 hectares, -0.1 percent). There was strong growth in Europe, where the area increased by 0.8 million hectares (+9 percent). In Asia, however, the organic area decreased, mainly due to a major decline of organic farmland in India and China. The countries with the largest increases were in Europe: France (+0.17 million hectares), Poland (+0.15 million hectares), and Spain (+0.13 million hectares).

Apart from agricultural land, there are further organic areas, most of these being areas for wild collection. Other areas include aquaculture, forests, and grazing areas on non-agricultural land. They constitute 43 million hectares. In total, 80 million hectares (agricultural and non-agricultural areas) are organic.

There were 1.6 million producers in 2010. Thirty-four percent of the world's organic producers are in Africa, followed by Asia (29 percent), and Europe (18 percent). The countries with the most producers are India (400'551), Uganda (188'625), and Mexico (128'862).

About one third of the world's agricultural land (12.5 million hectares) and more than 80 percent of the producers are in developing countries and emerging markets.

For almost 90 percent of the organic agricultural land, land use details were available. About two-thirds was grassland/grazing areas (23.7 million hectares). With a total of at least 6.1 million hectares, arable land constitutes 17 percent of the organic agricultural land. An increase of six percent compared with 2009 was reported. Most of this category of land is used for cereals including rice (2.5 million hectares), followed by green fodder from arable land (2 million hectares), oilseeds (0.5 million hectares), protein crops (0.3 million hectares), and vegetables (0.2 million hectares). Permanent crops account for

¹ Dr. Helga Willer, Communication, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Ackerstrasse, 5070 Frick, Internet www.fibl.org

² The survey included both fully converted and in-conversion organic areas.

³ Countries included in the survey.

approximately seven percent of the organic agricultural land, amounting to 2.7 million hectares. Compared with the previous survey, this is an increase of six percent. The most important permanent crops are coffee (with 0.64 million hectares), constituting almost one-fifth of the organic permanent cropland), followed by olives (0.5 million hectares), cocoa (0.29 million hectares), nuts (0.26 million hectares), and grapes (0.22 million hectares). Regarding the wild collection area (including areas for beekeeping), most of this is in Africa (39 percent of the global total) and Europe (30 percent). Not much detail on the crops harvested is available. Wild berries, medicinal and aromatic plants as well wild fruit are among the most important ones.

Global market

Global sales of organic food & drink reached 59 billion US dollars¹ in 2010 according to Organic Monitor (see chapter by Amarjit Sahota, page 122). The market has expanded over three-fold in ten years (2000: 17.9 billion US dollars). Although growth has slowed since the financial crisis started in 2008, sales have continued to increase at a healthy pace. Demand for organic products is concentrated in two regions; North America and Europe comprise 96 percent of global revenues. The high degree of sales concentration highlights the disparity between production and consumption. Indeed, most organic food production in regions such as Africa and Latin America is export-gearred. In 2010, the countries with the largest markets were the United States, Germany, and France, and the highest per-capita consumption was in Switzerland, Denmark, and Luxemburg. (See chapter on the global survey on organic agriculture, page 67).

Africa

In Africa, there are slightly more than one million hectares of certified organic agricultural land. This constitutes about three percent of the world's organic agricultural land. There were 540'000 producers (in 2010). The countries with the most organic land are Uganda (0.23 million hectares), Tunisia (0.18 million hectares), and Ethiopia (0.14 million hectares). The highest shares of organic land are in Sao Tome and Prince (7.9 percent), Sierra Leone (1.9 percent), and Tunisia (1.8 percent). The majority of certified organic produce in Africa is destined for export markets; in Uganda, the export value for organic products was 42 million US dollars in 2010/2011; in Ethiopia it was 33.9 million US dollars in 2010 (see article by Addisu Alemayehu on organic farming in Ethiopia on page 159). Key crops are coffee, olives, cocoa, oilseeds, and cotton. Cotton for instance has been important for the development of the sector in Benin (see article by Laurent Glin on page 152). The European Union is Africa's largest market for agricultural produce. The development of organic agriculture in Africa is entering a new phase. There is a growing recognition among policy makers that organic agriculture has a significant role to play in addressing the pressing problems of food insecurity, poverty, and climate change in Africa. Significant breakthroughs were achieved in 2011; especially the African Union's (AU) decision to support organic farming and their subsequent leadership in promoting and further developing frameworks/strategies for organic farming policies such as the African Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative and the IFOAM-African Union Conference that took place in November 2011 in Nairobi. The African Organic Conference to be held in Lusaka, Zambia in May 2012, will provide a key platform for discussion and sharing

¹ 1 USD = 0.75488 EUR, average exchange rate 2010 according to OANDA at <http://www.oanda.com/lang/de/currency/average>

experiences. Moreover, this conference will provide a significant opportunity to mobilize support for organic agriculture (see article by Hervé Bouagnimbeck, page 146).

Asia

The total organic agricultural area in Asia is nearly 2.8 million hectares. This constitutes seven percent of the world's organic agricultural land. There were almost 0.5 million producers reported, 0.4 million in India. The leading countries by area are China (1.4 million hectares) and India (0.8 million hectares); Timor-Leste has the most organic agricultural area as a proportion of total agricultural land (almost seven percent). Compared with 2009, there has been a decrease of organic land, due to declines in China and India (see chapter on organic farming in Asia by Ong Kung Wai, page 170). Interestingly, the decline in land has not affected trade. Reports on the Chinese domestic market paint a picture of robust growth. India's export volume increased by 20 percent over the previous year. Export destination figures indicate growing trade in the region. Thirteen percent of export by volume was to Asia. Organic labeling is regulated to require third party certification in China, India (for export), Japan, Philippines, South Korea, and Taiwan. India and Japan have established third country recognition with the European Union as well as recognition of their accreditation system by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Most exports elsewhere are certified by international certification bodies working in the regions accredited by international and EU-based accreditation bodies or directly by the USDA. The 17th Organic World Congress (OWC) of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), held in Gyeonggi Paldang, South Korea in autumn 2011 was a big success. It attracted close to 2000 participants from 76 countries. The conference was hosted by the Gyeonggi Province, Namyangju City and the Korean Federation for Sustainable Agriculture (KFSA). For more information about the development in Asia, see chapters on organic farming in Azerbaijan by Vugar Babayev (page 178), on organic farming in Iran by Paul Rye Kledal, Hossein Mahmuodi, and Abdol Majid Mahdavi Damghani (page 184), and on organic farming in Thailand by Vitoon Panyakul (page 190).

Europe

As of the end of 2010, 10 million hectares of agricultural land in Europe were managed organically by almost 280'000 farms. In Europe, 2.1 percent of the agricultural area, and in the European Union, 5.1 percent of the agricultural area is organic. Twenty-seven percent of the world's organic land is in Europe. Compared to 2009, organic land increased by nearly 0.8 million hectares. The countries with the largest organic agricultural area are Spain (1.5 million hectares), Italy (1.1 million hectares), and Germany (0.99 million hectares). There are six countries in Europe with more than ten percent organic agricultural land: Liechtenstein (27.8 percent), Austria (19.7 percent), Sweden (14.1 percent), Estonia (12.5 percent), Switzerland (11.4 percent), and Czech Republic (10.5 percent). Sales of organic products were approximately 19.6 billion euros in 2010. The largest market for organic products in 2010 was Germany with a turnover of 6 billion euros, followed by France (3.4 billion euros) and the UK (2 billion euros) (see article by Diana Schaack et al., page 206). A new research project on transparency of organic market data was launched in early 2012. It is expected that this will be a major step forward to improve European market data (see article by Helga Willer, page 201). Detailed information about imports to Germany is available in the article by Diana Schaack et al., page 212). Furthermore two

country reports are available: one from Stoilko Apostolov about Bulgaria (page 216), and one from Gizem Altin Nance about Turkey (page 223).

Latin America

In Latin America, more than 270'000 producers managed 8.4 million hectares of agricultural land organically in 2010. This constitutes 23 percent of the world's organic land and 1.4 percent of the region's agricultural land. The leading countries are Argentina (4.2 million hectares), Brazil (1.8 million hectares), and Uruguay (0.9 million hectares). The highest shares of organic agricultural land are in the Falkland Islands/Malvinas (35.9 percent), the Dominican Republic (8.5 percent), and French Guyana (7.8 percent).

In the Latin American and Caribbean region, organic production is mostly export-oriented. On average, 85 percent of what is produced organically is exported to the main organic markets, such as the European Union, the United States, and Japan. For countries with tropical and mountain ecosystems, the main organic export products are coffee, cacao, banana, and quinoa. For countries with extensive land areas with pastures for animal grazing, the main products are meat and wool. Wild collection of nuts is also of significant importance for international markets. Argentina and Costa Rica are the only two countries in the region with third country status for the European Union.

In the past decade, initiatives coming mostly from civil society (producer organizations and NGOs) and local governments, contributed to the development of domestic markets, which are increasing in size. The participation of governments in the organic sector has been focused on control and regulatory issues. This is seen in the many organic regulations the region has. The organic movement expects a more effective and clear participation of governments through public policies to foster and develop organic agriculture not only for export-oriented operators, but also for the domestic organic market and family farmers.

North America

In North America, almost 2.7 million hectares are managed organically, of these nearly two million in the United States (2008 data) and 0.7 million in Canada (2009 data), representing approximately 0.7 percent of the total agricultural area in the region and 7 percent of the world's organic agricultural land.

The U.S. organic market grew at a rate of nearly eight percent in 2010, to reach nearly 29 billion US dollars (food and non-food), according to findings from the Organic Trade Association's (OTA) 2011 Organic Industry Survey. While total U.S. food sales grew by less than one percent in 2010, the organic food industry grew by 7.7 percent. In the organic non-food sector, organic supplements led, with a value of 681 million US dollars, representing a 7.4 percent growth over 2009 figures. Through 2010 and 2011, the Canadian organic market continued to show signs of solid growth and consumer confidence, following the introduction of mandatory federal regulations for organic in 2009. The Canada Organic Trade Association has estimated that the Canadian consumer market was valued at 2.6 billion Canadian dollars by the end of 2010.

At the end of June 2011, the Government of Canada entered into an equivalency arrangement on the trade of organic products with the European Union (EU). It is the world's second such agreement. The first organic equivalency arrangement was signed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in

June 2009. In December 2011, a framework for an organic equivalence agreement between the United States and the European Union was approved.

For more details on recent developments, see articles by Barbara Haumann on the United States (page 267), and by Matthew Holmes and Anne Macey (page 267) in the North American section of this book.

Oceania

This region includes Australia, New Zealand, and island states like Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, and Vanuatu. Altogether, there were 8'500 producers, managing 12.1 million hectares. This constitutes 2.9 percent of the agricultural land in the area and 33 percent of the world's organic land. Ninety-nine percent of the organic land in the region is in Australia (12 million hectares, 97 percent of which is extensive grazing land), followed by New Zealand (124'000 hectares), and Samoa (9'714 hectares). The highest shares of all agricultural land are in Samoa (7.9 percent), followed by French Polynesia (3.8 percent), and Niue (3.1 percent). Growth in the organic industry in Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands has been strongly influenced by rapidly growing overseas demand; domestic markets are, however, also growing. In Australia, the domestic market was at 947 Australian dollars¹ in 2009 and in New Zealand at 350 million New Zealand dollars (2009).²

The biggest change in the Australian domestic market over 2009 was that the Australian Standard for Organic and Biodynamic Products was adopted and published by Standards Australia. Now that this standard has been published, industry and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) are working towards a situation where one standard can be used for the domestic and export market. There has been no change in policy or programs by state or Federal Governments to financially supporting conversion of organic farming operations. There is, however, increased recognition of the uniqueness of organic farming systems (see article by Els Wynen and Alexandra Mitchell, page 288).

In 2010, the International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS) assessed the Pacific Organic Standard (POS) and found it, after some corrective actions, to be equivalent to the requirements of the European Union regulations on organic agriculture. This means that, according to the IOAS, the POS is suitable as a standard for the certification of operators who may wish to export products to the European Union. The year 2011, however, brought little progress in the international recognition of the POS. The year 2010 also saw the Pacific region's first Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) become operational in New Caledonia. The PGS uses the Pacific Organic Standard (POS) as its production standard. Most of the organically certified products from the region are for export. Generally, the domestic markets for organically certified products are not very developed. Despite the policy brief on organic agriculture developed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in 2009, the year 2011 saw no changes in legislation or policy development in the region. The policy brief aims to assist governments and others in the region develop relevant policy focuses on how organic agriculture can assist in meeting regional challenges. Increasingly organic agriculture is gaining mention and recognition in national policy and planning documents, but this has not evolved into formal policies. While the

¹ 1 Australian dollar = 0.56599 euros in 2009; average annual exchange rate 2009; Source: <http://www.oanda.com/lang/de/currency/average>

² 1 New Zealand dollar = 0.45376 Euros in 2009, average exchange rate; average annual exchange rate 2009; Source: <http://www.oanda.com/lang/de/currency/average>

implementation of the Pacific Organic Standard (POS) has been slow due to resource constraints, momentum of the movement remains strong across the region, and the outlook for the development of organics in the region is positive (see chapter by Karen Mapusua, page 292).

Standards and regulations

The year 2011 was a year of further consolidation in the field of standards and regulations.¹ Relevant work has been carried out to facilitate the international organic trade and reduce trade barriers. The European Union and the United States achieved a breakthrough in their negotiations concerning the mutual recognition of their organic standards and control systems. The formal arrangements are expected to be finalized and implemented in early 2012. These arrangements will lead to a considerable reduction of bureaucracy for trading organic products between the EU and the US. Furthermore, after two years of assessment and internal negotiations, the European Commission published the first list of control bodies recognized for operations in countries outside the European Union. According to the FiBL survey on organic rules and regulations, the number of countries with organic standards has increased to 84, and there are 24 countries that are in the process of drafting legislation. A special case is Ukraine, where the parliament adopted an organic legislation in 2011, but it did not come into force due to a veto of the Ukrainian president.

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) recently revised its Organic Guarantee System (OGS). The new system approved in July 2010 contains several services: The IFOAM Family of Standards, the Global Organic Mark, and the IFOAM Accreditation & the Global Organic System Accreditation (GOSA) (see article by Huber et al. on page 128).

There has been modest growth in the number of certification bodies in most regions of the world, although the number has increased rapidly in some Asian countries, mainly in India. Many of the new certifiers are branch offices of international certification bodies that have gained approval, for instance, by the European Union or the local government. The total number of certification bodies is 549, up from 532 in 2010. Most certification bodies are located in the European Union, Japan, the United States, South Korea, China, Canada, India, and Brazil.

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) are locally focused quality assurance systems. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks, and knowledge exchange. IFOAM is the only organization compiling global data about PGS, and first estimations show about 40 PGS initiatives have been established worldwide and more than 20 are currently under development. Latin America and India are the leaders in terms of the number of farmers certified through PGS as well as of the level of recognition achieved towards the national governments (see article by Flávia Castro, page 142).

Developments within IFOAM

In 2011, two major publications from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and from the UN Special Rapporteur on Food supported the view

¹ For a brief history of organic standards and regulations see www.organic-world.net/rules.html as well as previous versions of this article as published in the various editions of *The World of Organic Agriculture*. These can be downloaded at www.organic-world.net/former-editions.html.

that organic agriculture is a good farming system and development concept for achieving sustainability in agriculture. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, the Rio+20 Earth Summit), to take place in June in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, IFOAM and other actors from the organic movement will be actively lobbying for the implementation of the findings of the 2008 IAASTD¹ report. IFOAM and other organic stakeholders have already successfully lobbied for agriculture to be on the agenda of the upcoming earth summit. They also made contributions to what is known as the “zero document”, setting the scene for the negotiations of the countries, which are being closely observed by civil society and the media.

¹ IAASTD = United Nation’s International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development