ORGANIC AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN LATVIA

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The share (%) of total UAA area under organic farming in EU countries, 2016

Source: calculations based on the data from Eurostat database
The trend of share of total UAA area under organic farming in Latvia, 2004-2016

\[ y = 0.0064x + 0.0476 \]

***

\[ R^2 = 0.7356 \]

Source: calculations based on the data from CSB database
Producers of organic agricultural products in Baltic States and EU, 2012-2016

Source: calculations based on the data from Eurostat database
Share of organic livestock number and organic crop production in the total volume of organic production in Latvia, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animals</th>
<th>Share</th>
<th>Animals</th>
<th>Share</th>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other cattle</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>Rabbits</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>Oats and spring cereals</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>Common wheat</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>Rye and winter cereals</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle (slaughter)</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy cows</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>Bees (hives)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Other cereals</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: calculations based on unpublished data from Ministry of Agriculture
Share of organic vegetables, fruits and berries in the total volume of organic production in Latvia, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetables</th>
<th>Share</th>
<th>Fruits and berries</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Root, tuber and bulb vegetables</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>Apples</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables cultivated for fruit</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>Berries (excl. strawberries)</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brassicas</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>Strawberries</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leafy and stalked vegetables</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>Pears</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh pulses</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>Cherries, plums and other</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: calculations based on unpublished data from Ministry of Agriculture
Share of organic production in the total agricultural production by main types of products in Latvia, 2015

- Honey: 23.2%
- Milk: 8.6%
- Potatoes: 3.9%
- Meat: 3.2%
- Cereals: 2.6%
- Eggs: 2.0%
- Vegetables: 1.1%

Source: calculations based on unpublished data from Ministry of Agriculture
Processors of organic products in Baltic States and EU, 2012-2016

Source: calculations based on data Eurostat database
Processors by main type of organic products and the share of production volume in Latvia, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of organic products</th>
<th>No of processors</th>
<th>Share of volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other food products</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>0.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit and vegetables products</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>8.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dairy products</strong></td>
<td>24</td>
<td><strong>34.86%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat and meat products</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakery and farinaceous products</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grain mill and starch products</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>36.99%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverages</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepared animal feeds</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable and animal oils and fats</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: calculations based on unpublished data from Ministry of Agriculture
Processors by main type of organic products and the share of production volume in Latvia, 2015

Source: calculations based on unpublished data from Ministry of Agriculture
Research
Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics (AREI)

Institute was founded on January 1st, 2016 by combining several institutes:

- State Priekuļi Plant Breeding Institute;
- State Stende Cereals Breeding Institute;
- Latvian State Institute of Agrarian Economics;
- Latgale Agricultural Science Centre.

AREI is supervised by the Latvia University of Agriculture (LUA)

http://www.arei.lv/
Research

Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics (AREI)

- Research on diversity of plant genetic resources including cereals, legumes, potato, fibre plants etc.;
- Introduction molecular markers and other biotechnology techniques in crop breeding;
- Investigation of crops’ nutrition quality and factors of plant resistance;
- Estimation of crop breeding varieties, and development of sustainable and resource efficient crop production technologies for integrated and organic farming, as well as evaluation of socio-economic impact;
- Impact evaluation of agro-ecological activities on soil properties and crop productivity; as well as agronomic, ecological and economic assessment of such activities for integrated and organic farming system;
- Development of rational crop rotation, efficient nutrients usage and planting patterns for prevention soil degradation, pollution, ammonia and GHG emissions;
- Ecological and economic aspects of the fodder and feed production;
- Research on local food systems and their implementation options;
- Research on enhancing the competitiveness (productivity, efficiency, low environment) of and innovative solutions for agri-food sector.
Research
Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics (AREI)

EU projects:

- FP7 ERA-NET Core Organic Plus:
Research
Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics (AREI)

National projects (some):

“Evaluation program of selection material of wheat, barley, rye, oats, potatoes, peas, flax and hemp for implementation the integrated and organic crop cultivation technologies”.

National Research Program “SUSTINNO” (tasks of project 1 and 2: organic farming development; local food systems or short food chains, eco-innovations).

“Conservation programme for crop genetic resources”.

“Demonstration of leguminous plants, including non-traditional species and varieties in Latvia under organic farming conditions”.

“Demonstration of varieties of potatoes and cereals in different regions of Latvia, which are perspective for organic farming”.

Barley variety for organic farming RUBIOLA
Research
Institute of Horticulture (DI)

The **main directions** of research are:

- Diversification and **breeding** of horticultural crop cultivars suitable for organic growing;
- Environmentally-friendly (incl. organic) horticultural **production systems**;
- **Storage and processing** technologies of horticultural crops;
- **Biological basic research** for horticultural science.

DI is supervised by the Latvia University of Agriculture (LUA)

www.darzkopibasinstihtus.lv
EU projects

- FP7 ERA-NET CORE Organic Project “SUREVEG - Strip-cropping and recycling of waste for biodiverse and resource-Efficient intensive VEGetable production”.
- “New vegetable development - vegetable soybean (edamame) farming technology development in organic production”.

National projects:

- “Introduction of sustainable technologies for growing vegetables for soil fertility and efficient use of resources”.
- “Examination of apple, plum and cherry varieties and rootstocks suitable for integrated and organic cultivation in different regions and development of their cultivation technologies”.

Research Institute of Horticulture
Research

Ltd. Latvian Plant Protection Research Centre (LPPRC)

Co-operative society “Zaļais grozs” (Green Basket)

The distribution network of organic products started with creation an ASCS* “Zaļais grozs” (brand was patented in 2009) by 20 organic farmers.

The aim was:

- to generate products’ sales opportunities; and
- to increase added value generating income.

It offers more than 100 organic products, as well as rural tourism services.

The growth of turnover from 2010 till 2014 was 66% but for individual farmers the highest growth was 526% and 171%.

The experience of “Zaļais grozs” is adapted by the farmers’ groups in other Latvia’s regions.

* - Agricultural services co-operative society
Distribution network of organic products “Zaļais grozs”
(Green Basket)

Currently the distribution network consists of varied channels:

- direct sale - at cooperative storehouse; at farmers’ or ‘green’ markets as well as festivals and fairs;
- delivery of boxes or products based on the consumer’s order (via internet or phone) for individual consumers;
- delivery to Consumers’ purchasing groups;
- intermediate sale – to eco-stores; to online shop of organic and eco-products “Dabas bode”;
- fresh fruits and vegetables to schools under the programme School Fruit Scheme;
- distributing of processed products under the brand of ASCS* „Saimes galds” to biggest retail chains - supermarkets, and to other retail points.

* - Agricultural services co-operative society
### Stores in Riga selling organic products of “Zaļais grozs”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Logo</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmer’s Grocery Store “Klēts” (Barn) in Rimi Supermarket</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Klets logo" /></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-store “Dabas dobe” (Nature Bed);</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Dabas dobe logo" /></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store “Bioss”; <a href="http://www.bioss.lv/">http://www.bioss.lv/</a></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Bioss logo" /></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store “Zaļā govs” (Green Cow); <a href="http://www.zalagovs.lv/">http://www.zalagovs.lv/</a></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Zala govs logo" /></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-store “122 lakstīgalas” (122 Nightingales); <a href="https://yellow.place/es/122-lakst%C4%ABgalas-riga-latvia">https://yellow.place/es/122-lakst%C4%ABgalas-riga-latvia</a></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="122 Nightingales logo" /></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store “Daba” (Nature); <a href="http://dabadaba.lv/">http://dabadaba.lv/</a></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Daba logo" /></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-store “UNCE” <a href="https://www.facebook.com/UNCE.eko">https://www.facebook.com/UNCE.eko</a></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="UNCE logo" /></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-stores</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RDP 2014-2020

Regulation No. 60 (3.02.2015) of the Cabinet of Ministers “Procedure for granting state and European Union support for the measure “Creation of producer groups and organizations”” prescribed that the minimum turnover of agricultural products and services between the company and its members is 7000 EUR and the turnover of agricultural goods and services between the company and its members is not less than 75% of the total turnover of agricultural goods and services of the company.
Further development

There are main restrictions to the further development of short supply food chains, inter alia, organic and local farms’ food production:

- financial support from RDP 2014-2010 funds and state are suspended for small cooperatives;
- hygiene regulations, because exemptions for small and traditional producers are not approved on state level.

It allows inspectors themselves to interpret and take a decision that does not promote a uniform approach.
Thank you for attention!