

# Economy versus the environment – competitiveness or complementarity

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## ROMANIA BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL AND ORGANIC FARMING – OPPORTUNITIES AND OBSTACLES



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# Question

## Are the products of today still tasty?

*Products that seem designed on the computer, large-sized, with perfect shapes, charming colours, as if coming from an unreal world; big, good-looking fruits, all have the same size; vegetables, full of colour and appetizing, with the same picture aspect, as if cut from a magazine. This is the common image of the agri-food products in the supermarket, which are being sold today in the world. But beyond these exterior aspects, pleasant to the eye, there is something else, which is disappearing, that some of us have completely forgotten. It is the essence, the contents, the texture, it is that “something” enchanting not only the eye but also the other senses.*

***This is the taste !***

(First contact)



# Question

## Are the products of today still healthy?

*The answer is given by specialist, institutions, organizations, special studies and analysis*

(Second contact)











# Question

**Conventional or organic farming ?**

**Is Romania competitive ?**

**Opportunities / Obstacles ?**



# Overview

➤ **Organic farming in the World**

➤ **Organic farming in Romania**

*-Legislation*

*-Institutions*

*-Policy*

*-Evolution*

*-Potential, Trends, Opportunities, Obstacles*

➤ **Conclusions**



# Organic farming

**Four** specific **EU quality schemes** have been introduced to develop geographical indications, traditional specialities, product from certain region of the EU and **organic farming**. The current EU quality schemes represent the cornerstone of EU quality policy.

There are a number of candidates for further EU schemes, including product of high-nature value or mountain areas, welfare quality, an EU origin label and extension of the *Ecolabel* scheme to processed agricultural products.

Any new EU-level quality scheme must correspond to policy needs at EU level that cannot be adequately met by a national or private-sector scheme or other instrument. In the framework of the *Health Check* of the common agriculture policy, the challenges of climate change impacts, conservation of biodiversity, and water use were highlighted as among the highest priorities.





# Organic farming



# Organic agricultural land and regional shares of global organic agricultural land (2013)

Region	Organic agricultural land [hectares]	Regions' share of the global organic agricultural land
Africa	1'227'008	2.8%
Asia	3'425'939	8.0%
Europe	11'460'773	26.6%
Latin America	6'611'636	15.3%
North America	3'047'710	7.1%
Oceania	17'321'733	40.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43'091'113</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: FIBL & IFOAM (2015): The World of Organic Agriculture 2015. Frick and Bonn, pp.35

# Organic agricultural land by country (2013)

Country	Hectares	Country	Hectares	Country	Hectares	Country	Hectares
Australia	17'150'000	Ireland	52'793	Bangladesh	6'860	Jamaica	542
Argentina	3'191'255	Democratic Republic of the Congo	51'838	El Salvador	6'736	Tonga	398
United States of America	2'178'471	Norway	51'662	Bhutan	6'726	Zimbabwe	374
China	2'094'000	Netherlands	49'394	Lao PDR	6'442	Bosnia and Herzegovina	292
Spain	1'610'129	Ecuador	42'781	Palestinian, States of	6'354	Martinique (France)	269
Italy	1'317'177	Croatia	40'641	Taiwan	5'937	Malawi	265
France	1'060'756	Slovenia	38'665	Kenya	4'894	Channel Islands	260
Germany	1'060'669	Viet Nam	37'490	Togo	4'638	Faroe Islands	253
Uruguay	930'965	South Africa	37'466	Luxembourg	4'448	Nigeria	250
Canada	869'239	Saudi Arabia	36'595	United Arab Emirates	4'150	Dominica	240
Brazil	705'233	Thailand	33'840	Vanuatu	4'106	Uzbekistan	213
Poland	661'956	Nicaragua	33'621	Sao Tome and Principe	4'051	Guadeloupe (France)	193
United Kingdom	567'751	Samoa	33'535	Cyprus	3'923	Kosovo	114
Austria	526'689	Bolivia	32'710	Mali	3'727	Niger	106
India	510'000	Colombia	31'621	Rwanda	3'705	Grenada	85
Mexico	501'364	Madagascar	30'265	Macedonia (FYROM)	3'146	Niue	61
Sweden	500'996	Ghana	28'201	Montenegro	3'068	Afghanistan	61
Czech Republic	474'231	Honduras	24'950	Jordan	2'898	Bahamas	49
Turkey	461'396	Timor-Leste	24'690	Haiti	2'878	Venezuela	47
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	403'212	Chile	23'469	Kyrgyzstan	2'856	Iraq	40
Ukraine	393'400	Azerbaijan	23'331	French Guiana (France)	2'702	Oman	38
Peru	388'448	Namibia	23'086	Comoros	2'642	Malta	37
Greece	383'606	Pakistan	22'397	Lebanon	2'571	Cook Islands	20
Kazakhstan	291'203	Moldova	22'102	Angola	2'486	Mauritius	16
Romania	288'261	Republic of Korea	21'210	French Polynesia	2'469	Mayotte	5
Portugal	271'532	Papua New Guinea	20'939	Fiji	2'164	Swaziland	3
Uganda	231'157	Syrian Arab Republic	19'987	Georgia	1'999	Andorra	1
Finland	206'170	Sri Lanka	19'517	Benin	1'987	Belarus (Wild collection only)	
Latvia	200'433	Côte d'Ivoire	19'263	Belize	1'982	Bermuda (Processing)	
Tanzania	186'537	Burkina Faso	16'689	Guinea-Bissau	1'843	Chad (Wild collection only)	
Dominican Republic	180'609	Panama	15'183	Solomon Islands	1'307	Guyana (Wild collection only)	
Denmark	169'298	Mozambique	13'998	Liechtenstein	1'137	New Caledonia (PGS group)*	
Slovakia	166'700	Guatemala	13'380	Armenia	1'000	San Marino (Processing)	
Lithuania	166'330	Mongolia	12'922	Myanmar	897	Singapore(Processing)	
Ethiopia	164'777	Tajikistan	12'659	Algeria	700	<b>Total</b>	<b>43'091'113</b>
Estonia	151'256	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	12'156	Cameroon	663		
Russian Federation	144'254	Japan	10'611	Albania	662		
Sudan	141'479	Cambodia	9'889	Malaysia	603		
Hungary	140'292	Iceland	9'710	Réunion (France)	595		
Tunisia	139'087	Nepal	9'361	Lesotho	560		
Switzerland	128'140	Morocco	8'660	Burundi	550		
New Zealand	106'753	Serbia	8'228				
Philippines	101'278	Zambia	7'552				
Egypt	85'801	Israel	7'471				
Indonesia	65'688	Costa Rica	7'449				
Belgium	62'529	Cuba	7'389				
Paraguay	62'274	Senegal	7'176				
Bulgaria	56'287						

Source: FIBL & IFOAM (2015): The World of Organic Agriculture 2015. Frick and Bonn, pp.37-38



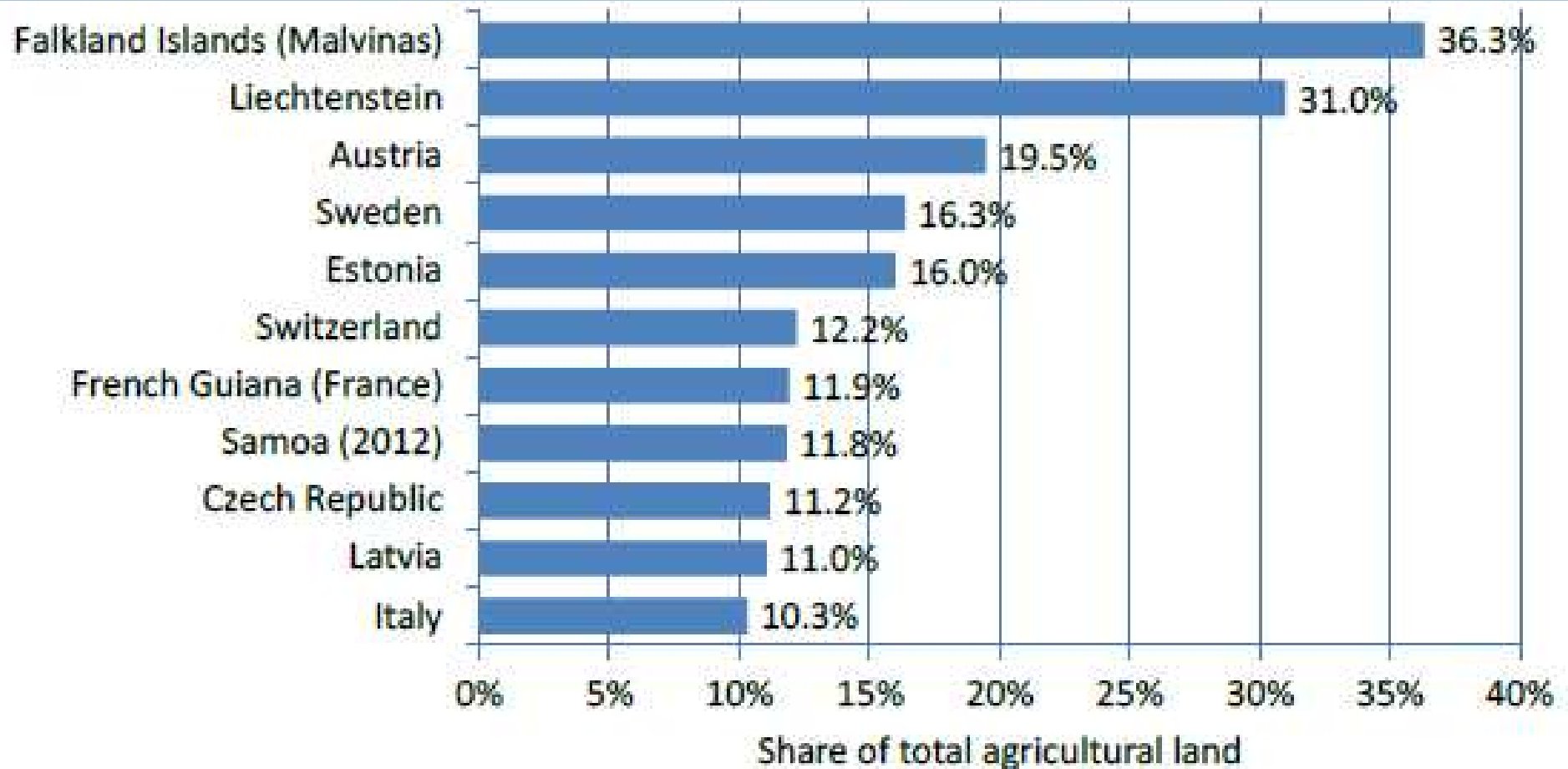
# Shares of organic agricultural land by country (2013)

Country	Share	Country	Share	Country	Share	Country	Share
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	36.3%	Solomon Islands	1.6%	Nepal	0.2%	Uzbekistan	0.001%
Liechtenstein	31.0%	Réunion (France)	1.5%	Rwanda	0.2%	Nigeria	0.0003%
Austria	19.5%	Israel	1.4%	Ghana	0.2%	Swaziland	0.0003%
Sweden	16.3%	Tunisia	1.4%	Cambodia	0.2%	Niger	0.0002%
Estonia	16.0%	Bhutan	1.3%	Thailand	0.2%	Afghanistan	0.0002%
Switzerland	12.2%	Belize	1.3%	Serbia	0.2%	Mayotte	-
French Guiana (France)	11.9%	Canada	1.3%	Haiti	0.2%	Belarus (Wild collection only)	
Samoa	11.8%	Tonga	1.3%	Chile	0.1%	Bermuda (Processing)	
Czech Republic	11.2%	Ireland	1.3%	Syrian Arab Republic	0.1%	Chad (Wild collection only)	
Latvia	11.0%	Niue	1.2%	Kazakhstan	0.1%	Guyana (Wild collection only)	
Italy	10.3%	Republic of Korea	1.1%	Burkina Faso	0.1%	New Caledonia (PGS group)*	
Dominican Republic	9.3%	Dominica	1.0%	Togo	0.1%	San Marino (Processing)	
Finland	9.0%	Martinique (France)	1.0%	Jamaica	0.1%	Singapore(Processing)	
Slovakia	8.8%	Ukraine	1.0%	Indonesia	0.1%	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.98%</b>
Faroe Islands	8.4%	New Zealand	0.9%	Guinea-Bissau	0.1%		
Slovenia	8.4%	Moldova	0.9%	Cuba	0.1%		
Portugal	8.1%	Philippines	0.8%	Sudan	0.1%		
Sao Tome and Principe	7.2%	Honduras	0.8%	Côte d'Ivoire	0.1%		
Timor-Leste	6.6%	Sri Lanka	0.7%	Bolivia	0.1%		
Spain	6.5%	United Arab Emirates	0.7%	Pakistan	0.1%		
Denmark	6.4%	Taiwan	0.7%	Georgia	0.1%		
Germany	6.4%	Grenada	0.7%	Senegal	0.1%		
Uruguay	6.3%	Panama	0.7%	Bangladesh	0.1%		
Lithuania	5.7%	Cook Islands	0.7%	Colombia	0.1%		
French Polynesia	5.5%	Nicaragua	0.7%	Madagascar	0.1%		
Norway	4.8%	United States of America	0.6%	Russian Federation	0.1%		
Mongolia	4.7%	Montenegro	0.6%	Benin	0.1%		
Greece	4.6%	Ecuador	0.6%	Namibia	0.1%		
Belgium	4.6%	Tanzania	0.5%	Armenia	0.1%		
Poland	4.3%	Fiji	0.5%	Albania	0.1%		
Australia	4.2%	Azerbaijan	0.5%	South Africa	0.04%		
France	3.9%	Bahamas	0.5%	Zambia	0.03%		
Luxembourg	3.4%	Ethiopia	0.5%	Kosovo	0.03%		
Hungary	3.3%	Guadeloupe (France)	0.5%	Morocco	0.03%		
United Kingdom	3.3%	El Salvador	0.4%	Mozambique	0.03%		
Croatia	3.1%	Iceland	0.4%	Kyrgyzstan	0.03%		
Channel Islands	3.0%	Costa Rica	0.4%	Burundi	0.03%		
Cyprus	2.7%	China	0.4%	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.03%		
Netherlands	2.6%	Lebanon	0.4%	Lesotho	0.02%		
Mexico	2.3%	Viet Nam	0.4%	Saudi Arabia	0.02%		
Egypt	2.3%	Malta	0.4%	Kenya	0.02%		
Argentina	2.3%	Guatemala	0.3%	Mauritius	0.02%		
Vanuatu	2.2%	Paraguay	0.3%	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.01%		
Romania	2.1%	Macedonia (FYROM)	0.3%	Mali	0.01%		
Turkey	1.9%	India	0.3%	Malaysia	0.01%		
Bulgaria	1.8%	Jordan	0.3%	Myanmar	0.01%		
Papua New Guinea	1.8%	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.3%	Andorra	0.01%		
Peru	1.8%	Japan	0.3%	Cameroon	0.01%		
Palestinian, State of	1.7%	Brazil	0.3%	Malawi	0.005%		
Comoros	1.7%	Tajikistan	0.3%	Angola	0.004%		
Uganda	1.7%	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.2%	Zimbabwe	0.002%		
				Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.002%		
				Oman	0.002%		
				Algeria	0.002%		
				Iraq	0.001%		

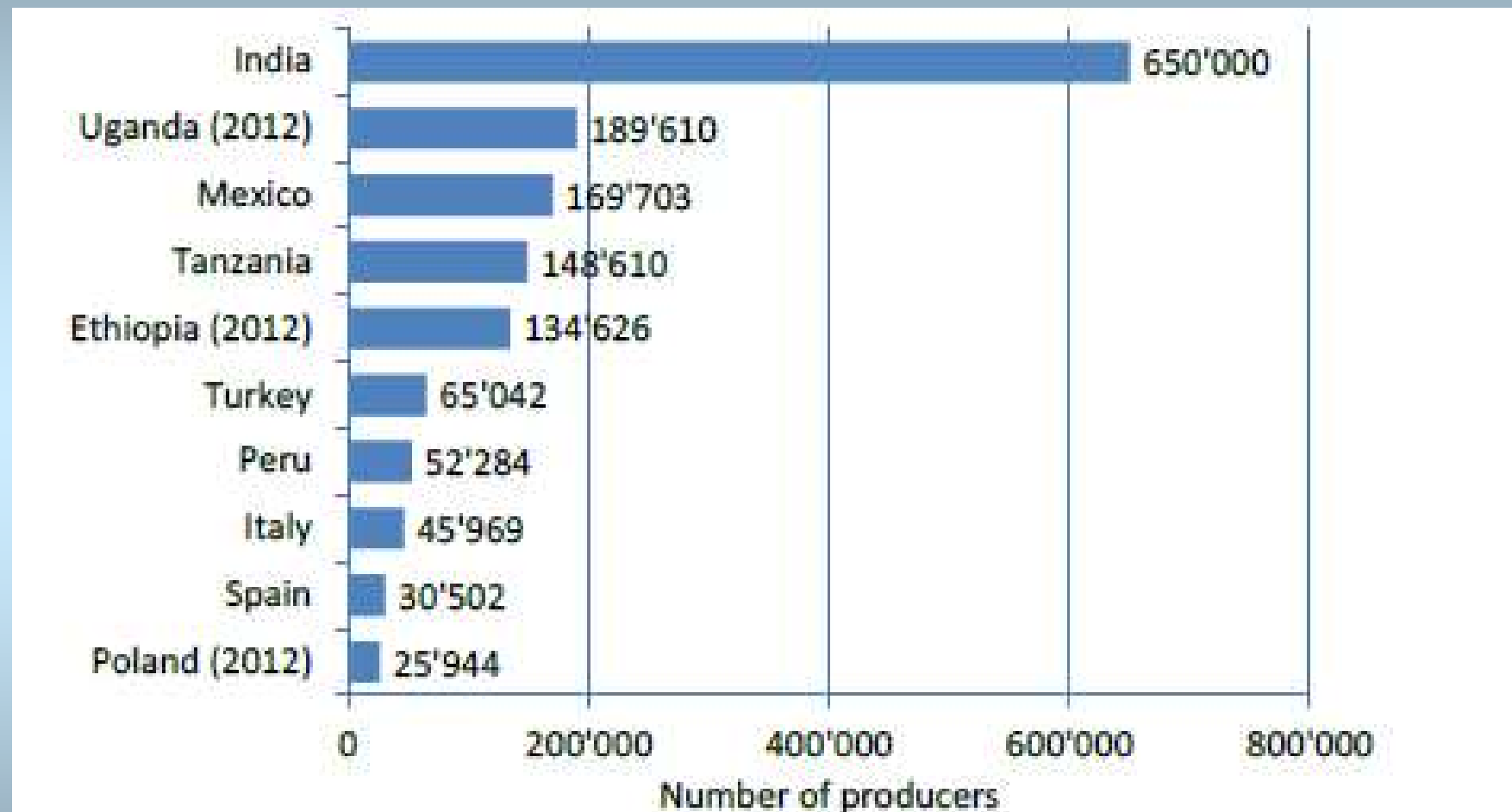
Source: FIBL & IFOAM (2015):  
The World of Organic Agriculture  
2015. Frick and Bonn, pp.41-42



## Countries with more than 10% organic agricultural land (2013)



## World: the ten countries with the largest numbers of organic producers (2013)





# Organic farming in Romania

## LEGISLATION

**Commission Regulation (EC) no. 2092/1991 - organic farm production**

**Commission Regulation (EC) no. 1698/2005 - non-refundable support**

**Commission Regulation (EC) no. 1071/2005 - co-financing programs**

**Law no. 38/2000 - organic agri-food products**

**Order no. 527/2003 - rules, certification, accreditation**

## INSTITUTIONS

**☐ Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR)**

▪ **Office of the National Authority for Organic Products (ANPE)**

– **The National Agency For Agriculture Consultancy (ANCA-n.l.e)**

– **The Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (ASAS)**

– **Higher education institutions, agricultural research institutes and stations**

– **The National Organic Farming Federation**



# Organic farming in Romania

## POLICY

- **The governmental policy is elaborated and coordinated by MADR**
- **MADR established an action plan for the development of the domestic market of organic products, which includes:**
  - **The intensification of actions promoting the organic farming concept;**
  - **The improvement of information on organic farming practice, and the qualification of the participants in this sector;**
  - **The increase of areas under the experimental modules “organic micro-farms”;**
  - **The delimitation of organic farming areas;**
  - **Support to farmers during the conversion period;**
  - **The creation of an information system accessible to farmers.**





# Organic farming in Romania

## Areas and livestock herds before EU accession

Specification	Index						2006
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
<b>Total area</b> , out of which:	100 (17,438 ha)	1.65	2.51	3.28	4.23	6.33	<b>8.20</b>
<b>-Cereals</b>	100 (4,000 ha)	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.12	<b>5.52</b>	4.08
<b>-Pastures</b> and fodder crops	100 (9,300 ha)	1.51	2.15	2.58	3.37	4.55	<b>5.51</b>
<b>-Oilseeds</b> and protein crops	100 (4,000 ha)	1.58	2.50	3.90	5.02	5.65	<b>5.97</b>
<b>-Vegetables</b>	100 (38 ha)	2.63	18.40	5.26	7.89	11.58	<b>18.95</b>
<b>-Fruits</b> (sour cherries, cherries, apples)	-	-	100 (50 ha)	2.00	4.00	<b>8.64</b>	5.84
<b>-Spontaneous flora</b> collection	100 (50 ha)	2.00	6.00	8.00	10.00	352.60	<b>774.00</b>
<b>-Other crops</b>	100 (50 ha)	6.00	16.00	18.00	18.00	97.68	<b>242.00</b>

Source: calculations based on MADR data



# Organic farming in Romania

## Production before EU accession

Specification	Index						2006
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
<b>Total crop</b> production, out of which:	100 (13,502 to)	1.81	2.39	2.25	6.46	9.77	<b>12.34</b>
- <b>Cereals</b> , out of which:	100 (7,200 to)	1.74	2.22	2.00	5.69	<b>7.64</b>	6.73
Export	-	-	-	-	100 (7,100 to)	1.56	<b>2.55</b>
- <b>Oilseeds</b> and protein crops, out of which:	100 (5,500 to)	1.31	2.00	2.27	6.73	8.29	<b>13.29</b>
Export	-	-	-	-	100 (9,800 to)	1.23	<b>2.26</b>
- <b>Vegetables</b>	100 (600 to)	6.67	6.67	3.33	5.00	12.00	<b>14.51</b>
- <b>Fruits</b> (sour cherries, cherries)	-	-	100 (200 to)	1.50	2.50	<b>5.00</b>	1.70
- <b>Spontaneous flora</b> collection, out of which:	100 (200 to)	2.00	1.50	1.60	22.50	83.74	<b>124.81</b>
Export	-	-	-	-	100 (3800 to)	3.74	-
- <b>Other crops</b>	100 (2 to)	150.00	400.00	450.00	600.00	3175.00	<b>5520.50</b>

Source: calculations based on MADR data



# Organic farming in Romania

## Areas and producers after EU accession

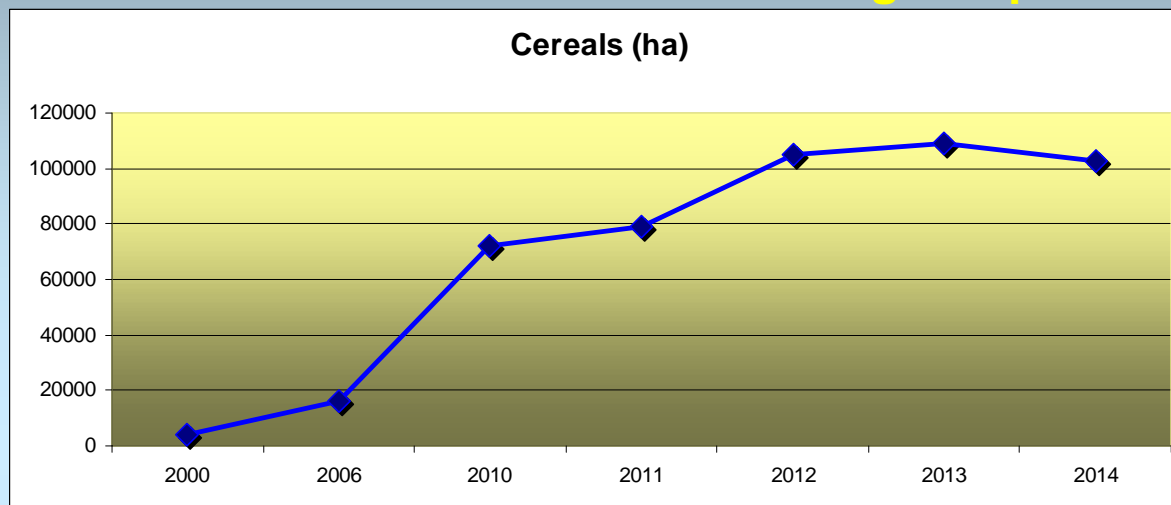
Indicator	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
No.of farmers	100 (3409)	1.12	1.23	0.95	0.93	284.63	455.97	445.70	424.46
Area in arable area (ha)	100 (55605)	1.43	1.90	2.41	3.25	413.53	518.41	541.58	520.19
Area - permanent crops of pastures and fodder (ha)	100 (51200)	1.12	0.90	0.77	0.62	440.97	547.81	569.82	546.51
Area - permanent crops of orchards and grapevine (ha)	100 (294)	3.24	5.16	6.36	10.52	1417.22	2646.71	3197.38	3210.38
Spontaneous flora collection (ha)	100 (38700)	1.52	2.10	2.30	2.00	873.52	2796.22	2440.69	4618.99

Source: calculations based on MADR data

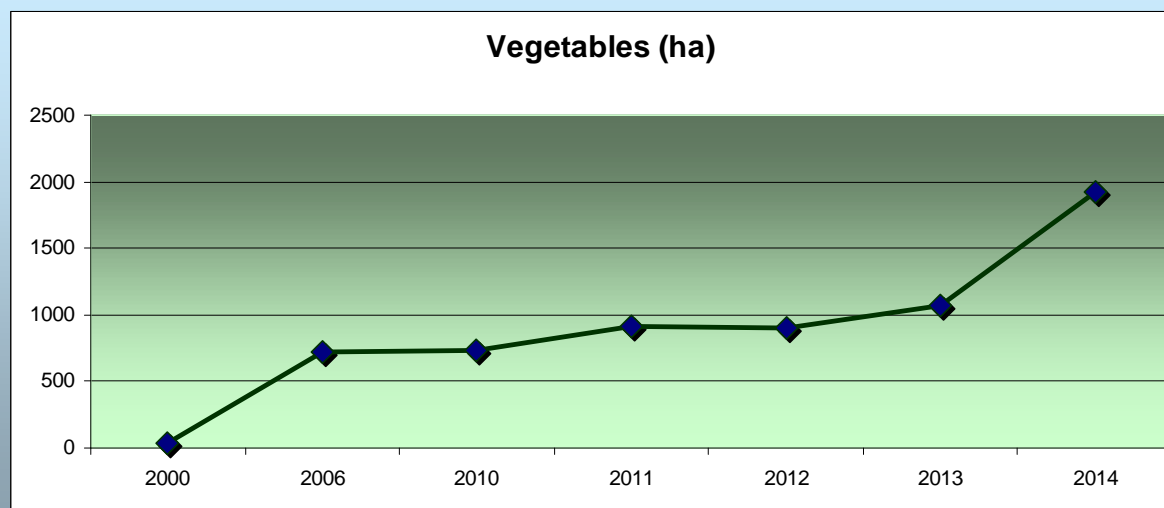


# Organic farming in Romania

## Areas under organic production



Source: based on MADR data



Source: based on MADR data





# Organic farming in Romania

## Characteristics

- **3409 organic operators were registered at the end of 2006 (2014 = 14470)**
- **Market organization - [www.agricultura-ecologica.ro](http://www.agricultura-ecologica.ro)**
- **E-Platform: <http://www.bioagro.ro> (Organic Agriculture eServices System that is developed by the Bio@gro Consortium and financed by the E.C. Commission - DG Information Society)**
- **Certified organisms for inspection in 2014 = 14 (13)**
- **Networks registered: 2 shops (end of 2006-Biocoop, Naturalia); 25 shops (2013)**
- **Organizations in organic agriculture, rural development, environmental protection, and durable development: 32 bodies (2013)**
- **5 universities**



**Dynamic sector**



# Organic farming in Romania

## Financial aspects

- *Pre-accession period*
  - SAPARD Program - Measure 3.3 „Agricultural production methods designed to protect the environment and maintain the countryside”, with 3 pilot sub-measures:
    - A. Soil conservation and protection against erosion
    - B. Biodiversity preservation through traditional farming practices
    - C. Organic farming
- *Post-accession period*
  - Structural funds (EAFRD)



# Organic farming in Romania

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Still a big potential on domestic market but with limits

- Area & Production increased
- Demand increased more rapid  $\Rightarrow$  Imports increased
- 30% from production is sold on domestic market: Hypermarkets (Metro, Selgros, Carrefour, Cora) & Supermarkets (Gima, La Fourmi, Mega Image, Nic, Primavera, OK) + Minimarkets (in the last years)
- Exports: 1.5 mil euro (end of 2006); 150 mil euro (end of 2010)
- Imports increased at the beginning, then decreased (economic crisis)
- Many unpolluted or low polluted areas (by chemicals) – easier to enter in conversion
- Increasing demand on European and world markets



# Organic farming in Romania

## OBSTACLES

- Organic agriculture can become a non-efficient business in Romania, not because the outlet is not large enough, but rather because the government has not shown enough interest in this activity so far – not enough financial support (producers declarations)
- High production cost
- Extreme weather conditions in the last years
- Difficulties in distribution
- High cost of certification
- High rate of forgery
- Insufficient control of proper use of the organic product logo
- Low domestic demand due to low purchasing power
- Low degree of producers' organization



# Conclusions

**A typical consumer of organic products has the following attributes:**

- **Location** – lives in urban areas, usually in a big city;
- **Buyer Behaviour** – discerning towards food and drink purchases, considering factors like quality, provenance and production methods;
- **Demographics** – typically well-educated and belongs to middle-high social classes;
- **Purchasing Power** – in a medium to high-income household with relatively high purchasing power.

**Consumer concentration:** Industrialized countries  
+  
China, India, Brazil, South Africa (good perspectives)

**Factors** responsible for consumer demand: **Premium price; Education**





# Conclusions

## ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE NEEDS:

- **CLEAR LONG TERM POLICIES BASED ON COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**
- **WE MUST ANALYSE THE BENEFITS vs. DISADVANTAGES OF:**
  - **CONVENTIONAL AGRICULTURE**
  - **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**



# Conclusions

We can say when a product is tasty

We cannot say when it is healthy

We assume that we need healthy products

We need information, protection and investments

We must be competitive and choose the right way



# Conclusions

## Ways of improvement of the competitiveness of the Romanian organic sector

- **The increase in the number of operators (with financial support from the Romanian Government Programs + EU funds);**
- **The association of the small organic farmers;**
- **The increase in the number of municipal and regional organizations;**
- **The increase in the number of investments in related activities in the rural area and foreign direct investment projects;**
- **Capacity improvement and diversification of the organic farm output;**
- **Investments in organic food processing capacities**
- **The development of upstream and downstream services.**



**Thank you for attention !**

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