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WORLD PROMOTION OF ORGANIC FARMING

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Abstract

Organic farming is an agricultural sector that has experienced significant growth in recent years. Although it has become increasingly global important, the concept of organic farming is still not promoted enough. The main reason we chose this approach was afraid the article to find out more about what is actually organic farming, how widespread is the European Union. Bet on the study that we conducted on organic farming, we demonstrated the novelty of the issues that will bring much discussion and will be addressed in more and more. The role of organic agriculture is to produce food cleaner, suitable for human metabolism, in full correlation with environmental conservation and development. One of the main goals of organic farming is the production of agricultural and food products fresh and genuine processes designed to respect nature and its systems. Article demonstrates the major contribution of organic farming to sustainable development, increasing economic activities with significant added value and increase interest in rural areas.

Key words**:** *economic sustainability, global growth, organic farming, rural area*

INTRODUCTION

Organic farming is an alternative to traditional agriculture as a result of improper operation thereof and the causes which led to decreased resistance of plants, animal health and soil quality and thus human health. Organic farming is based in principle on increasing soil organic matter content by using natural fertilizers.
Romania has favourable conditions for the promotion of organic farming i.e.: fertile and productive soils, chemical processing and industrialization have not yet reached the levels of industrialized countries, traditional Romanian agriculture is based on the use of clean technologies, it is possible to separate perimeter green clean How to apply organic farming practices, the demand for organic products is growing, organic farming can become a source of employment to the rural population [1].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The paper is based on the data and other information collected from EU data base and reports on organic farming. Analysis and synthesis methods were utilized in order to put into evidence the main aspects, features and trends in the field of organic farming.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Area occupied by organic crops, worldwide in 2010 was 37 million hectares; the largest areas being cultivated in Australia, Argentina and the USA (see fig. 1).

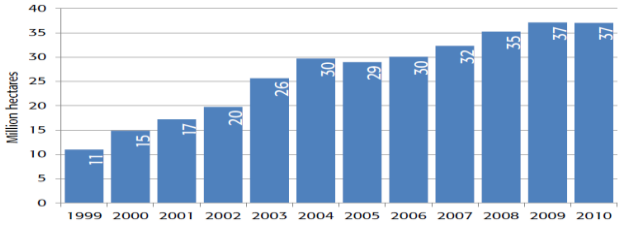

Fig. 1. Worldwide area cultivated by organic crops 1999-2010, Source: www.fibl.org

Ecologically cultivated area increased by 2 million hectares or 6% worldwide in 2009 compared to 2008. In 2010 organic cultivated area remains constant, 37 million hectares.
As in previous years, Australia is the country with the largest area under organic (12 million hectares). Argentina ranks second with an increase of 1.08 million hectares, followed by the U.S. (1.95 million hectares). Significantly increase organic acreage, made possible the

fourth of Brazil (1.77 million hectares), and followed by Spain (1.46 million hectares).
The 10 countries together hold 26.63 million hectares, which is more than three-quarters of the world total (see Fig. 2) [2].

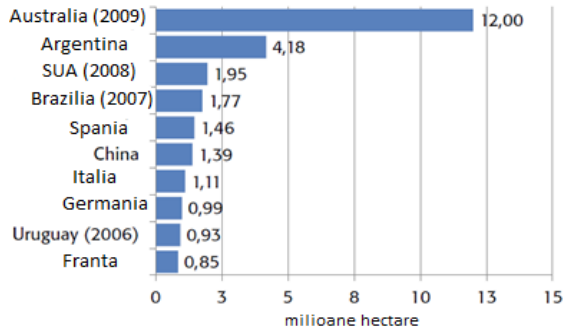

Fig. 2. Top of countries with area cultivated by organic crops in 2010, Source: www.fibl.org

Globally, in developed countries, there is a tendency to promote large-scale, organic farming. These trends are no exception for the European Union where there is a steady increase both in production and in the consumption of organic products (see Fig. 3) [3].

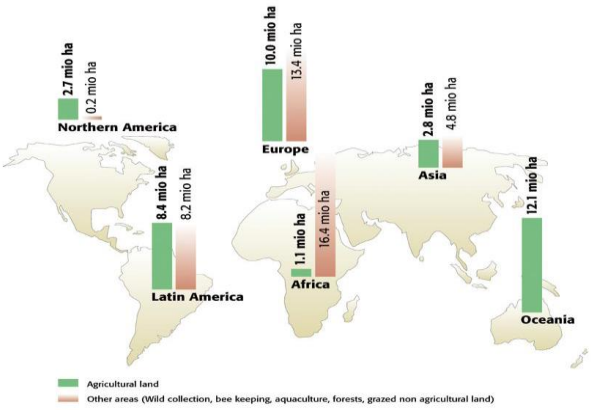

Fig. 3. Worldwide organic crops and others
Source: www.fibl.org

In Europe, 10 million hectares of land are farmed organically (including areas under conversion). This represents 2.1% of agricultural land in Europe. Ecologically cultivated area increased by 0.8 million hectares (or 9%) in 2010 when there were 280,000 registered producers [4].
In the European Union there were 9 million hectares of organic farmland (including areas under conversion). This represents 5.1% of the agricultural area in the EU, organic farmland increased by 0.7 million hectares (or 9%) were reported in 2010, when 220,000 producers.

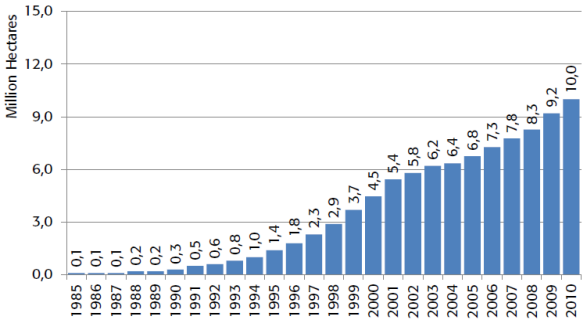

Fig. 4. Organic crops area in europe 1985-2010
Source: www.fibl.org

According to the chart above (see Fig. 4) it is an increase in the cultivated area from year to year, from 0.1 million hectares in 1985 to 10 million hectares in 2010.
Most organic agricultural area is in Spain (1,456,672 hectares), followed by Italy (1,113,742 hectares) and Germany (990,702 acres) (see fig. 5).

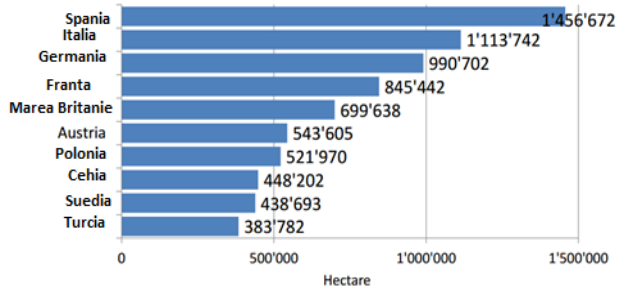

Fig. 5. Top 10 European countries with largest organic crops area 2010, Source: www.fibl.org

According to data provided by FiBL, organic farmland in Europe are eligible for use as follows: 45% permanent pasture, 41% arable, 10% permanent crops, and 3% other agricultural land. Of the total arable crops area is the largest grain (1709.7 thousand hectares) and green fodder (1583.8 thousand hectares). Smaller areas are occupied by protein crops, oil seeds and vegetables. Regarding permanent crops have the largest expanse of olive groves (367 500 hectares), followed by grapes (192 700 hectares), nuts (187 thousand hectares), fruit (94 800 hectares). Citrus occupies 31.8 thousand hectares (see Fig. 6) [5].

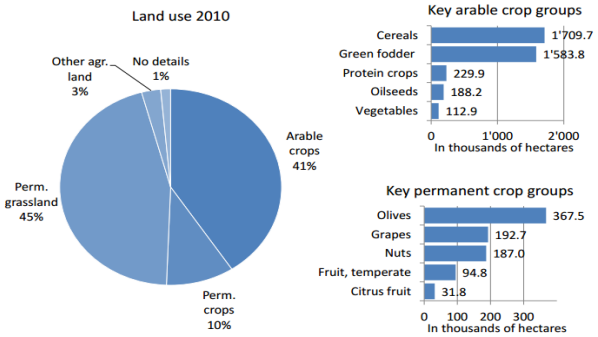

Fig. 6. Ecologic agriculture land utilization in Europe (total: 10 mil ha), Source: www.fibl.org

Organic market was estimated at 19.7 billion Euros in 2010, an increase of about 8% compared to 2009 in Europe, the European Union, turnover was 18.2 billion Euros, an increase of about 7% compared to 2009 (see fig. 7).

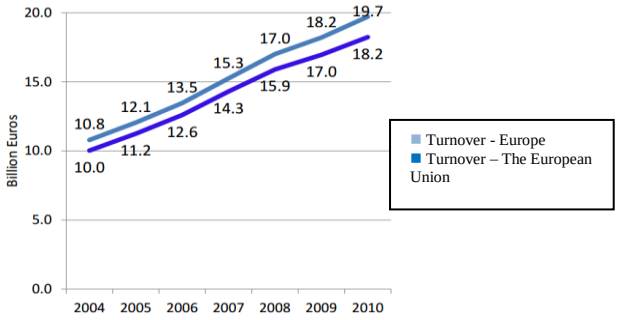

Fig. 7. Organic market growth 2004-2010. Growth 2009-2010: +8%, Source: www.fibl.org

The largest market for organic products was Germany with a turnover of 6,020 million Euros (30.5% of total), followed by France (3.516 million Euros - 17.8% of total) and the UK (2,000 million - 10.1% of total) (see fig. 8).

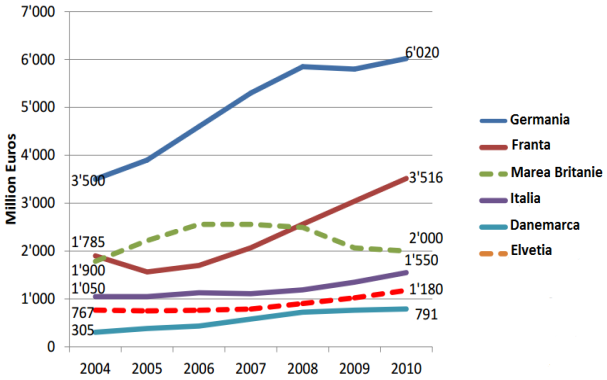

Fig. 8. Organic market development in couple European countries 2004-2010, Source: www.fibl.org

Among the European countries with the highest sales of food/drink green also include Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands (see fig. 9).

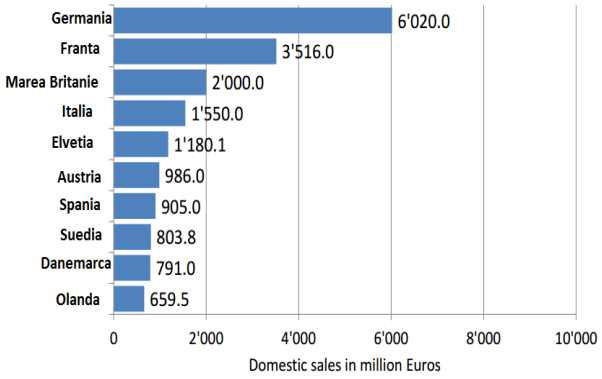

Fig. 9. European market for ecologic food/drink: Countries with largest sales 2010, Source: www.fibl.org

As a part of the total market share, the highest levels were achieved in Denmark, Austria and Switzerland, with 5% or more for organic products. The largest expenditures per capita are also in these countries and in Luxembourg (see fig. 10).

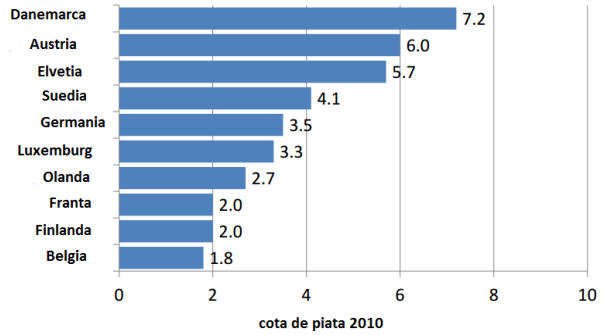

Fig. 10. European market for ecologic food/drink. Countries with largest market share 2010, Source: www.fibl.org

The largest increase organic cropland was in Europe, where the surface has increased by 0.8 and is about 10 million hectares (9% compared to 2009).
One third of the worldwide cultivated land is Oceania (33%), followed by Europe (27%) and Latin America (23%). Australia is the country with the most organic agricultural land (12 million hectares), followed by Argentina (4.2 million hectares) and the USA (1.9 million hectares). The countries with the most organic farmland are Falkland Islands

(36%), followed by Liechtenstein (27%) and Austria (20%).
At the global level are 1.6 million farmers using organic methods and about 80% are in developing countries. As in previous years, the countries with most producers are India, Uganda, Ethiopia and Mexico [6].

CONCLUSIONS

Agricultural future of this century is mainly focused on achieving healthy, maintaining soil fertility, optimizing agricultural production and the environment, without neglecting the issue of food security.
From the point of view of agricultural policy objectives, Romania has a very favourable position in the European Union.
The fact that Romanian agriculture fertilizer and pesticide consumption is 10-11 times lower than the European average, enable agriculture with emphasis on quality and quality means primarily organic.
As statistics show, the organic sector is growing and has the potential to be further developed. In comparison with the European average, organic farming is still underdeveloped in Romania, and the domestic market is still young.
Romania seeks to align global organic market trend, we observed an increase in both the consumption of organic products in the domestic market and the production and export of organic raw materials.
In the absence of domestic production to meet the demand for organic products as quantity, quality and diversity, most foods are brought from abroad.
Absence Romanian processors of organic products make that the only chance for local producers to export production. That is why in recent years the development of organic farming in Romania engine was exporting raw organic unprocessed.
The biggest problem of the Romanian market of organic products remains therefore that there are no processors. Romanian raw material is exported to more than 90 %, products are manufactured abroad and then return home four times more expensive.
In the absence of real agricultural reform to regulate land and agricultural credit market and encourage private holdings, however small they may be, and our country will not be able to capitalize on the current favourable moment when the world is looking more and more organic products.
Organic agriculture is a strategic objective quality of Romanian agricultural policy due to the contribution that the sector can have on economic development and lasting role in improving environmental conditions, soil preservation, water quality improvement, bio-diversification and protecting nature.

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