

Media release February 12, 2020

Global organic area continues to grow

Over 71.5 million hectares of farmland are organic

The latest global 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, in Nuremberg, Germany. The statistical yearbook “The World of Organic Agriculture” will be launched on Wednesday, 12 February, 2020, from 5 to 6 pm in Hall Shanghai, NCC East.

(Frick/Nuremberg, 12 February, 2020) 2018 was another record year for global organic agriculture. According to the latest FiBL survey on organic agriculture worldwide, organic farmland increased by 2.0 million hectares, and organic retail sales also continued to grow, reaching another all-time high, as shown by the data from 186 countries (data as of the end 2018). The 21st edition of the study “The World of Organic Agriculture” published by FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International shows a continuation of the positive trend seen in the past years. This annual survey on organic agriculture worldwide is supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Sustainability Fund of Coop Switzerland, and NürnbergMesse, the organizers of the BIOFACH fair.

The global organic market continues to grow worldwide and has passed the 100 billion US dollar mark

The market research company, Ecovia Intelligence, estimates that the global market for organic food surpassed 100 billion US dollars for the first time in 2018 (almost 97 billion euros). The United States is the leading market with 40.6 billion euros, followed by Germany (10.9 billion euros) and France (9.1 billion euros). In 2018, many major markets continued to show double-digit growth rates, and the French organic market grew by more than 15 percent. Danish and Swiss consumers spent the most on organic food (312 Euros per capita in 2018). Denmark had the highest organic market share with 11.5 percent of its total food market.

2.8 million organic producers worldwide

In 2018, 2.8 million organic producers were reported. India continues to be the country with the highest number of producers (1'149'000), followed by Uganda (210'000), and Ethiopia (204'000).

Steady increase of organic farmland

A total of 71.5 million hectares were organically managed at the end of 2018, representing a growth of 2.9 percent or 2 million hectares compared to 2017. Australia has the largest organic agricultural area (35.7 million hectares), followed by Argentina (3.6 million hectares), and China (3.1 million hectares). Due to the large area of organic farmland in Australia, half of the global organic agricultural land is in Oceania (36.0 million hectares). Europe has the second largest area (15.6 million hectares), followed by Latin America (8 million hectares). The organic area increased in all continents compared to 2017.

Ten percent or more of the farmland is organic in 16 countries

Globally, 1.5 percent of farmland is organic. However, many countries have far higher shares. The countries with the largest organic share of their total farmland are Liechtenstein (38.5 percent), Samoa (34.5 percent), and Austria (24.7 percent). In sixteen countries, 10 percent or more of all agricultural land is organic.

Global organic statistics show the contribution of organic agriculture to the Sustainable Development Goals

According to Dr. Monica Rubiolo from SECO, “Access to good quality data on organic farming not only helps to measure success toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals but also to orient decision-makers and other stakeholders along the whole value chain.” Joseph Wozniak from ITC believes that “This publication provides key insights for those who attach importance to environmental conditions behind the products produced in their countries or sold in their nation’s shops.”

“The global organic statistics have proven useful for development programs and supporting strategies for organic agriculture and markets, and they are crucial for monitoring the impact of these activities. This publication shows our ongoing engagement with transparency in the organic sector” say Louise Lutikholt, IFOAM – Organics International Executive Director, and Professor Urs Niggli, director of FiBL.

More information

“The World of Organic Agriculture” - How to order/download

The printed version (30 euros + postage; affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International: 20 euros) can be ordered and downloaded at <https://shop.fibl.org> (order number 5011) or at <https://shop.ifoam.bio>. Graphs and infographics can be downloaded at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020.html

Online database

Tables and interactive infographics with more details on crops, markets, and international trade, as well as explanations about the data can be found on FiBL’s statistics website <https://statistics.fibl.org>.

Contacts

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Programme of the session “The World of Organic Agriculture – Statistics and Emerging Trends”

Wednesday, 12 February, 2020, 5 to 6 pm, Hall Shanghai (NCC East), NürnbergMesse, Nürnberg

- Louise Luttkholt, IFOAM – Organics International, Moderator
- Dr. Christian Robin, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
- Dr. Helga Willer, FiBL: Latest data on organic agriculture worldwide
- Joelle Katto-Andrighetto, IFOAM – Organics International: Standards and regulations
- Amarjit Sahota, Ecovia Intelligence, UK: The global market for organic food

More information at www.biofach.fibl.org/en/biofach-2020.html

Supporters

- Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Berne, Switzerland, <https://www.seco.admin.ch>
- International Trade Centre (ITC), Geneva, Switzerland, <http://www.intracen.org>
- Coop Sustainability Fund, Coop, Basel, Switzerland, <https://www.actions-not-words.ch/en.html>
- NürnbergMesse, the organizers of the BIOFACH fair, Nuremberg, Germany, <https://www.nuernbergmesse.de/>

Book reference

Willer, Helga, Bernhard Schlatter, Jan Trávníček, Laura Kemper and Julia Lernoud (Eds.) (2020): The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2020. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Frick, and IFOAM – Organics International, Bonn. Available at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020.html

This media release online

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

About FiBL

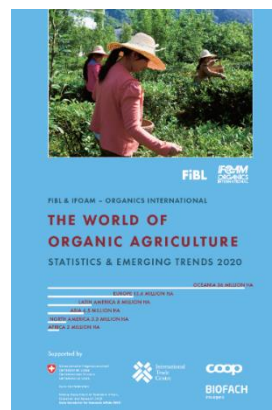
The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) is one of the world's leading institutes in the field of organic agriculture. FiBL's strengths lie in its interdisciplinary research, innovations developed jointly with farmers and the food industry, and rapid knowledge transfer. FiBL employs some 300 staff at its various locations.

Homepage: www.fibl.org

Yearbook "The World of Organic Agriculture" at a Glance

About "The World of Organic Agriculture"

The yearbook (333 pages) presents the results of the annual survey on organic agriculture worldwide and has numerous tables, graphs, maps, and infographics. Furthermore, it contains reports authored by experts on the organic sector and emerging trends in all regions and selected countries. In addition, background information on standards and legislation, policy support, and the global market for organic food is provided. Further information and download is available at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020.html.



Data collection

The data on organic agriculture is collected annually by FiBL in collaboration with various partners from around the world. The results are published jointly with IFOAM – Organics International. The activities are supported by SECO, ITC, the Coop Sustainability Fund, and NürnbergMesse, the organizers of the BIOFACH fair.

Quote

Willer, Helga, Bernhard Schlatter, Jan Trávníček, Laura Kemper and Julia Lernoud (Eds.) (2020): The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2020. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Frick, and IFOAM – Organics International, Bonn.

Order book and download

The printed version (30 Euros + postage; affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International: 20 Euros) can be ordered at <https://shop.fibl.org/chen> (order number 5011) and <https://shop.ifoam.bio>. At www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020.html, the book is available for free download.

Online databases

The data is available online at <https://statistics.fibl.org>.

Pick up your copy at BIOFACH in Hall I, Stands I-553 (FiBL) and I-451 (IFOAM – Organics International)

Statistics sessions at BIOFACH 2020

Wednesday, 12 February 2020

- The European market for organic food
4 to 4:45 pm, Hall Shanghai, (NCC East)
- The World of Organic Agriculture
5 to 6 pm, Hall Shanghai (NCC East)

Thursday, 13 February 2020

- Global Organic Market Overview - facts, trends and opportunities
10:00 to 11:30 pm, Hall St. Petersburg (NCC East)
- Harmonisation of organic consumer data
5 to 6 pm, Hall Oslo, NCC East

More information:

<https://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2020/biofach-2020.html>

Supported by

Organic Agriculture: Key Indicators and Top Countries 2018

Indicator	World	Top countries
Countries with organic activities	186 countries	
Organic agricultural land	71.5 million hectares (1999: 11 million hectares)	Australia (35.7 million hectares) Argentina (3.6 million hectares) China (3.1 million hectares)
Organic share of total agricultural land	1.5 %	Liechtenstein (38.5 %) Samoa (34.5 %) Austria (24.7 %)
Wild collection and further non-agricultural areas	35.7 million hectares (1999: 4.1 million hectares)	Finland (11.3 million hectares) Zambia (3.2 million hectares) Tanzania (2.4 million hectares)
Producers	2.8 million producers (1999: 200'000 producers)	India (1'149'371) Uganda (210'352) Ethiopia (203'602)
Organic market	96.7 billion euros (2000: 15.1 billion euros)	US (40.6 billion euros) Germany (10.9 billion euros) France (9.1 billion euros)
Per capita consumption	12.8 euros	Switzerland (312 euros) Denmark (312 euros) Sweden (231 euros)
Number of countries with organic regulations	103 countries	

Source: FiBL survey 2020, based on national data sources and data from certifiers

Infographics

The World of Organic Agriculture 2018

Organic Farmland 2018



71.5 m ha
Organic farmland in million hectares

+2.9%
From 2017

186
Countries with organic farming

Organic Producers 2018

The number of organic producers is increasing

2.8 million
Organic farmers

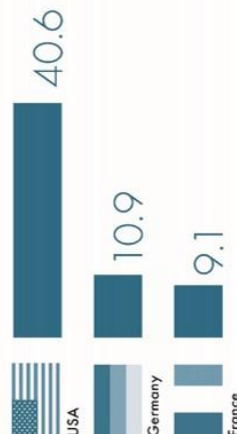
+55%
From 2009

Organic Market 2018

The global market is growing and consumer demand is increasing

Almost 97
Global organic food market in billion euros

Top 3 countries
(market in billion euros)

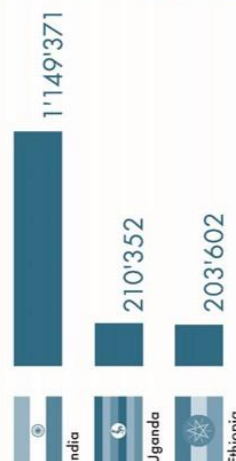


15.4%
Organic market growth

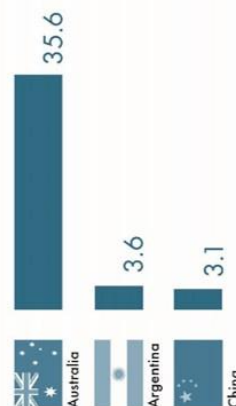
11.5%
Market share

312 €
Highest per capita spending is in Denmark and Switzerland

Number of producers:
Top 3 countries



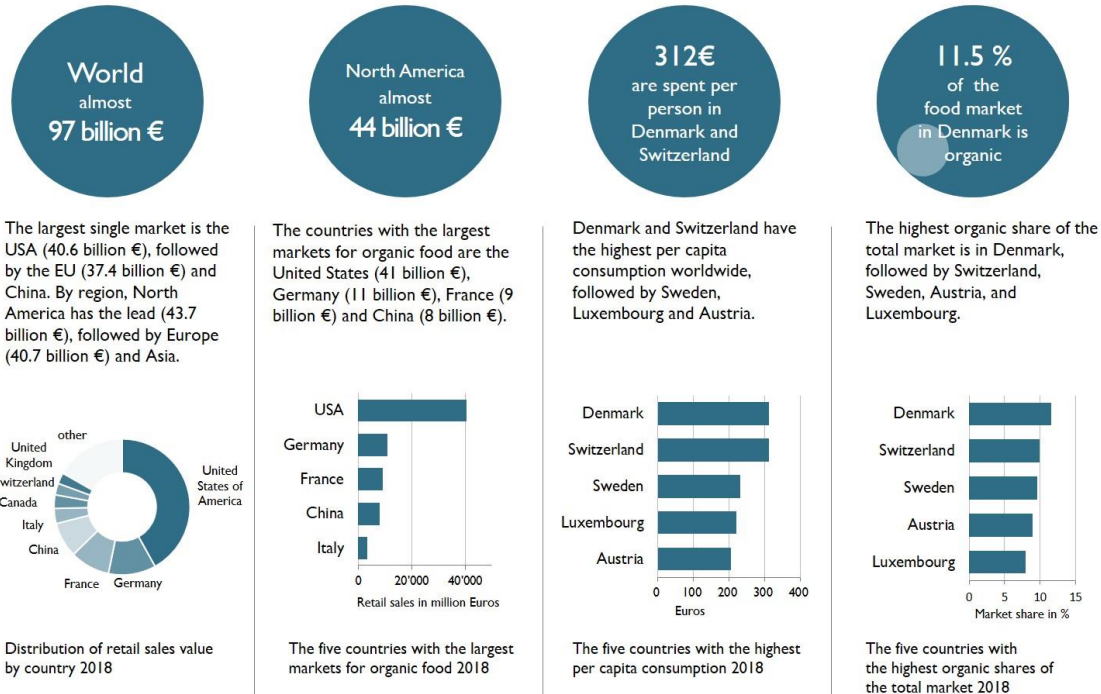
Top 3 countries
(land in million of hectares)



Source: FiBL survey based on national sources
© FiBL 2020
More information: www.organic-world.net - statistics.fibl.org

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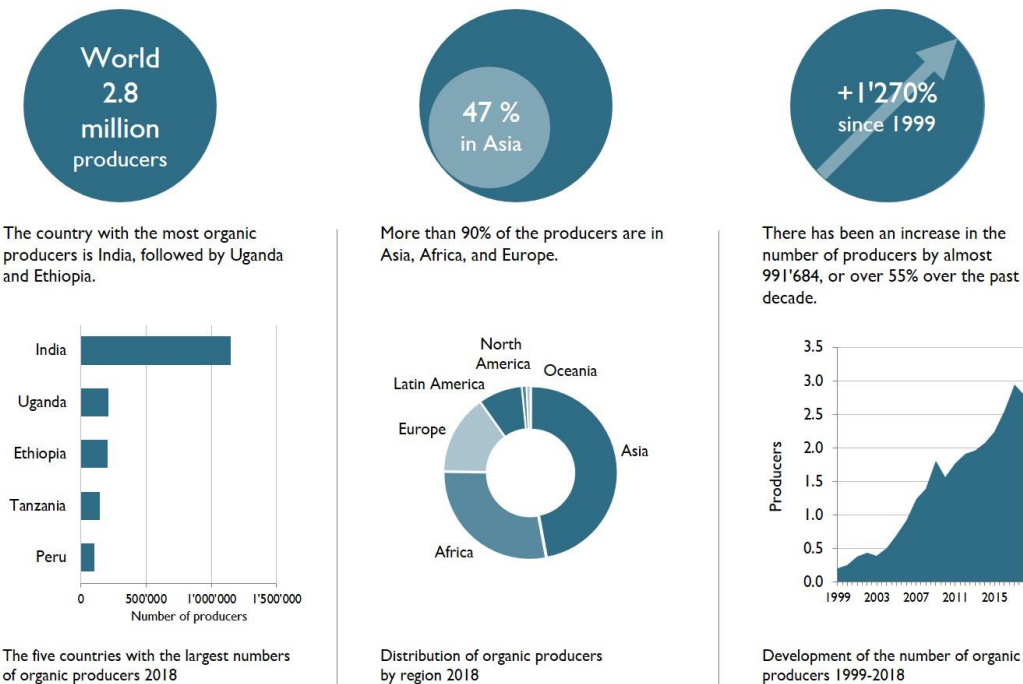
ORGANIC RETAIL SALES 2018



FiBL

Source: FiBL survey 2020 www.organic-world.net – statistics.fibl.org

ORGANIC PRODUCERS 2018



FiBL

Source: FiBL survey 2020 www.organic-world.net – statistics.fibl.org

ORGANIC FARMLAND 2018



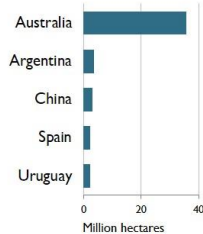
In Oceania there were 36.0 Mio ha, in Europe 15.6 Mio ha, and in Latin America 8.0 Mio ha.



Distribution of organic agricultural land by region 2018



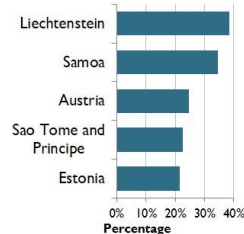
The ten countries with the largest organic agricultural areas represent 79% of the world's organic agricultural land.



The five countries with the largest areas of organic agricultural land 2018



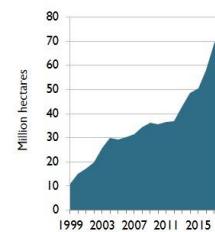
16 countries have 10% or more of their agricultural land under organic management.



Top 5 countries with more than 10 percent of organic agricultural land 2018



In 2018, over 2.0 million hectares more were reported compared with 2017.

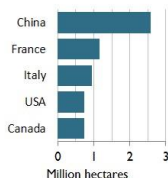


Growth of the organic agricultural land 1999-2018

ORGANIC LAND USE 2018



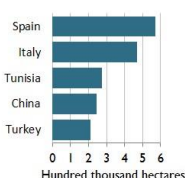
Arable land constitutes 18.6% of the world's organic agricultural land, and 1.1% of the world's arable crop land. It increased by 5.1% over 2017.



Organic arable land by region 2018
Organic arable land: The five countries with the largest areas 2018



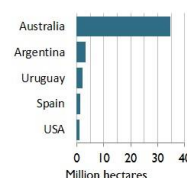
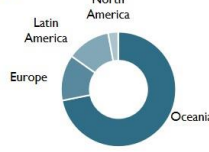
Permanent crops constitute 6.7% of the world's organic agricultural land, and 2.9% of the world's permanent cropland. It decreased by 2.9% over 2017.



Organic permanent crops by region 2018
Organic permanent crops: The five countries with the largest areas 2018



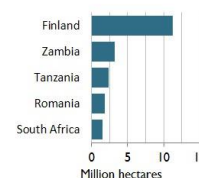
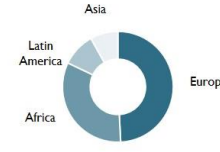
Permanent grassland constitutes 67.4% of the world's organic agricultural land, and 1.5% of the world's permanent grassland. It increased by 3.0% over 2017.



Organic permanent grassland by region 2018
Organic permanent grassland: The five countries with the largest areas 2018



Over 82% of the wild collection is in Europe (almost 18 million hectares) and Africa (over 14.3 million hectares)



Organic wild collection by region 2018
Organic wild collection: The five countries with the largest areas 2018