Media release

Global organic market: Unprecedented growth in 2020

Organic retail sales grew by 14 billion euros and exceeded the 120-billion-euro mark

The latest data on organic farming worldwide will be presented by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International together with BIOFACH, the world's leading trade fair for organic food. The statistics yearbook "The World of Organic Agriculture" will be launched on Tuesday, 15 February 2022, from 12 to 1 pm (CET).

(Frick, 15 February 2022) Organic farmland and retail sales both continued to show strong growth worldwide, according to data from 190 countries (data as of the end of 2020). Published by FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International, the 23rd edition of "The World of Organic Agriculture" shows the positive trend seen in past years continued into 2020. This annual survey on global organic agriculture is supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the Sustainability Fund of Coop Switzerland, and NürnbergMesse, organisers of the BIOFACH trade fair.

The global organic market continues to grow

Against the backdrop of the pandemic, the global market for organic food showed its highest growth ever in 2020, exceeding 120 billion euros – a total increase of 14 billion euros. The United States continued to be the leading market (49.5 billion euros), followed by Germany (15 billion euros) and France (12.7 billion euros). In 2020, many major markets showed extraordinarily strong growth rates; the German market, for example, grew by more than 22 percent! Swiss consumers spent the most on organic food (418 euros per capita in 2020), and Denmark continued to have the highest organic market share, with 13 percent of its total food market. The global COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a significant increase in demand for organic products in many countries, but there were also challenges: "The effects of the pandemic are visible in retail sales data. As people stayed home and began to cook more often and health, environment and climate change have become big issues, organic retail sales increased rapidly. However, at the same time, in the food service sales decreased in many countries", says Helga Willer, who is in charge of the yearbook at FiBL.

3.4 million organic producers worldwide

In 2020, 3.4 million organic producers were reported, an increase of 7.6 percent compared to 2019. India continued to be the country with the most organic producers

(1.6 million). The majority of small-scale producers are certified in groups based on an internal control system.

Steady increase of organic farmland

Almost 75 million hectares were organically managed at the end of 2020, representing a growth of 4.1 percent or 3 million hectares compared to 2019. Australia had the largest organic agricultural area (35.7 million hectares), followed by Argentina (4.5 million hectares) and Uruguay (2.7 million hectares). Organic area increased across all continents in 2020. Half of the global organic agricultural land is in Oceania (35.9 million hectares). Europe had the second largest area (17.1 million hectares), followed by Latin America (9.9 million hectares).

Ten percent or more of farmland is organic in 18 countries

In 2020, 1.6 percent of farmland around the world was organic. However, many countries have far higher shares: Liechtenstein had the largest organic share of total farmland (41.6 percent), followed by Austria (26.5 percent) and Estonia (22.4 percent). In 18 countries, 10 percent or more of all agricultural land is organic.

Global organic data shows ongoing engagement with transparency in the organic sector

"Global organic statistics have proven useful for international development cooperation 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", says Louise Luttikholt, Executive Director of IFOAM – Organics International.

Knut Schmidtke, Director of Research, Extension & Innovation at FiBL Switzerland, adds: "Organic agriculture secures our future and does so worldwide: the Yearbook underlines the international importance of organic agriculture for a sustainable as well as climate-adapted food policy and reflects people's trust in organically produced food."

More information

"The World of Organic Agriculture" – How to order/download

The book can be ordered (30 euros + postage; affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International: 20 euros) or downloaded at shop.fibl.org (item number 1344). Graphs and infographics can be downloaded at **www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2022.html.**

Book citation

Willer, Helga, Jan Trávníček, Claudia Meier, Bernhard Schlatter (Eds.) (2022): The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2022. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, Frick, and IFOAM – Organics International, Bonn. Available at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2022.html.

Online database

Tables and interactive infographics with details on crops, markets, and international trade, as well as explanations about the data can be found on FiBL's statistics website statistics.fibl.org.

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Session "The World of Organic Agriculture – Statistics and Emerging Trends" on February 15, 2022 (online)

Tuesday, 15 February 2022, 12:00 to 1:00 pm CET,

- Louise Luttikholt, IFOAM – Organics International: Introduction and presentation of program and speakers, Moderator
- Helga Willer, FiBL: Overview on global figures, importance of statistics
- Xhona Hysa, IFOAM – Organics International: Global overview on policies and regulations
- Eduardo Cuoco, IFOAM Organics Europe: Developments in Europe, linking market figures to policies
- Amarjit Sahota, Ecovia Intelligence, UK: The global market for organic food

Registration: www.biofach.de/registration-sneak

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This media release online

This media release and graphs can be accessed online at https://www.fibl.org/en/info-centre/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. The FiBL Group currently includes FiBL Switzerland (founded in 1973), FiBL Germany (2001), FiBL Austria (2004), ÖMKi (Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, 2011), FiBL France (2017) and FiBL Europe (2017), which is jointly supported by the five national institutes. FiBL employs some 300 staff at its various locations.

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Yearbook "The World of Organic Agriculture" at a glance

About "The World of Organic Agriculture"

The yearbook "The World of Organic Agriculture" (342 pages) presents the results of the annual survey on organic agriculture worldwide and has numerous tables, graphs, maps and infographics. It contains reports by experts on the organic sector and information on emerging trends across all regions as well as selected countries. It also provides background information on standards and legislation, policy support, and the global market for organic food. Further information and download link are available at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2022.html.

Data collection

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

Book citation

Willer, Helga, Jan Trávníček, Claudia Meier, Bernhard Schlatter (Eds.) (2022): The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2022. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Frick, and IFOAM – Organics International, Bonn. Available at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2022.html.

"The World of Organic Agriculture" – How to order/download

The book can be ordered (30 Euros + postage; affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International: 20 Euros) or downloaded at shop.fibl.org (order number 1344).

Online database

The data is available online at statistics.fibl.org.

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Organic Agriculture: Key Indicators and Top Countries 2020

Indicator	World	Top countries
Countries with organic activities	2020: 190 countries	
Organic agricultural land	2020: 74.9 million hectares (1999: 11 million hectares)	Australia (35.7 million hectares) Argentina (4.5 million hectares) Uruguay (2.7 million hectares)
Organic share of total agricultural land	2020: 1.6 %	Liechtenstein (41.6 %) Austria (26.5 %) Estonia (22.4 %)
Increase of organic agricultural land 2019/2020	3 million hectares (ha); +4.1 %	Argentina: 781´000 ha (+21 %), Uruguay; 589´000 ha (+28 %) India: 359´000 ha (+16%)
Wild collection and further non-agricultural areas	2020: 28.5 million hectares (ha) (1999: 4.1 million hectares)	Finland (5.5 million ha) Namibia (2.6 million ha) Zambia (2.5 million ha)
Producers	2020: 3.4 million producers (1999: 200'000 producers)	India (1'599'010) Ethiopia (219'566) Tanzania (148'607)
Organic market	2020: 120.6 billion euros (2000: 15.1 billion euros)	US (49.5 billion euros) Germany (15.0 billion euros) France (12.7 billion euros)
Per capita consumption	2020: 15.8 euros	Switzerland (418 euros) Denmark (384 euros) Luxembourg (285 euros)
Number of countries/ territories with organic regulations	2020: 76 (fully implemented)	
Number of affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International	2020: 714 affiliates	Germany: 79 affiliates China: 46 affiliates USA: 41 affiliates India: 40 affiliates

Source: FiBL survey 2022, based on national data sources, data from certifiers and IFOAM – Organics International

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Infographics

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WORLD: ORGANIC FARMLAND 2020

World
74.9M
hectares

Australia
35.69M
hectares

1.6%
of the world´s farmland is organic

4.1%
growth since 2019

In Oceania there were 35.9 million ha, in Europe 17.1 million ha and in Latin America 9.9 million ha.

Distribution of organic agricultural land by region 2020.

The ten countries with the largest organic agricultural areas represent 75 % of the world´s organic agricultural land.

The five countries with the largest areas of organic agricultural land 2020.

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

Top 5 countries with more than 10% of organic agricultural land 2020.

In 2020, nearly 3 million hectares more were reported compared with 2019.

Growth of the organic agricultural land 2000-2020.

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Source: FiBL 2022 www.organic-world.net - statistics.fibl.org

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WORLD: ORGANIC PRODUCERS 2020

World
3.4M
producers

1.81M
in Asia

7.6%
growth
since 2019

The countries with the most organic producers are India, Ethiopia and Tanzania.

The five countries with the most organic producers 2020.

More than 91% of the producers are in Asia, Africa and Europe.

Distribution of organic producers by region 2020.

There has been an increase in the number of producers by nearly 240´000 or 7.6% between 2019-2020.

Development of the number of organic producers 2000-2020.

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WORLD: ORGANIC RETAIL SALES 2020

World
almost
121bn €

The largest single market is the USA (49.5 billion €), followed by the EU (44.8 billion €). By region, Northern America has the lead (53.7 billion €), followed by Europe (52.0 billion €) and Asia (12.5 billion €).

Distribution of retail sales by region 2020.

Northern America
54bn €

The countries with the largest markets for organic food are the USA (49.5 billion €), Germany (15.0 billion €), France (12.9 billion €) and China (10.2 billion €).

The five countries with the largest markets for organic food in 2020.

418 €
is spent per person in Switzerland

Switzerland has the highest per capita consumption worldwide, followed by Denmark, Luxembourg, Austria and Sweden.

Top five countries with the highest per capita consumption 2020.

13.0%
of the market in Denmark is organic

The highest organic share of the total market is in Denmark, followed by Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Sweden.

The five countries with the highest organic shares of the total market in 2020.

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Source: FiBL 2022 www.organic-world.net - statistics.fibl.org

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Organic Agriculture in Europe 2020

Organic Farmland

17.1M ha Organic farmland in million hectares

+3.7% Growth 2019/2020

3.4% Organic share of total farmland

Land in million hectares
Top 3 countries

Organic Producers

The number of organic producers is increasing

417'977 Organic producers

84'799 Organic processors

Number of producers
Top 3 countries

Organic Market

The European market is growing

52.0 Europe´s organic retail sales in billion euros

63 Per capita spending in euros

14.9% Organic market growth

Market in billion euros
Top 3 countries

Market growth in percent
Top 3 countries

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Source: FiBL survey based on national sources
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Organic Agriculture in the European Union 2020

Organic Farmland

14.9M ha Organic farmland in million hectares

+5.3% Growth 2019/2020

9.2% Organic share of total farmland

Land in million hectares
Top 3 countries

Organic Producers

The number of organic producers is increasing

349'499 Organic producers

78'262 Organic processors

Number of producers
Top 3 countries

Organic Market

The European Union market is growing

44.8 European Union´s organic retail sales in billion euros

102 Per capita spending in euros

15.1% Organic market growth

Market in billion euros
Top 3 countries

Market growth in percent
Top 3 countries

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Source: FiBL survey based on national sources
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EUROPE: ORGANIC FARMLAND 2020

Europe
17.1M
hectares

France
2.5M
hectares

3.4%
of the Europe´s farmland is organic

3.7%
growth since 2019

More than half of Europe´s organic agricultural land is in four countries.

Distribution of organic agricultural land by country 2020.

The country with the largest organic agricultural area is France, followed by Spain and Italy.

The five countries with the largest areas of organic agricultural land 2020.

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

The five countries with more than 10% of organic agricultural land 2020.

In 2020, nearly 0.7 million hectares more were reported compared with 2019.

Growth of the organic agricultural land 2000-2020.

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EUROPE: ORGANIC RETAIL SALES 2020

Europe
almost
52bn €

The European Union (44.8 billion €) is the second largest single market after the US (49.5 billion €) and China (10.2 billion €). By region, North America has the lead (53.7 billion €), followed by Europe (52.0 billion €) and Asia (12.5 billion €).

Distribution of retail sales by country 2020.

Germany
15bn €

The European countries with the largest markets for organic food are Germany (15 billion €), France (12.7 billion €), Italy (3.9 billion €) and Switzerland (3.6 billion €).

The five countries with the largest markets for organic food in 2020.

418 €
is spent per person in Switzerland

Switzerland has the highest per capita consumption worldwide, followed by Denmark, Luxembourg, Austria and Sweden.

The five countries with the highest per capita consumption 2020.

13.0%
of the food market in Denmark is organic

The highest organic share of the total market is in Denmark, followed by Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Sweden.

The five countries with the highest organic shares of the total market in 2020.

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