

Media release February 14, 2018

## **A booming organic sector: more farmers, more land and a growing market**

### **57.8 million hectares of organic agricultural land – the organic market grows to almost 90 billion US Dollars**

**The latest global data on organic farming worldwide will be presented by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International at the BIOFACH world organic trade fair 2018 in Nuremberg. The statistical yearbook “The World of Organic Agriculture” will be launched on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, from 4:00 to 4:45 pm in Hall Shanghai, NCC East.**

(Frick/Nuremberg, February 14, 2018) The 2018 edition of the study “The World of Organic Agriculture” (data per end of 2016) published by FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International shows that the positive trend seen in the past years continues: Consumer demand for organic products is increasing, more farmers cultivate organically, more land is certified organic, and 178 countries report organic farming activities. The survey is supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), and NürnbergMesse, the organizers of the BIOFACH fair.

#### **The global organic market continues to grow**

The market research company Ecovia Intelligence estimates that the global market for organic food reached 89.7 billion US dollars in 2016 (more than 80 billion euros). The United States is the leading market with 38.9 billion euros, followed by Germany (9.5 billion euros), France (6.7 billion euros), and China (5.9 billion euros). In 2016, most of the major markets continued to show double-digit growth rates, and the French organic market grew by 22 percent. The highest per capita spending was in Switzerland (274 Euros), and Denmark had the highest organic market share (9.7 percent of the total food market).

#### **Almost three million producers worldwide**

In 2016, 2.7 million organic producers were reported. India continues to be the country with the highest number of producers (835'200), followed by Uganda (210'352), and Mexico (210'000).

## Organic farmland increases by 15 percent to almost 58 million hectares

A total of 57.8 million hectares were organically managed at the end of 2016, representing a growth of 7.5 million hectares over 2015, the largest growth ever recorded. Australia is the country with the largest organic agricultural area (27.2 million hectares), followed by Argentina (3 million hectares), and China (2.3 million hectares).

Almost half of the global organic agricultural land is in Oceania (27.3 million hectares), followed by Europe (23 percent; 13.5 million hectares), and Latin America (12 percent; 7.1 million hectares).

## Ten percent or more of the farmland is organic in fifteen countries

The countries with the largest organic share of agricultural land of their total farmland are the Liechtenstein (37.7 percent), French Polynesia (31.3 percent), and Samoa (22.4 percent). In fifteen countries, 10 percent or more of all agricultural land is organic, a new record.

## More information

### Download

“The World of Organic Agriculture” 2018 edition, graphs, and infographics can be downloaded at [www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2018.html](http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2018.html)

### Online database

Tables with more details on organic land and crops, markets, and international trade, as well as explanations can be found on FiBL’s new statistics website [www.statistics.fibl.org](http://www.statistics.fibl.org)

## Contacts

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- Markus Arbenz, IFOAM – Organics International, Charles-de-Gaulle-Strasse 5, 53113 Bonn, Germany  
Phone +49 (0)160 8041557, Fax +49 (0)228 9265099, [m.arbenz@ifoam.bio](mailto:m.arbenz@ifoam.bio), [www.ifoam.bio](http://www.ifoam.bio)

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

Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 4:00 to 4:45 pm, Hall Shanghai (NCC East),  
NürnbergMesse, Nuremberg

- Markus Arbenz, IFOAM – Organics International, Moderator
- Barbara Jäggin, SECO, Switzerland
- Dr. Helga Willer, FiBL: Latest data on organic agriculture worldwide
- Julia Lernoud, FiBL: Latest data on Voluntary Sustainability Standards worldwide
- Beate Huber, FiBL: Standards and regulations
- Amarjit Sahota, Ecovia Intelligence, UK: The global market for organic food

More information at [www.biofach.fibl.org/en/biofach-2018.html](http://www.biofach.fibl.org/en/biofach-2018.html)

### Supporters

- Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- NürnbergMesse, the organizers of the BIOFACH fair

### Reference

Helga Willer and Julia Lernoud (Eds.) (2018): The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2018. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Frick and IFOAM – Organics International, Bonn. Available at [www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2018.html](http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2018.html)

### This media release online

This media release and graphs can be accessed online at [www.fibl.org/en/media.html](http://www.fibl.org/en/media.html).

### About FiBL

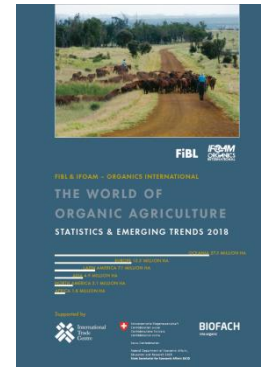
The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL is one of the world’s leading institutes in the field of organic agriculture. FiBL’s strengths lie in its interdisciplinary research, innovations developed jointly with farmers and the food industry, and rapid knowledge transfer. FiBL employs some 280 staff at its various locations.

- Homepage: [www.fibl.org](http://www.fibl.org)
- Video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=U84NrjIORFc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U84NrjIORFc)

## Yearbook "The World of Organic Agriculture"

### About "The World of Organic Agriculture"

The study (352 pages) contains reports, authored by experts, on the organic sector and emerging trends in all regions and selected countries. The statistics are supported with graphs and tables. In addition, background information on issues such as standards and legislation, and an overview of the global market for organic food is provided. The book also contains an article about organic cotton and a chapter reviewing key commodities certified by selected Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS). Further information and download is available at [www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2018.html](http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2018.html).



### Data collection

The data on organic agriculture is collected annually by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL in collaboration with many partners from around the world. The results are published jointly with IFOAM – Organics International. The activities are supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), and NürnbergMesse, the organizers of the BIOFACH fair. The views expressed in this press release can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinions of SECO, ITC, or NürnbergMesse.

### Reference

Helga Willer and Julia Lernoud (Eds.) (2018): The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2018. 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 1076) and <https://shop.ifoam.bio/>. In the shops as well as at [www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2018.html](http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2018.html), the book is available for download.

### Online databases

The data is available online at [statistics.fibl.org](http://statistics.fibl.org)

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

Supported by

## Key indicators

### Organic Agriculture: Key Indicators and Top Countries

Indicator	World	Top countries
<b>Countries with organic activities<sup>1</sup></b>	2016: 178 countries	
<b>Organic agricultural land</b>	2016: 57.8 million hectares (1999: 11 million hectares)	Australia (27.1 million hectares) Argentina (3.0 million hectares) China (2.3 million hectares)
<b>Organic share of total agricultural land</b>	2016: 1.2 %	Liechtenstein (37.7 %) French Polynesia (31.3 %) Samoa (22.4%)
<b>Wild collection and further non-agricultural areas</b>	2016: 39.9 million hectares (1999: 4.1 million hectares)	Finland (11.6 million hectares) Zambia (6.7 million hectares) India (4.2 million hectares)
<b>Producers</b>	2016: 2.7 million producers (1999: 200'000 producers)	India (835'000) Uganda (210'352) Mexico (210'000)
<b>Organic market</b>	2016: 89.7 billion US dollars* <sup>2</sup> (more than 80 billion euros) (2000: 17.9 billion US dollars)	US (43.1 billion US dollars; 38.9 billion euros) Germany (10.5 billion US dollars; 9.5 billion euros) France (7.5 billion US dollars; 6.7 billion euros)
<b>Per capita consumption</b>	2016: 12.1 US dollars (11.3 euros)	Switzerland (304 US dollars; 274 euros) Denmark (252 US dollars; 227 euros) Sweden (218 US dollars; 197 euros)
<b>Number of countries with organic regulations</b>	2017: 87 countries	
<b>Number of affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International</b>	2017: 1'003 affiliates from 127 countries	India - 111 affiliates Germany - 88 affiliates United States - 63 affiliates China - 56 affiliates

Source: FiBL survey 2018, based on national data sources and data from certifiers

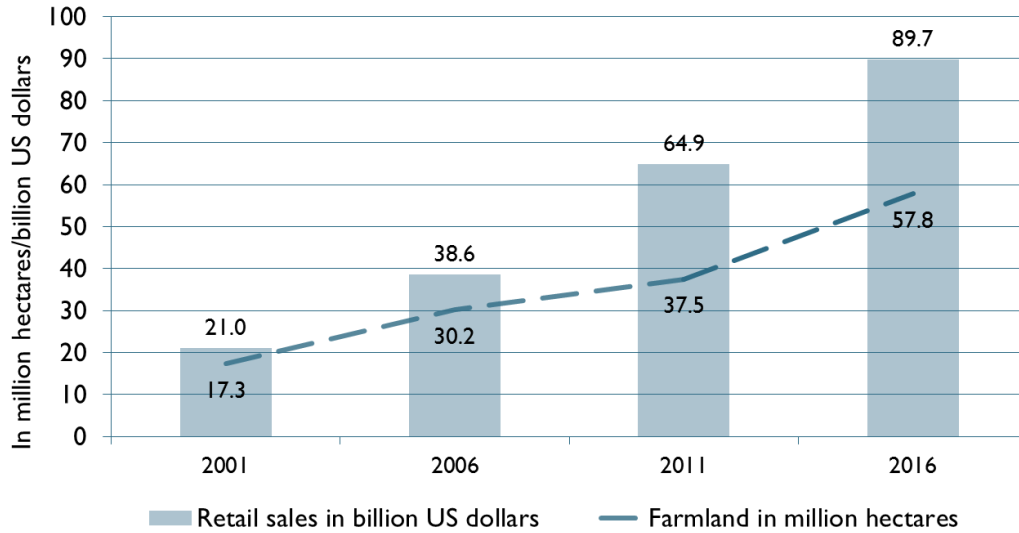
\*Global market: Ecovia Intelligence (formerly Organic Monitor) 2018

<sup>1</sup>According to the Central European Bank, 1 euro corresponded to 1.1069 US dollars in 2016.

## Graphs

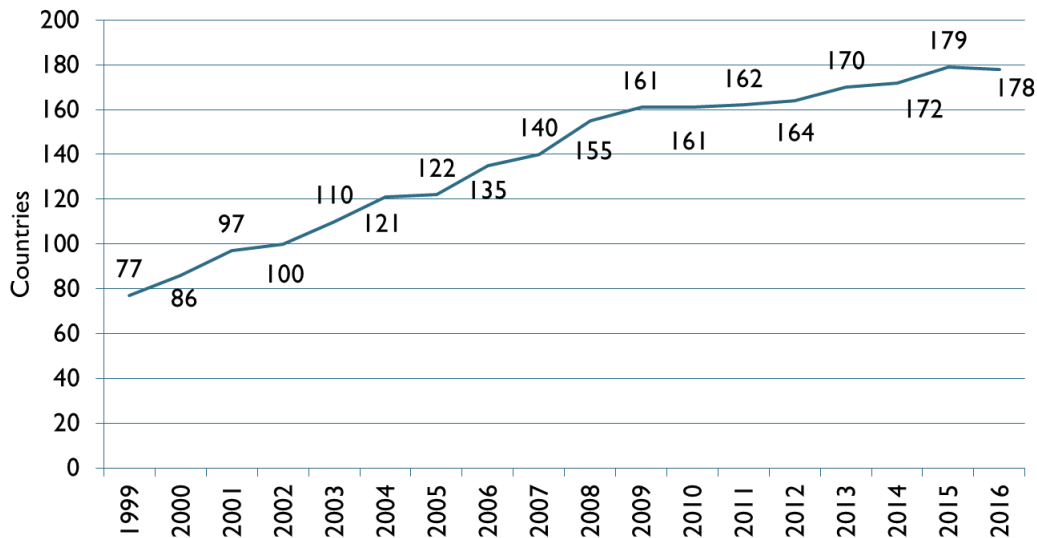
### Growth in organic food & drinks sales and farmland, 2001-2016

Source: Ecovia Intelligence 2018

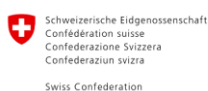


### Development of the number of countries with data on organic agriculture 1999-2016

Source: FiBL-IFOAM-SOEL-Surveys 1999-2018



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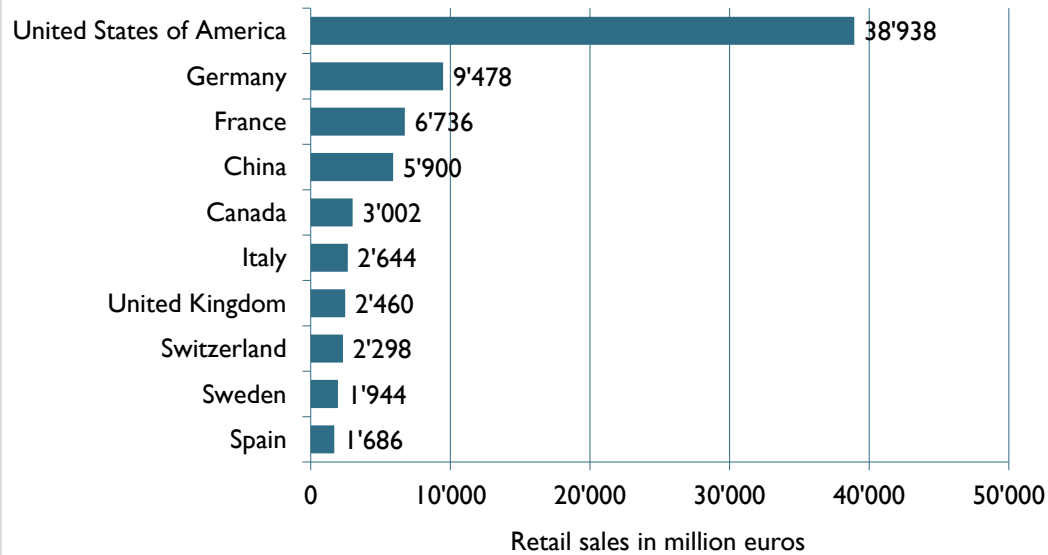


Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



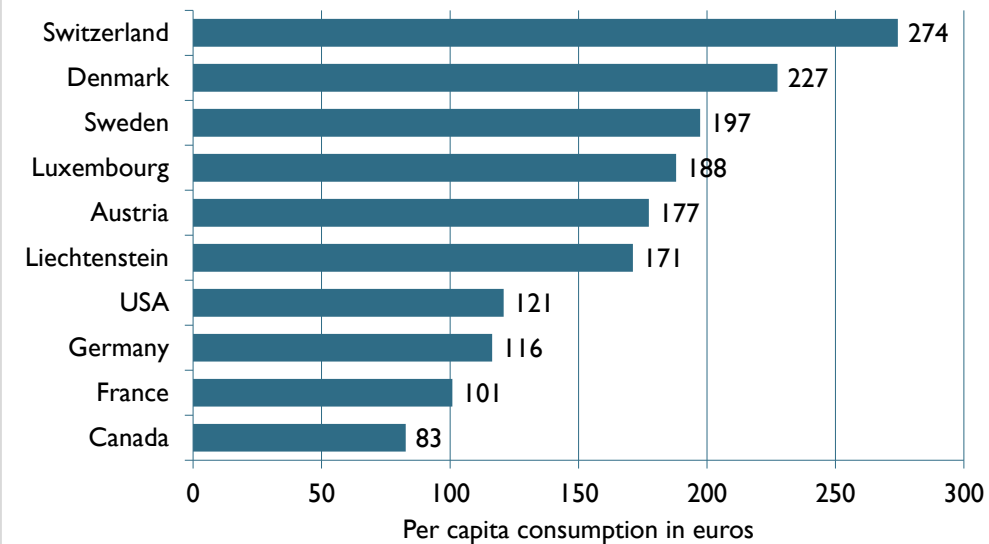
## The ten countries with the largest markets for organic food 2016

Source: FiBL-AMI survey 2018



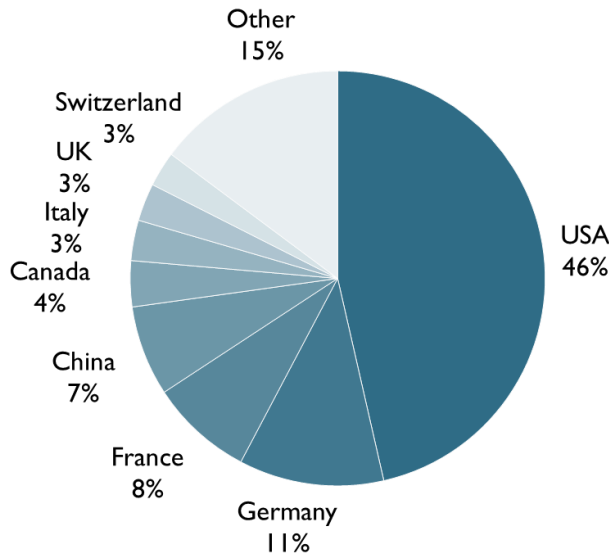
## The ten countries with the highest per capita consumption 2016

Source: FiBL-AMI survey 2018



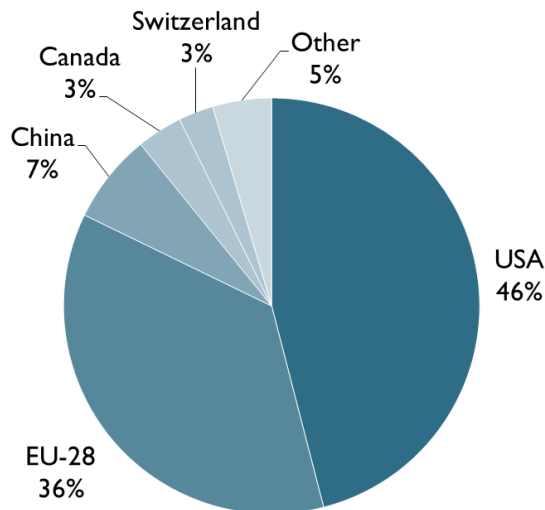
## Global market: Distribution of retail sales value by country 2016

Source: FiBL-AMI survey 2018



## Global market: Distribution of retail sales value by single market 2016

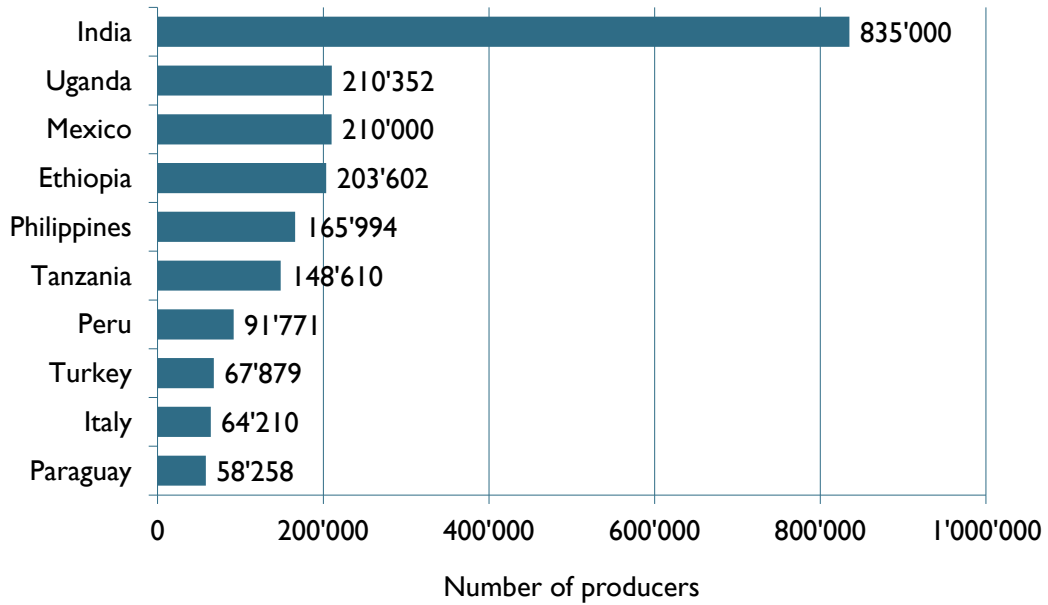
Source: FiBL-AMI survey 2018





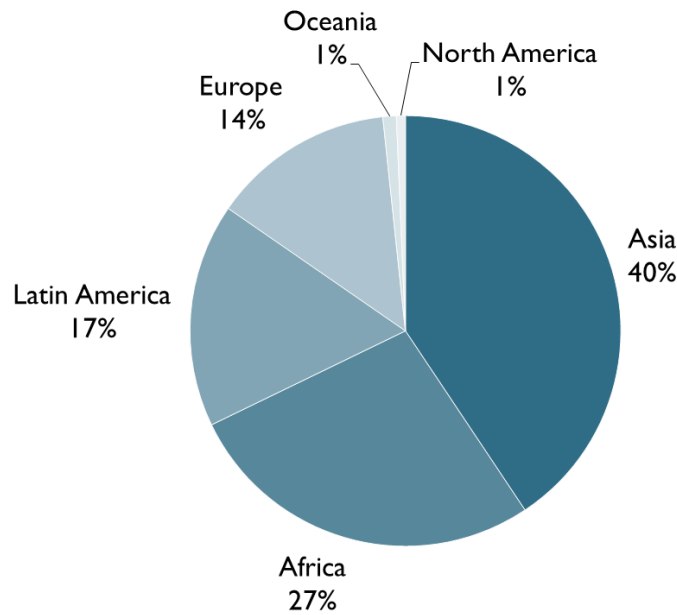
## The ten countries with the largest numbers of organic producers 2016

Source: FiBL survey 2018



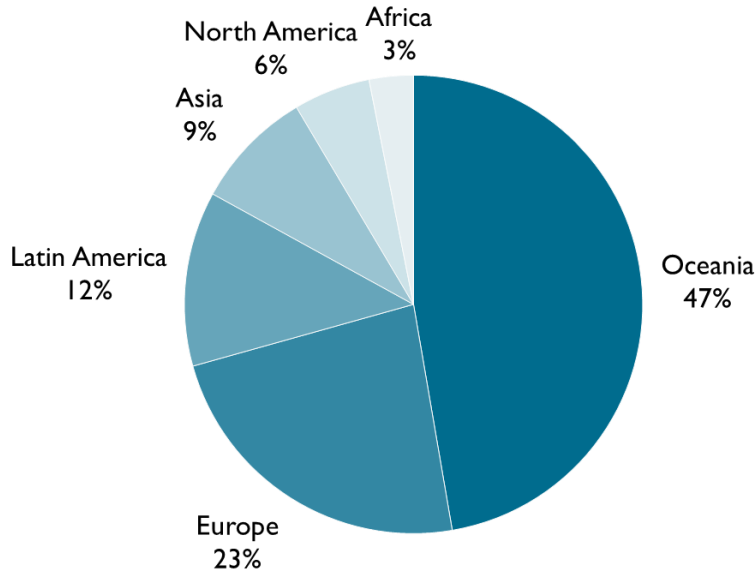
## Distribution of organic producers by region 2016

Source: FiBL survey 2018



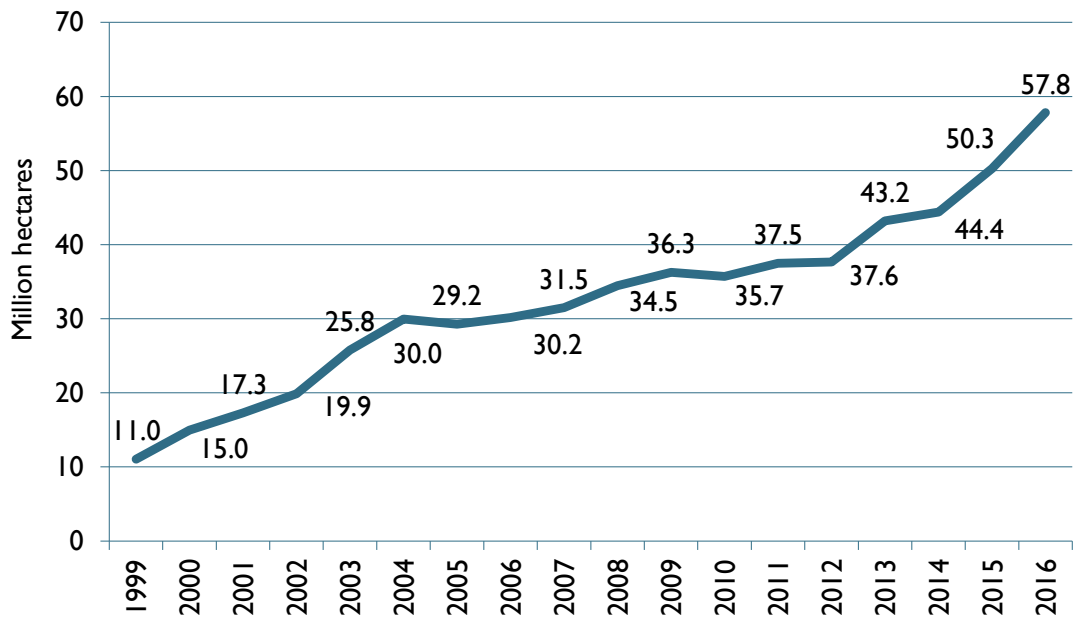
## Distribution of organic agricultural land by region 2016

Source: FiBL survey 2018



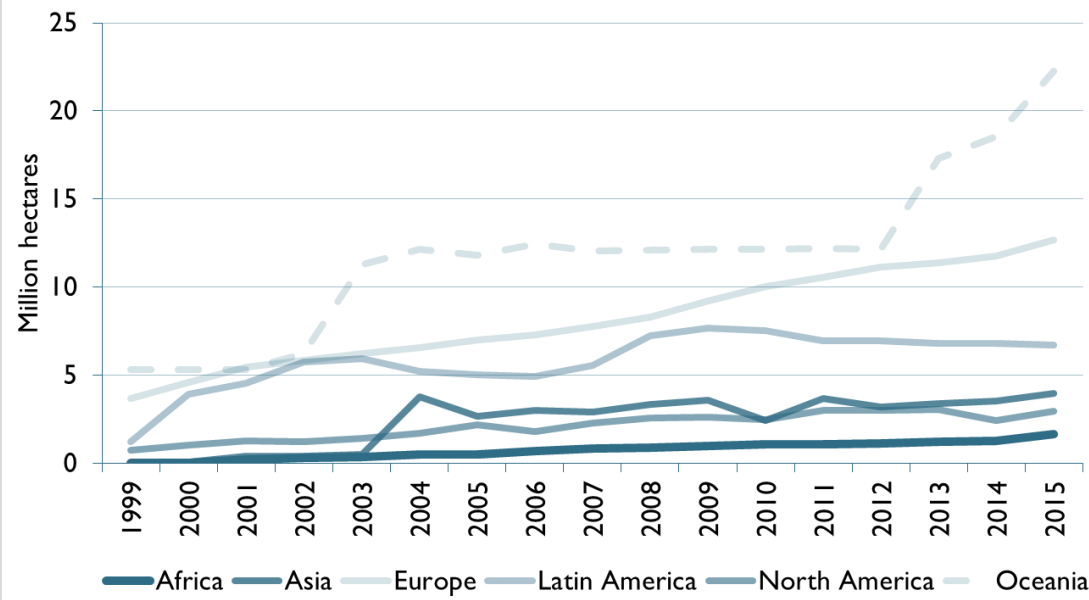
## Growth of the organic agricultural land 1999-2016

Source: FiBL-IFOAM-SOEL-Surveys 1999-2018



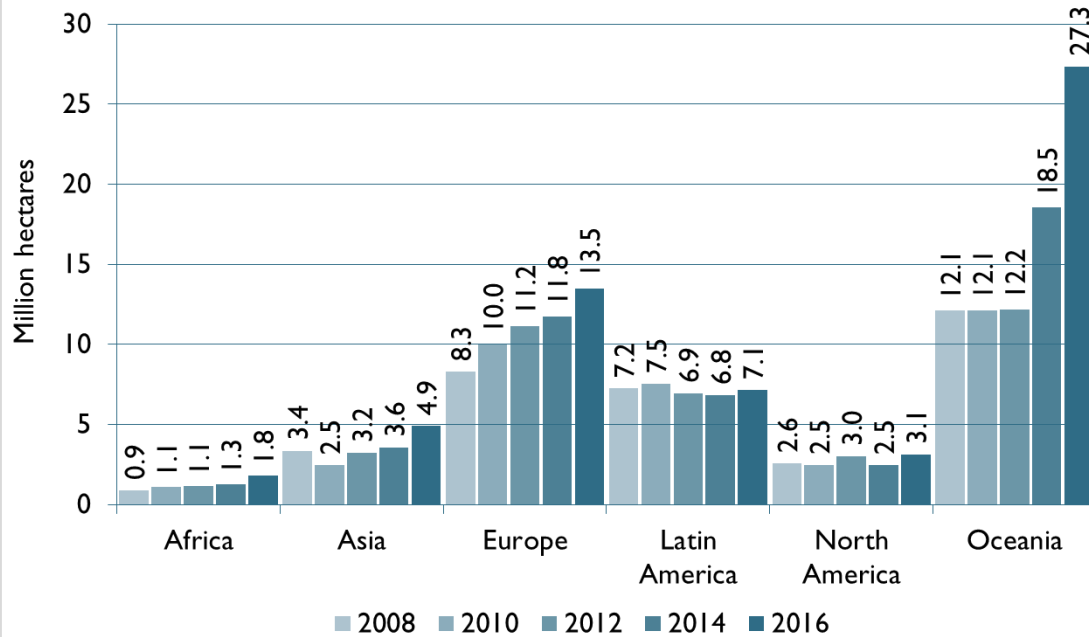
## Growth of the organic agricultural land by continent 1999-2016

Source: FiBL-IFOAM-SOEL-Surveys 1999-2018



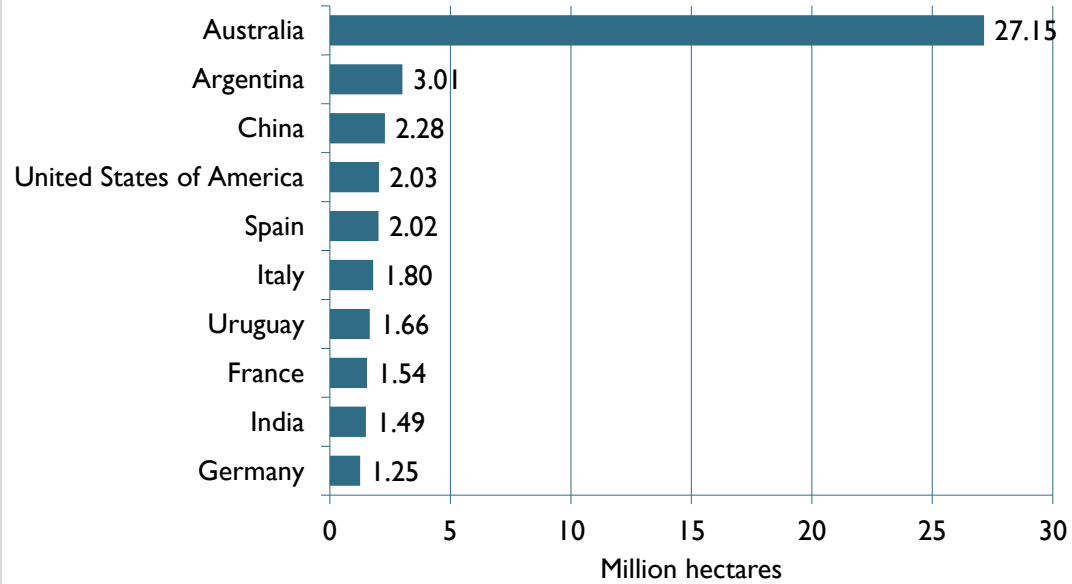
## Growth of the organic agricultural land by continent 2008-2016

Source: FiBL-IFOAM survey 2010-2018



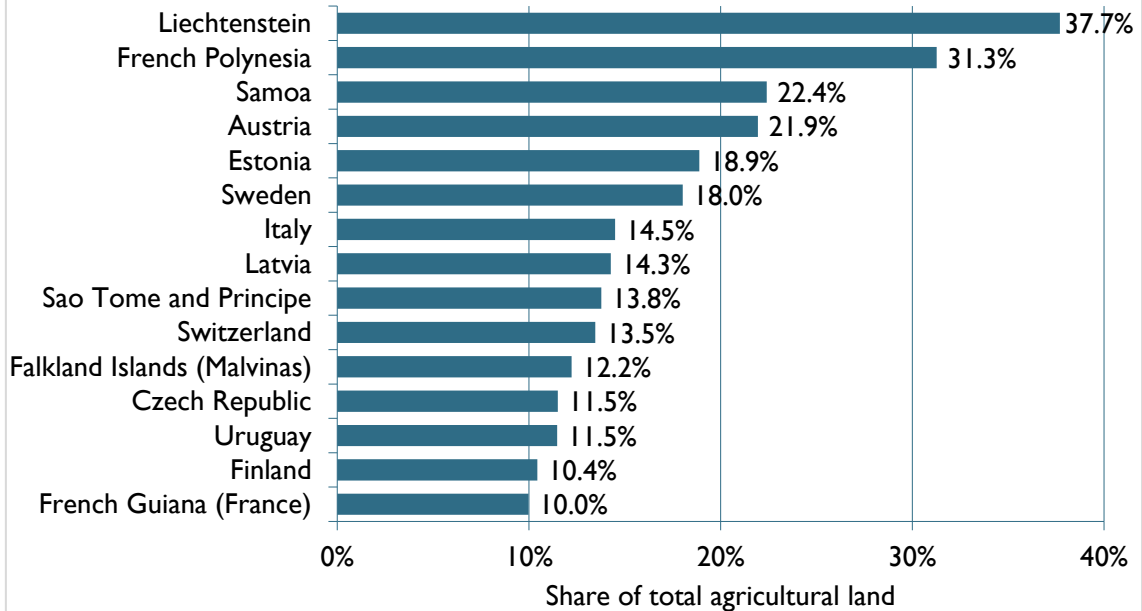
## The ten countries with the largest areas of organic agricultural land 2016

Source: FiBL survey 2018



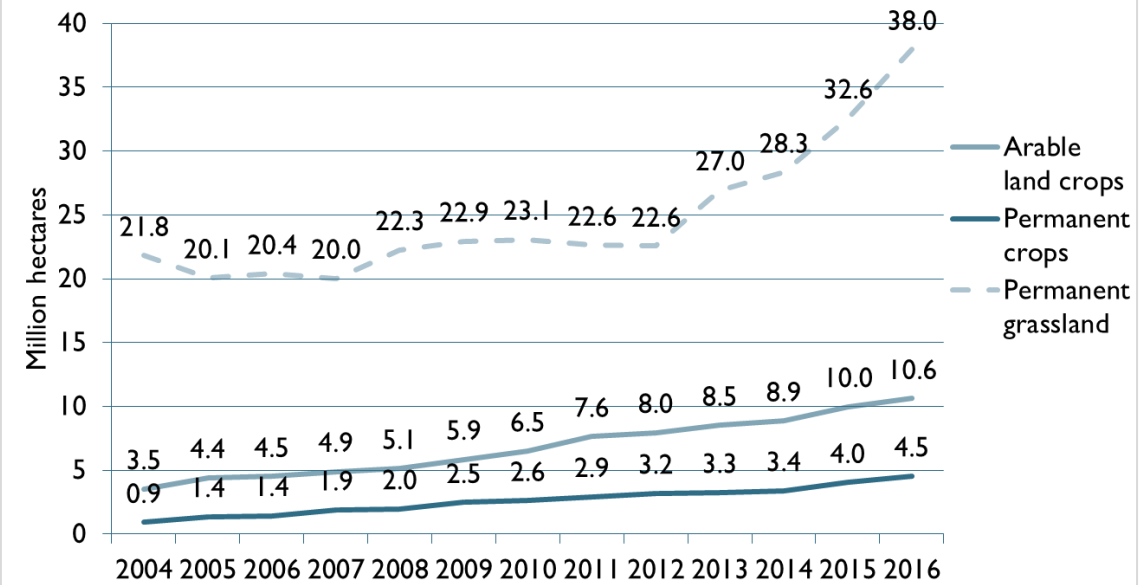
## Countries with an organic share of at least 10 percent of the agricultural land 2016

Source: FiBL survey 2018

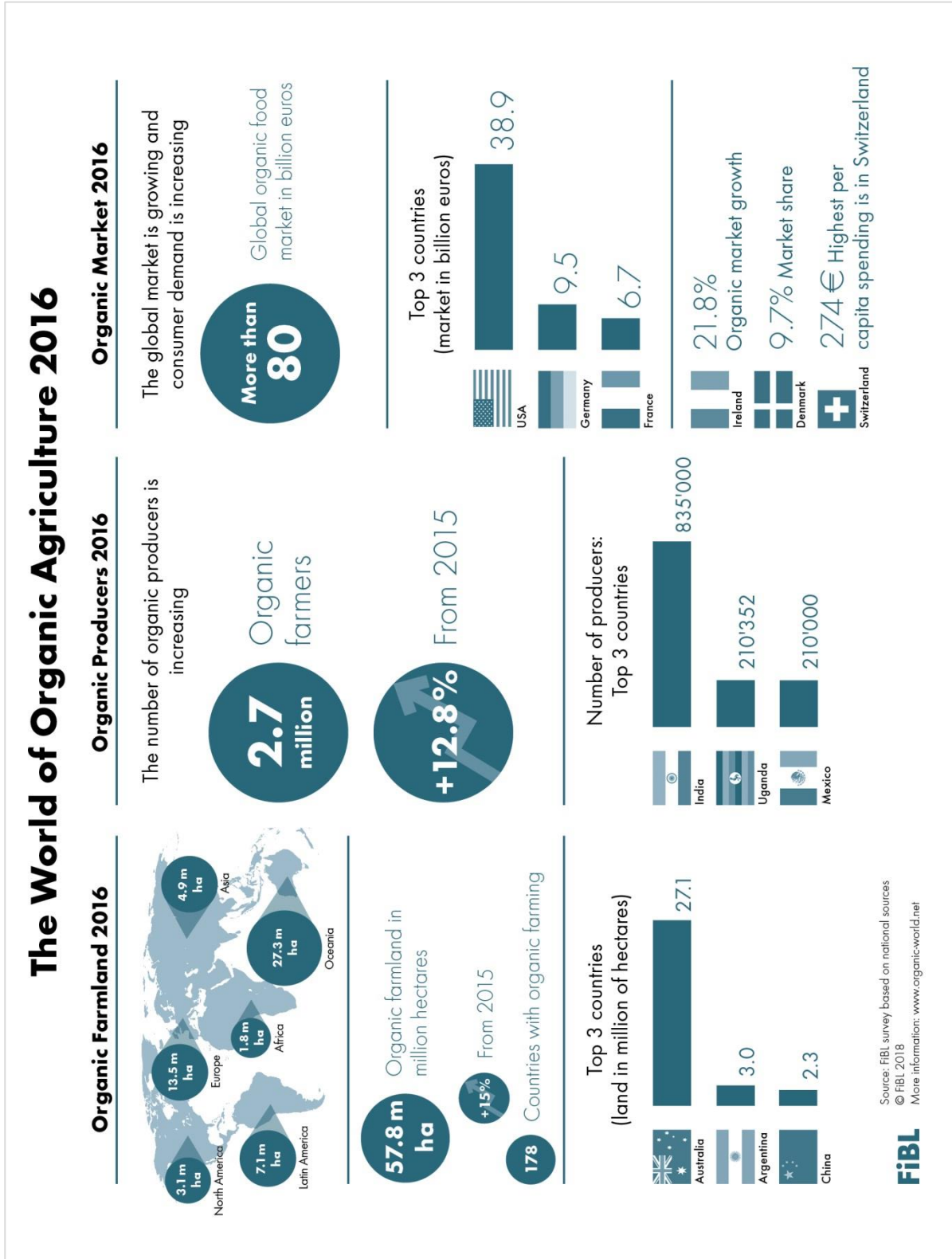


## Development of the organic land by land use type 2004-2016

Source: FiBL-IFOAM-SOEL-Surveys 1999-2018



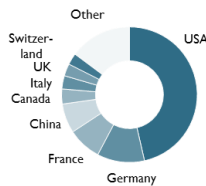
## Infographics



## ORGANIC RETAIL SALES 2016



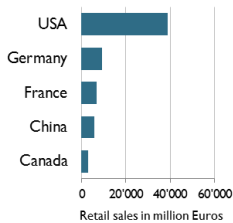
The largest single market is the USA followed by the EU (30.7 billion €) and China. By region, North America has the lead (41.9 billion €), followed by Europe (33.5 billion €) and Asia.



Distribution of retail sales value by country 2016



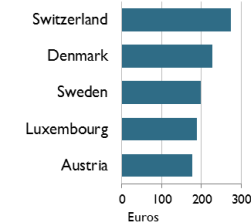
The countries with the largest market for organic food are the United States (38.9 billion €), followed by Germany (9.5 billion €), France (6.7 billion €) and China (5.9 billion €).



The five countries with the largest markets for organic food 2016



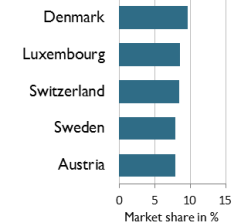
Switzerland has the highest per capita consumption worldwide, followed by Denmark and Sweden.



The five countries with the highest per capita consumption 2016



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

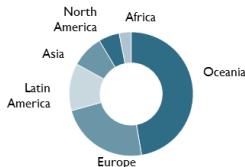


The five countries with the highest organic shares of the total market 2016

## ORGANIC FARMLAND 2016



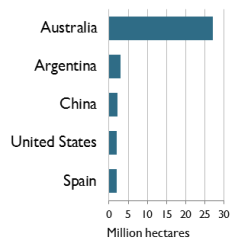
In Oceania there were 27.3 Mio ha, in Europe 13.5 Mio ha, and in Latin America 7.1 Mio ha.



Distribution of organic agricultural land by region 2016



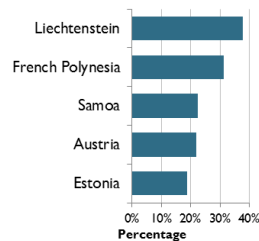
The ten countries with the largest organic agricultural areas represent 76% of the world's organic agricultural land.



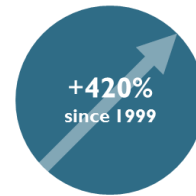
The five countries with the largest areas of organic agricultural land 2016



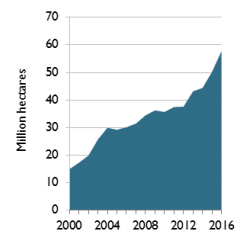
15 countries have 10% or more of their agricultural land under organic management.



Top 5 countries with more than 10 percent of organic agricultural land 2016

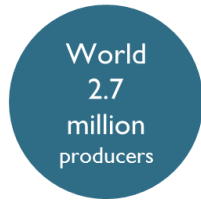


In 2016, over 7.5 million hectares more were reported compared with 2015.

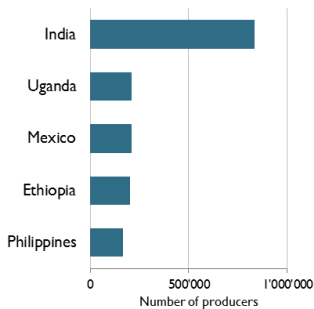


Growth of the organic agricultural land 2000-2016

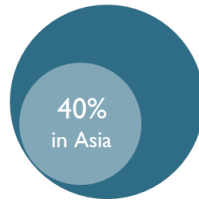
## ORGANIC PRODUCERS 2016



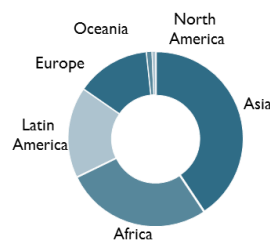
The country with the most organic producers is India, followed by Uganda and Mexico.



The five countries with the largest numbers of organic producers 2016



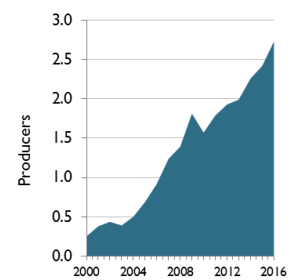
More than 84% of the producers are in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.



Distribution of organic producers by region 2016



There has been an increase in the number of producers by more than 300'000, or over 13% since 2015.

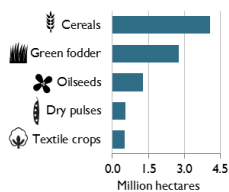
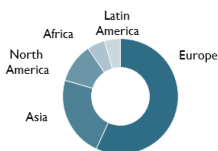


Development of the number of organic producers 2000-2016

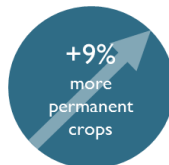
## ORGANIC LAND USE 2016



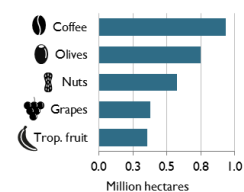
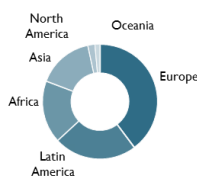
Arable land constitutes 18% of the world's organic agricultural land, and 0.7% of the world's arable crop land. It increased by 6.2% over 2015.



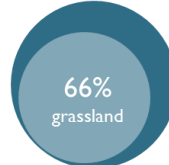
Organic arable land by region 2016  
Organic arable land: Key crops 2016



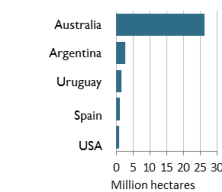
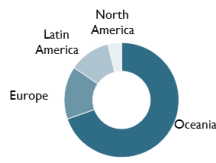
4.5 Mio ha, which is 2.8% of the world's permanent cropland, and a 8% share of the organic agricultural land.



Organic permanent crops by region 2016  
Organic permanent crops: Key crops 2016



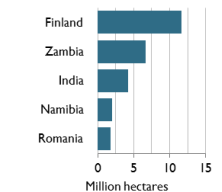
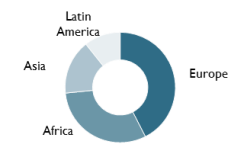
38 Mio ha of grassland, and an almost 17% increase compared with 2015.



Organic permanent grassland by region 2016  
Organic permanent grassland: The five countries with the largest areas 2016



The organic wild collection areas are concentrated in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America.



Organic wild collection by region 2016  
Organic wild collection: The five countries with the largest areas 2016



## Sessions related to organic data at BIOFACH 2018

### Wednesday, 14 February 2018

- The World of Organic Agriculture at BIOFACH 2018  
4 pm to 4:45 pm, Hall Shanghai (NCC East)
- The European market for organic food at BIOFACH 2018  
5 pm to 5:45 pm, Room Kiev, (NCC East)
- Innovation networks in the Central Eastern European region for increasing value chain development in the organic sector  
4 pm to 6 pm, Room Budapest (NCC East)

### Thursday, 15 February 2018

- Global Organic Market Overview - facts, trends and opportunities  
10 am to 11:30 am, Room Istanbul (NCC East)

[www.biofach.fibl.org/en/biofach-2018.html](http://www.biofach.fibl.org/en/biofach-2018.html)