

Media release 17 February 2021

Global organic area continues to grow

Over 72.3 million hectares of farmland are organic

The latest 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. The statistics yearbook “The World of Organic Agriculture” will be launched on Wednesday, 17 February 2021, from 4 to 4.45 pm (CET) at this year’s digital edition of BIOFACH eSpecial 2021.

(Frick, 17 February 2021) According to the latest FiBL survey on organic agriculture worldwide, organic farmland increased by 1.1 million hectares, and organic retail sales continued to grow, as shown by the data from 187 countries (data as of the end of 2019). The 22nd 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

The global market for organic food reached 106 billion euros in 2019. The United States is the leading market (44.7 billion euros), followed by Germany (12.0 billion euros) and France (11.3 billion euros). In 2019, many major markets continued to show strong growth rates; for example, the French market increased by more than 13 percent. Danish and Swiss consumers spent the most on organic food (344 and 338 euros per capita, respectively). Denmark had the highest organic market share, with 12.1 percent of its total food market.

3.1 million organic producers worldwide

In 2019, 3.1 million organic producers were reported. India continues to be the country with the highest number of producers (1’366’000), followed by Uganda (210’000), and Ethiopia (204’000). The majority of small-scale producers are certified in groups based on an internal control system.

Steady increase of organic farmland

A total of 72.3 million hectares were organically managed at the end of 2019, representing a growth of 1.6 percent or 1.1 million hectares compared to 2018.

Australia has the largest organic agricultural area (35.7 million hectares), followed by Argentina (3.7 million hectares), and Spain (2.4 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 (16.5 million hectares), followed by Latin America (8.3 million hectares). The organic area increased in all continents compared to 2018, except in Asia (mainly due to a drop in organic farmland reported from China) and Oceania.

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 (41.0 percent), Austria (26.1 percent) and São Tomé and Príncipe (24.9 percent). Some states in India are or aspire to be 100 % organic in the coming years. In sixteen countries, 10 percent or more of all agricultural land is organic.

Global organic statistics show ongoing engagement with transparency in the organic sector

“The 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 Luttkholt, IFOAM – Organics International Executive Director. Knut Schmidtke, Director of Research, Extension & Innovation of FiBL Switzerland, adds “The yearbook is an outstanding reflection of the level of trust people around the world have in organic agriculture and its importance for nutrition, the environment and sustainable development.”

COVID-19 has resulted in a significant increase in demand for organic products in many countries but also challenges: “We expect to see the effect of the pandemic on the development of the sector with the 2020 data to be ready in a year’s time”, says Helga Willer, who is in charge of the yearbook at FiBL.

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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 (order number 1150). Graphs and infographics can be downloaded at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2021.html.

Book citation

Willer, Helga, Jan Trávníček, Claudia Meier, Bernhard Schlatter (Eds.) (2021): The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2021. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, Frick, and IFOAM – Organics International, Bonn. Available at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2021.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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Programme of the session “The World of Organic Agriculture – Statistics and Emerging Trends” at BIOFACH eSPECIAL 2021

Wednesday, 17 February 2021, 4:00 to 4:45 pm (CET), Livestream 3

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

More information at <https://www.biofach.de/en/biofach-congress/programme>.

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Statistics sessions at the BIOFACH eSPECIAL 2021 at a glance

Wednesday, 17 February 2021

- The World of Organic Agriculture
4 to 4.45 pm, Livestream 3
- The European market for organic food
5 to 6 pm, Livestream 5

Thursday, 18 February 2021

- Global Organic Market Overview – facts, trends and opportunities
2 to 3.30 pm, Livestream 3

Supporters of the yearbook “The World of Organic Agriculture”

- 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/>

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. FiBL employs some 300 staff at its various locations.

www.fibl.org

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Yearbook "The World of Organic Agriculture" at a glance

About "The World of Organic Agriculture"

The yearbook (336 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 are available at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2021.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.

Book citation

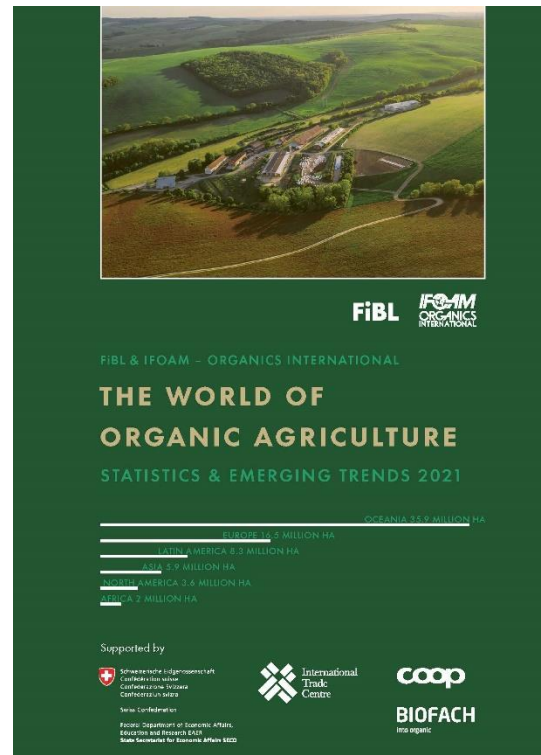
Willer, Helga, Jan Trávníček, Claudia Meier, Bernhard Schlatter (Eds.) (2021): The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2021. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Frick, and IFOAM – Organics International, Bonn. Available at www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2021.html.

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Organic Agriculture: Key Indicators and Top Countries 2019

Indicator	World	Top countries
Countries with organic activities	2019: 187 countries	
Organic agricultural land	2019: 72.3 million hectares (1999: 11 million hectares)	Australia (35.7 million hectares) Argentina (3.7 million hectares) Spain (2.4 million hectares)
Organic share of total agricultural land	2019: 1.5 %	Liechtenstein (41.0 %) Austria (26.1 %) São Tomé and Príncipe (24.9 %)
Wild collection and further non-agricultural areas	2019: 35.1 million hectares (1999: 4.1 million hectares)	Finland (4.6 million hectares) Zambia (3.2 million hectares) Namibia (2.6 million hectares)
Producers	2019: 3.1 million producers (1999: 200'000 producers)	India (1'366'226) Uganda (210'353) Ethiopia (203'602)
Organic market	2019: 106.4 billion euros (2000: 15.1 billion euros)	US (44.7 billion euros) Germany (12.0 billion euros) France (11.3 billion euros)
Per capita consumption	2019: 14.0 euros	Denmark (344 euros) Switzerland (338 euros) Luxembourg (265 euros)
Number of countries with organic regulations	2019: 108 countries	
Number of affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International	2020: 719 affiliates	Germany: 79 affiliates India: 52 affiliates USA: 48 affiliates Italy: 46 affiliates

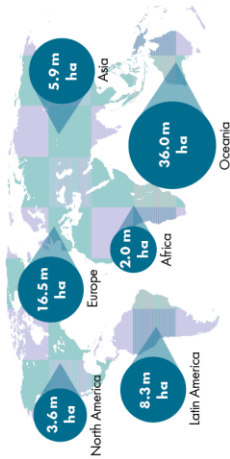
Source: FiBL survey 2021, based on national data sources, data from certifiers and IFOAM – Organics International

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Infographics

The World of Organic Agriculture 2019

Organic Farmland 2019



Organic Producers 2019

The number of organic producers is increasing

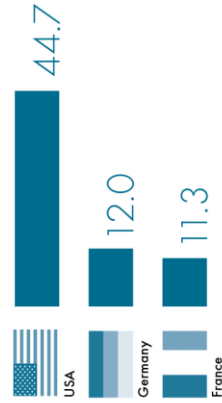


Organic Market 2019

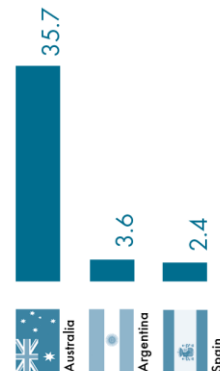
The global market is growing and consumer demand is increasing



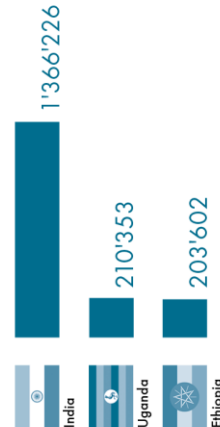
Top 3 countries (market in billion euros)



Top 3 countries (land in million of hectares)



Number of producers: Top 3 countries



13.4% Organic market growth

12.1% Market share

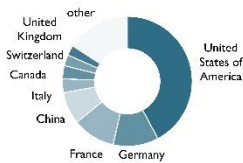
344 € Highest per capita spending is in Denmark

Source: FiBL survey based on national sources
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More information: www.organicworld.net - statistics.fibl.org

ORGANIC RETAIL SALES 2019



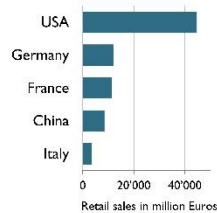
The largest single market is the USA (44.7 billion €) followed by the EU (41.4 billion €) and China. By region, North America has the lead (48.2 billion €), followed by Europe (45 billion €) and Asia.



Distribution of retail sales value by country 2019



The countries with the largest markets for organic food are the United States (44.7 billion €), Germany (11.9 billion €), France (11.3 billion €) and China (8.5 billion €).



The five countries with the largest markets for organic food 2019



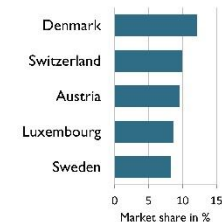
Denmark and Switzerland have the highest per capita consumption worldwide, followed by Luxembourg, Austria, and Sweden.



The five countries with the highest per capita consumption 2019

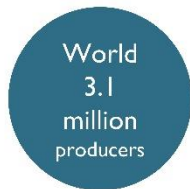


The highest organic share of the total market is in Denmark, followed by Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg and Sweden.

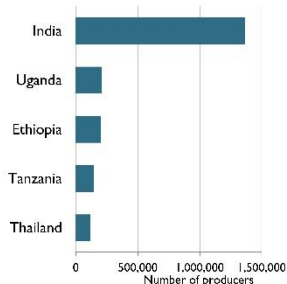


The five countries with the highest organic shares of the total market 2019

ORGANIC PRODUCERS 2019



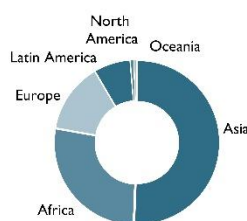
The country with the most organic producers is India, followed by Uganda and Ethiopia.



The five countries with the most organic producers 2019



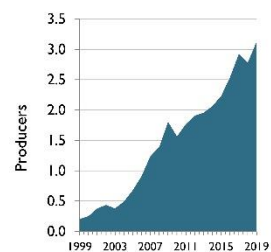
More than 91% of the producers are in Asia, Africa, and Europe.



Distribution of organic producers by region 2019



There has been an increase in the number of producers by 1'564,524 or over 100% over the past decade.



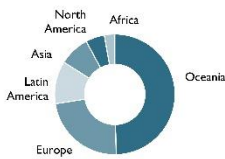
Development of the number of organic producers 1999-2019

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ORGANIC FARMLAND 2019



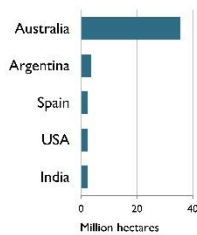
In Oceania there were 35.9 million ha, in Europe 16.5 million ha, and in Latin America 8.3 million ha.



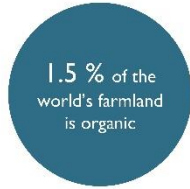
Distribution of organic agricultural land by region 2019



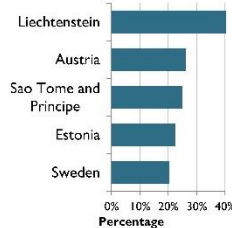
The ten countries with the largest organic agricultural areas represent 78% of the world's organic agricultural land.



The five countries with the largest areas of organic agricultural land 2019



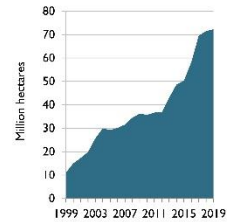
16 countries have 10% or more of their agricultural land under organic management.



Top 5 countries with more than 10 percent of organic agricultural land 2019



In 2019, over 1.1 million hectares more were reported compared with 2018.

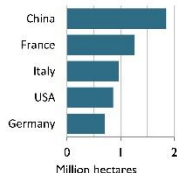


Growth of the organic agricultural land 1999-2019

ORGANIC LAND USE 2019



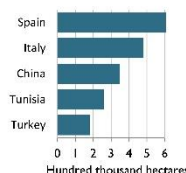
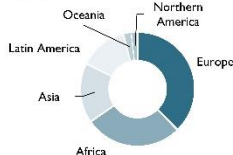
Arable land constitutes 18% of the world's organic agricultural land, and 1.0% of the world's arable crop land. It decreased by 1.7% over 2019.



Organic arable land by region 2019
Organic arable land: The five countries with the largest areas 2019



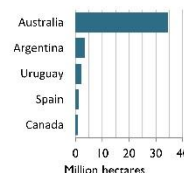
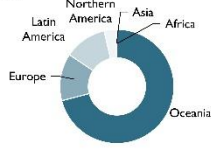
Permanent crops constitute 6.5% of the world's organic agricultural land, and 2.8% of the world's permanent cropland. It increased by 0.4% over 2019.



Organic permanent crops by region 2019
Organic permanent crops: The five countries with the largest areas 2019



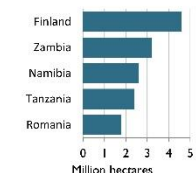
Permanent grassland constitutes 68% of the world's organic agricultural land, and 1.5% of the world's permanent grassland. It increased by 1.2% over 2019.



Organic permanent grassland by region 2019
Organic permanent grassland: The five countries with the largest areas 2019



Over 77% of the wild collection is in Africa (over 16 million hectares) and Europe (almost 11 million hectares)



Organic wild collection by region 2019
Organic wild collection: The five countries with the largest areas 2019