



DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORGANIC SECTOR IN SERBIA



Overview of the organic sector in Serbia

In the last decade, according to the statistics, organic production has strong upward direction and is characterized by:

- increase of areas under organic production,
- development of livestock production,
- more organic producers,
- development of processing sector,
- market growth
- growth of exports
- the legislative framework was continuously harmonized with EU legislation.



Control system

A control system has been established. The competent authority authorizes control bodies that meet the prescribed conditions. Seven control bodies are authorized for control and certification

-  **ORGANIC CONTROL SYSTEM**
-  **ECOVIVENDI**
RS-ORG-009 RS-BIO-183
-  **CENTAR ZA ISPITIVANJE
NAMIRNICA CIN**

-  **ECOCERT BALKAN**
-  **TMS CEE**
Cooperative partner of TÜV SÜD
-  **SGS BEOGRAD**
-  **JUGOINSPEKT NOVI SAD**

Two domestic control bodies are on the EU List of recognized control bodies and control authorities for the purpose of equivalence.

Previously, producers of organic products for export from Serbia had to use certification services abroad. Now, domestic producers can be certified according to EU regulations by local control bodies, which significantly improved the economic efficiency of organic production and thereby increased the competitiveness of Serbian organic products on the EU market. With this huge success, the organic agriculture sector in Serbia has shown that it can meet the demanding requirements of the EU.



Overview of the organic sector in Serbia

Currently we have around 1 % of the total agricultural land under organic farming.

Organic fruits are mostly grown with 33%, followed by cereals production 26%, then production of fodder plants with 18% and industrial plants with 12%.

Compared to 2020, the total area under organic production in 2021 has **increased by 12%** and amounts to **23,500 ha**.

Group production, which has been allowed in EU countries since January of this year in accordance with new regulations legislative framework, has been present in Serbia for years, and the largest number of organic producers is in this type of production system.

This model has proven to be very successful in our country and in most cases it is a production intended for export.

The total number of organic producers is 6.408 and the producers who are part of the group production amounts 5.805.



Export of organic products

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Export value (in million €)	3.74	10.7	11.2	19.6	18.9	23.1	27.4	29.7	37,5	57,4

- Most of the organic products from Serbia are exported worldwide, although the EU countries are our most important partners.
- Starting in 2012, data on the export of organic products became part of the information system of the Customs Administration. Based on this data, it is possible to monitor data on the type, quantity and value of exported organic products from the territory of the Republic of Serbia.
- In 2021, the value of exports of organic products increased by 53% compared to the previous year (2020: 37.5 million €) and amounts to 57.4 million €.

- The highest value was achieved by exports to Germany 31.36% of the total value of exports, the United States 13.5%, the Netherlands, France, Poland, Canada and Italy.
- By type of product, the highest value was achieved by the export of frozen fruit (**78.4%**), namely frozen raspberries, frozen blackberries and frozen cherries.
- In addition to fruit products that were dominant in exports in 2021, the export of medicinal and aromatic herbs, cereals, essential oil, baby food, integral flour and cellular apple water was also achieved.



Legislative and institutional framework

The competent authority for organic production is the *Department of Food Labeling, Quality Schemes and Organic Farming –Group for organic production*, within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

Currently, the main task is harmonization of existing legislative framework with the latest EU legislation for organic production.

Adoption of a new Law for organic production is expected **at the end of this year**.

Harmonization of legislation envisaged started through the implementation of the IPA project "Strengthening the capacity for implementation and further development of the legislative framework in the field of organic farming and food quality policy,, (Harmonization of the national legislation in the field of Organic Farming Sector with EU regulations, Establishment of more efficient control system for organic production and Improvement of knowledge in the field of organic production)

This process continued through the FAO project: Support to organic agriculture (TCP/SRB/3804)



Subsidies for organic production

The subsidies for organic production have been introduced since 2004.

In previous years, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management created a series of measures to support organic production, which influence the creation of a stimulating environment for its more intensive development.

Subsidies both for organic plant and livestock production, are significantly higher, compared to subsidies for non-organic production. In addition, organic producers have significant support related to the costs of control and certification and the achievement of other production standards.

All these measures have contributed to the fact that in the past 5 years, the areas under organic production and the number of organic producers has doubled.



Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Plant production

- Payments per area;
- 250 % more than the amount for conventional plant production;
- Producer has an obligation to have organic production areas for 3 years.

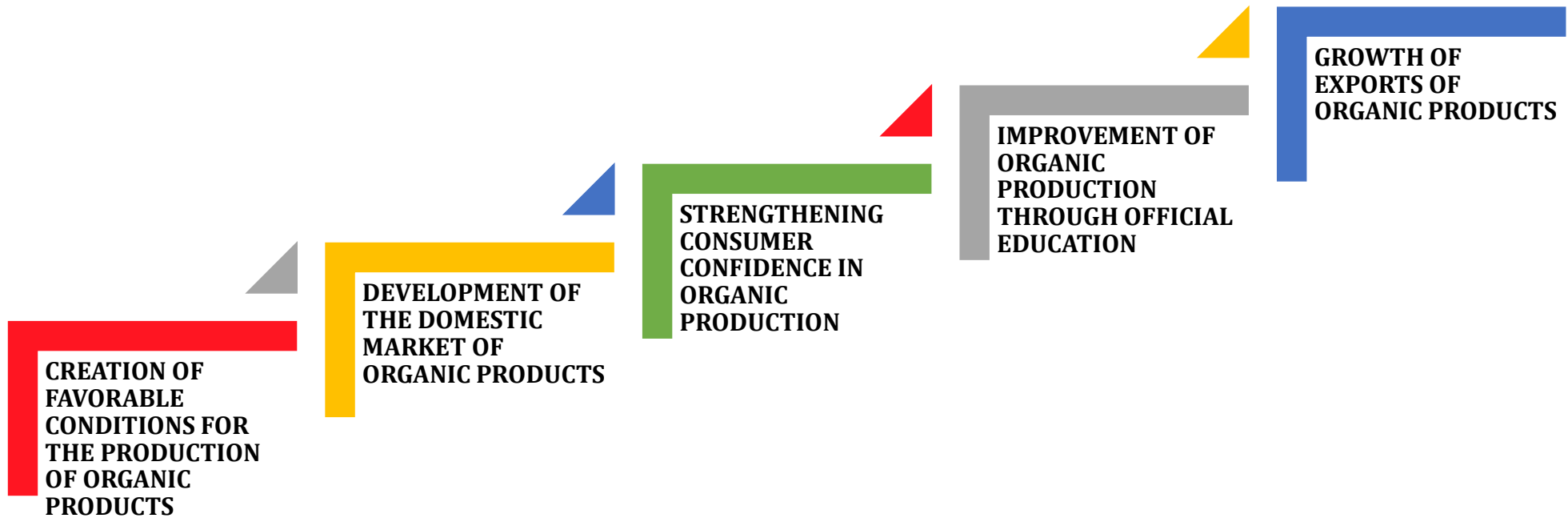
Livestock production

- Payments per head/hive;
- For organic milk per liter;
- 40% more than amount for conventional livestock production.

Refunding the costs of control and certification

- 50%;
- 65 % for areas with difficult working conditions in agriculture.

Goals





Thank you for your attention...

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