
OF development in Poland

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Biosummit 2016, Prague, 14 November 2016

Milestones of OF development

- 1984** the first course of biodynamic farming with participation of representatives of DEMETER association
- 1989** creation of Ekoland - Association of Organic Food Producers
- 1990** obtaining by Ekoland a membership in IFOAM
- 1998** the first funding from country budget for organic farms control costs and for the crops area
- 1994** Ekoland publication about Criteria for the Organic Farming Agriculture
- 2001** The Act on Organic Agriculture of 16 March 2001
- 2004** RDP for the period 2004-2006 – funds to the organic production from EU
- 2006** Campaign for the Organic Farming under the patronage of the Ministry of Agriculture
- 2008** RDP for the period 2007-2013
- 2011** Action plans for food and organic farming in Poland for the period 2011-2014
- 2014** RDP for the period 2014-2020
- 2014** Framework Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming for the period 2014 – 2020 created by the Ministry of Agriculture

OF development since 2004 = indicators

Basic	2004/*2009/**2011	2015/*2014
Farming		
Total OF acreage/share in UAA	83730 ha /0,5 %	580730,03/4,5%*
No. of farms in OF/share in all farms	3760 /0,2%	22 277/2%*
Share in arable land in UAA in OFxCF	nd	60% x 75%*
Processing		
No. of processors in OF/share in all processors	295**/nd	1420/nd
No. of farm processors in OF/ share in farms in OF	55/1,4%	562/2,5%
Market		
Size of the organic food market (mil. EUR)	50*	150
Consumption per capita (EUR)	< 1	3
Share in total consumption (%)	< 0,3*	0,3
Policy support		
Action plan existence	yes	yes
OF payments (RDP)	yes	yes
Measures supporting OF out of RDP (national)	yes	yes

Main success factors (2004-2016) = strengths

- Huge and receptive external market**
 - Good geographical location in the vicinity of countries with high demand and expenses for organic products**
 - Increase of knowledge and ecological awareness of producers (crop rotation, natural methods of plant protection)**
 - Advanced agricultural advisory services working directly with farmers**
 - Knowledge transfer between science and practice – scientific research funded by the State**
 - The structure of farms promotes protection of biodiversity**
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Main obstacles (2004-2016) = weaknesses

- Underdeveloped organic products market: low availability and high prices, territorial diversification of Poland (richer and poorer regions)**
 - Poor organization of organic farmers and weak interest in cooperation**
 - Large dispersion of organic farms**
 - Low level of production**
 - Poorly developed processing**
 - Poorly developed distribution canals**
 - Poor availability of information about organic producers**
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Main challenges 2016= opportunities+threats

Opportunities:

- Growth of environmental awareness of society**
- Growth of demand on organic food**
- Using manpower of rural residents**
- Undertaking common actions**
- Increasing engagement of local governments in the development of organic farming**
- Promoting good practices through various activities, for example: competitions, demonstration farms**

Threats:

- Weak and slow development of the market of organic products**
 - Large share of imported food**
 - Environmental pollution by prohibited plant protection products in OF**
 - Lots of changes in legislation and their different interpretation**
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