

Current status of organic agriculture in Turkey

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Abstract

Organic agriculture in Turkey started in the early 1980's, while in 2009, the organic production increased up to 983.715 tons. The organic agriculture production comprises only 1% of the total agricultural area of Turkey, while in 2013, it is expected that 3% of the total agricultural area will be used for organic farming. Organic production in Turkey mainly comprises the traditional Turkish products such as hazelnuts, dried apricots, raisins, dried figs and also medicinal plants and herbs collected from wild areas. Recently, products of animal origin such as milk, eggs and honey have also been certified as organic. Taking into consideration the organic production in quantity, about 37% of the products are sold as dried fruits and vegetables, 30% - field crops and about 3% - berries. The demand for organic products in Turkey is still very low compared with that in the EU countries. Therefore, most of the organic products (about 90%) produced in Turkey are exported to the European Union. The organic farming and production in Turkey is controlled with the Organic Farming Law. Currently there are 17 certification agencies, authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs for the certification and control of organic produce in Turkey.

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