



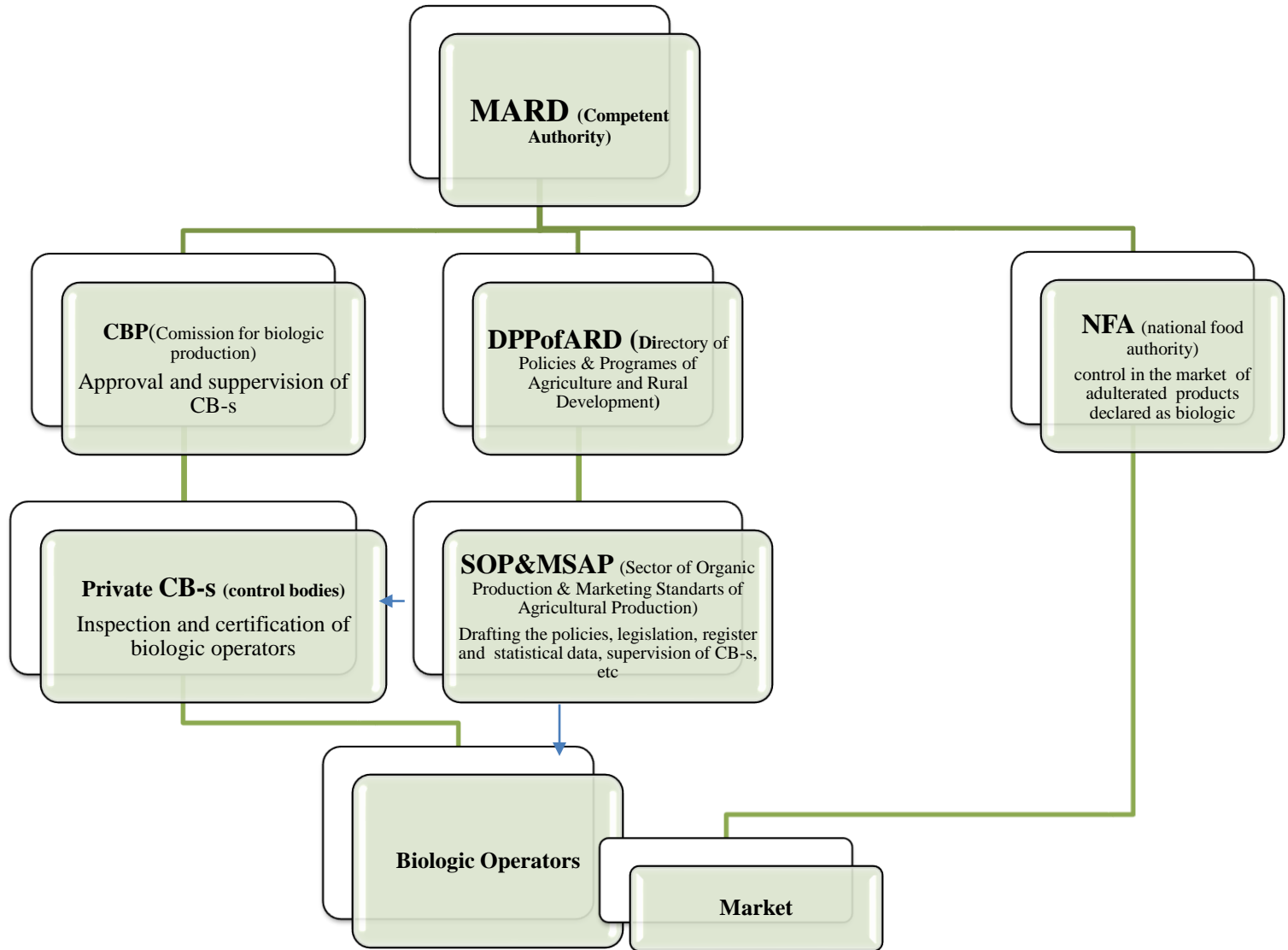
STATE OF ART OF THE ORGANIC SECTOR IN ALBANIA

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CONTROL SYSTEM



CONTROL SYSTEM

- **MARD**- Competent Authority
- **SOP&MSAP**- Sector of Organic Production and Marketing Standarts
 - responsible for drafting the policies & legislation, collection, preparation and report of organic statistical data, maintain the organic operators register, supervises the control bodies on behalf of the CBP and reports to it.
- **CBP- Commision of Biologic Production (approval & supervision of CB-s)**
 - 7 representatives:
 - 3 from MARD (deputy Minister head of CBP, Director and head of sector responsible for organic production),
 - 1 MTE (Ministry of Tourism and Environment),
 - 1 MFE (Ministry of Finance and Economy – General Directory of Accreditation
 - 1 representative from non-public institutions in the field of organic agriculture (Institute of Biologic Agriculture),
 - 1 from Agricultural University of Tirane
- **CB-s** – inspection and certification of OP (active Albinspekt-Bio.inspecta, Ecocert SA),
- **NFA** - control in the market of adulterated products declared as biologic

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- Law Nr. 106/2016 “On biologic production, labelling of biologic products and their control”, approximated partly with regulation 834/2007/EC “on organic production and labeling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91”.
- Decision of Council of Ministers, no. 336, date 6.6.2018 “On detailed rules for organic plant production and seaweed production”, partially approximated with Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labeling of organic products with regard to organic production, labeling and control.
- Minister Order, no.131, date 28.3.2018 “On list of products and substances allowed to be used in organic production”, partially approximated with Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labeling of organic products with regard to organic production, labeling and control.
- Decision of Council of Ministers, no. 1030, date 16.12.2020 “On detailed rules for production of processed feed and food“, partially approximated with Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labeling of organic products with regard to organic production, labeling and control.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- Decision of Council of Ministers, No. 830, date 18. 12. 2019 "On detailed rules for collection, packaging, transport and storage, labelling and control, of organic products", which partially approximate the Regulation (EC) No.889/2008 of 05.09.2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control.
- Decision of Council of Ministers, no. 859, date 24.12.2019 "On determining the composition, functioning, organization and tasks of the CBP", which partially approximate the Regulation (EC) No.889/2008 of 05.09.2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control.
- The Order of Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development No.228, date 8.6.2020 "On the approval of list of products and substances used in processing of biological food", partially aligned with the Commission implementing regulation (EU) 2019/2164 of 17 December 2019 amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Based on existing national Law, are remained to be prepared:

- ✓ Council Minister Decision “On detailed rules on livestock and aquaculture production, in conversion, exceptional production rules and their control”;
- ✓ Council Minister Decision on detailed rules and conditions for import of biologic production”.

As the new Regulation 2018/848/EC and other implementing and delegated acts, are coming in force from 2022, MARD have asked for expertise from International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), to review the existing national legislation to be in line with new EU one.

The existing Law 106/2016 should be reviewed in order to insert the new EU provisions such as group certification, etc, and to review and precise the provisions on some issues which are identified during the implementation of legislation.

LIST OF CONTROL BODIES OPERATING IN ALBANIA

- I. CB authorized by Commission for Biologic Production in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, for certification according to Law Nr. 106/2016 “On biologic production, labelling of biologic products and their control”,

1. ‘Albinspekt bio.inspecta’



Address: Rruga Ded Gjon Luli, Pall. 5, Shk.1, Ap.8, 1000 Tirana, Albania

Internet address: <http://www.albinspekt.com>

For 2020, there are 113 operators under the control of Albinspekt- Bio.inspecta,

II. Certification of organic products intended to be exported,

2. ‘Ecocert SA’



Address: BP 47, 32600 L'Isle-Jourdain, France

Internet address: <http://www.ecocert.com>

For 2020, there are 8 operators under the control of Ecocert.

MONITORING ACTION PLAN

In order to prevent the placing on the market of products which are labeled or advertised as organic but are not certified according the legislation, a detailed Action Plan for monitoring of the market, has been sent to NFA for implementation during the 2021.

- Domestic products
- Imported products

ORGANIC STATISTICAL DATA

Organic data according to the MOAN templates, which include the indicators of EU legislation such as:

- ✓ the number of organic producers, processors and exporters;
- ✓ the organic and in conversion area;
- ✓ the organic and in conversion production;
- ✓ the organic livestock numbers and the organic animal products;
- ✓ the organic processing production;

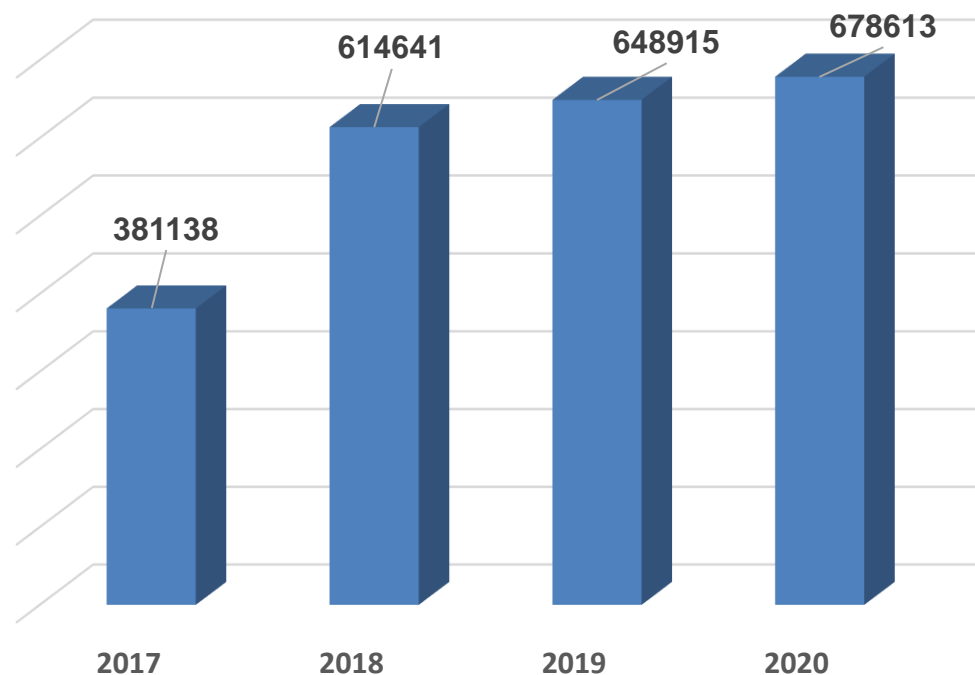
The source of data are the active control bodies (Albinspekt- Bio.inspecta, Ecocert).

- ✓ Data on the import of organic products are not available, but the importers mainly for organic packaged products are present in the domestic market.

ORGANIC AREA

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Wild and forest area (Ha)	380612	613893	648292	677716
Cultivated area	526	748	623	897
Total org. area	381138	614641	648915	678613

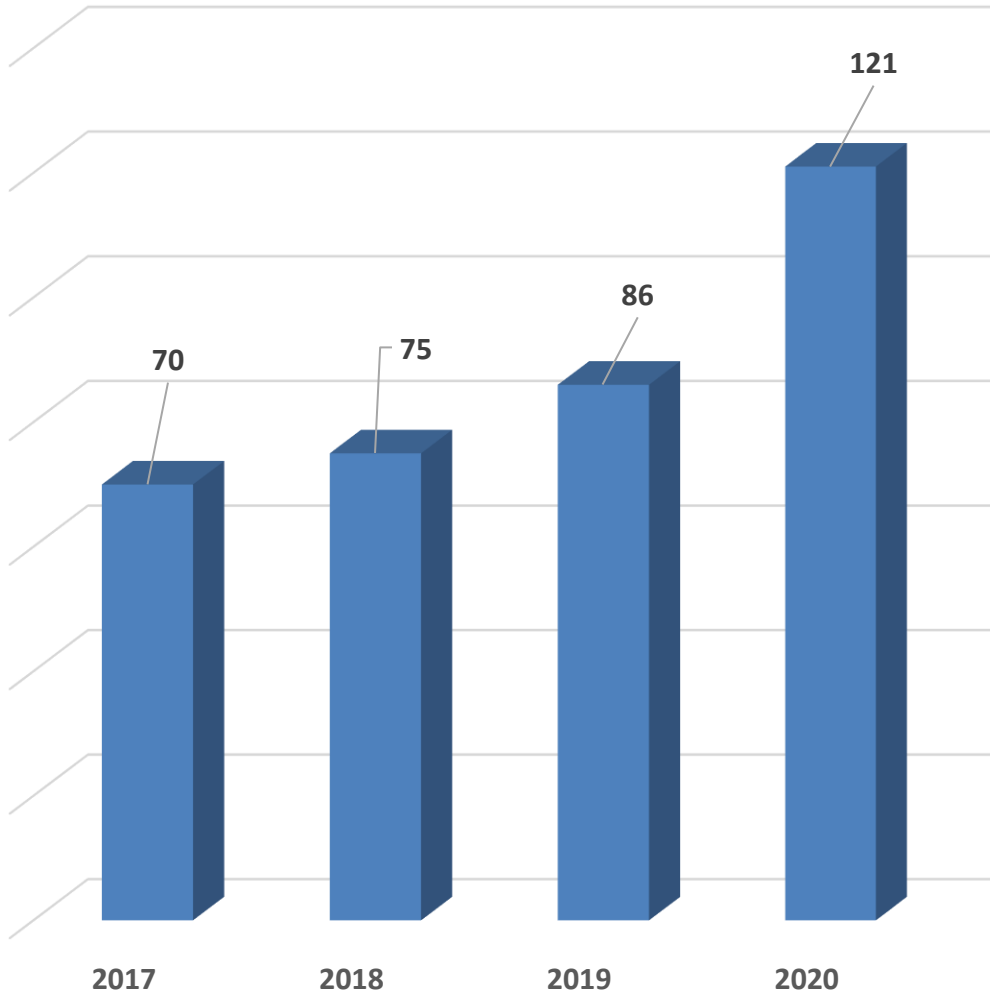
Total organic area



Organic forest and wild collection area are dominating the sector, where wild MAP-s and Herbs account for 97.7 % of total organic areas, followed by forest fruits (chestnut, blackberry).

The cultivated areas occupy a significantly smaller area (896.97 ha) of which 84 % is fully organic, with the cultivation of narrow range of crops or plants (MAP-s, fruits tree, olive).

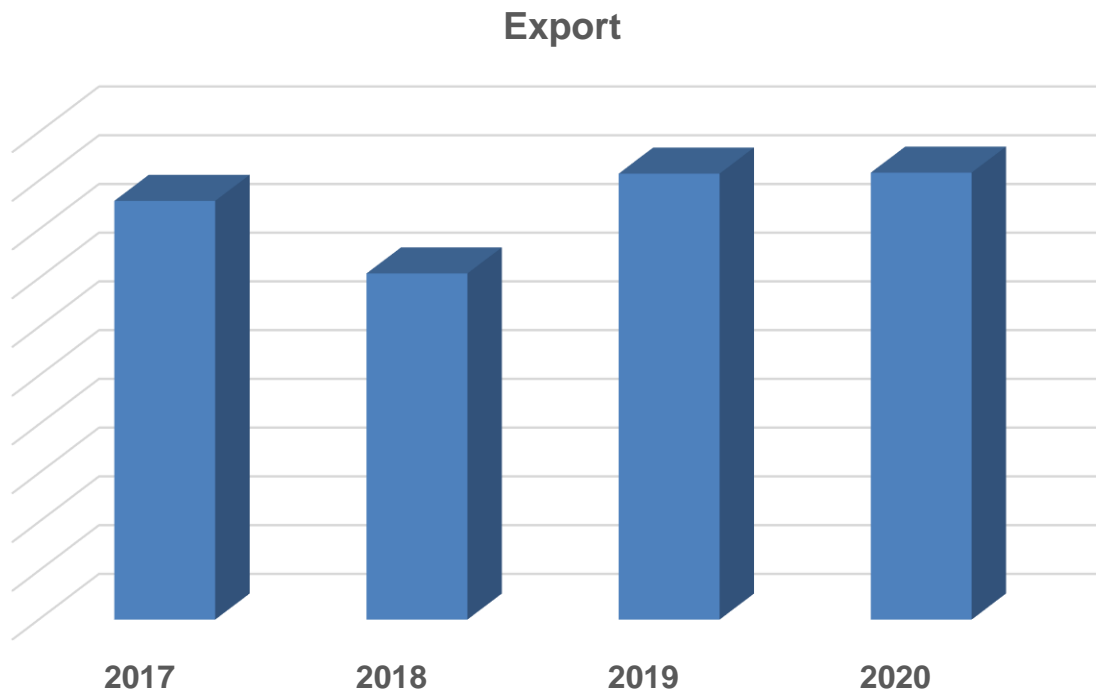
NUMBER OF ORGANIC OPERATORS



During the 2020 the number of organic operators was increased by 39% compare with the previous year.

EXPORT

Export remains the main orientation of organic operators. The export continued to be dominating by wild and forest products, leading by MAP-s with 75%, followed by forest fruits (chestnut, blackberry), fruit trees, olive oil etc. These organic products, are exported respectively, the MAP-s to EU countries (Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Poland etc) and USA, Switzerland and chestnuts, fruit trees, to Italy.



SUBSIDIES FOR ORGANIC FARMING

The subsidies through national direct schemes on organic production have continued...

- ✓ For organic farming in 2021 the measure was: Organic farms, for the the first year of conversion, are supported by 750 euro, in the second year by 1200 euro and farms certified as organic by 1600 euro.
- ✓ IPARD III Programme, is prepared the scheme on Environmental Protection and Organic Agriculture, which is expected to start the implementation in the coming year.

The support will be provided only for cultivated vegetable, fruits and MAPs that are certified as organic or are in conversion on the whole territory of Albania.

Measure 4: Agri-environment – climate and organic farming measure is part of second package of three measures which have been envisaged in the programme strategy to be developed, adopted and start implementation after the entrustment of the first package of measures.

MARKET

- ✓ Organic production is export-oriented and only large retail shops as supermarkets are offering imported organic products in Albania.
- ✓ Export remains main orientation of the Albanian organic operators, where mainly medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) and plant essential oils are exported and a little amounts of olive oil.
- ✓ Almost all products coming from the wild collection are exported, having as destination different countries as Germany, Austria, France, Switzerland, USA, Bulgaria, Turkey etc.
- ✓ In Albania the local market of organic agricultural products is lacked, while consumer demand is increasing for these products.
- ✓ In case of some products, like olive oil, significant quantities are sold directly at the farm gate but with the prices which are almost the same as conventional.

CHALLENGES/PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED

As one of the main challenges for OA sector in Albania is the *establishment of an efficient control system*, in order to ensure fair competition and to fulfill consumers requirements for high-quality food products.

- Among the priorities for sector development, are the following:
- ✓ diversification of production (increase in the cultivated area);
- ✓ harmonization of the national legislation with the new one of the EU;
- ✓ promotion and awareness raising among local consumers, with the objective to increase the demand and thus to develop domestic market.

PROJECTS

- ❑ Organic Trade for Development (OT4D) in Albania.
 - Implementing by IFOAM & Albanian Marketing Assosiation

- Organic Agriculture Foundation Course (OFC) Program for Albania, 18-22.10.2021 (extension service, organic operators, control bodies);

- Promotion and awareness of Albanian consumers about organic farming, development of the communication strategy.....;

NEEDS TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE PROJECTS

- In terms of harmonization of national legislation with the new EU one, we strongly ask to be supported by projects on:
- ✓ Revision of existing legislative framework on organic production, in line with new EU regulations.

We have already identified some key issues to be reviewed with support of expertise, such as:

- Derogations
 - national catalogue of sanctions
 - group certification provisions
 - Import- export provisions
 - written procedures on supervision of CB-s,
 - etc

Questions.....

1. Use of national logo;

- Is it mandatory to use the national logo, for products that are certified according to EU standard, that are placed in the domestic market ?

2. Control bodies;

- Authorization from the Ministry is required for CBs that are certifying according to national law or for all CB-s?

3. Import rules;

What is the procedure to control the imported organic food?

Which are the accompany documents to be controled for imported organic products, prepackaged or fresh one, which are placed in the domestic market?

4. Source of statistical data, ????

- Import datas???

5. Positive list,

- Who is developing the PL, CA or CB-s?

6. Registration of activity

What is the procedure for registration of activity?





Thank you for your attention!