



Kick-off meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Organic Agriculture in SEE

03rd – 05th November 2021 in Palic,
Republic of Serbia

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The statistics indicate the following facts for 2020 for the total territory of Kosovo

Production Volume

- A total of **480 ha cultivated** with medicinal and aromatic plants, (*with 16 different cultivated species*).
- 522.47 ha cultivated with organic pumpkin seeds;
- 34.07 ha Walnut (*Juglans regia*).

Collection of medicinal plants/herbs, mushrooms, and fruits/berries (non-wood forest products)

- **373.488 ha** certified organic forest zones are eligible for the collection of medicinal plants
- 35 certified companies are operating in the medicinal and aromatic plants business;
- 45 collection centers in the whole territory of Kosovo
(*These 45 collection centers organize collection, drying and sub-processing of wild and medicinal plants*)
- 3.200 families and individual collectors
(*in total around 20.000 persons involved*) generate income with the collection of medicinal plants/herbs, mushrooms, and fruits/berries.

Marketing of the organic farming products:

- Export is realized with the semi-processed products ,
- Where 95% of production was exported to Germany, Austria and Switzerland, Holland ect.



Implementation of the Existing Law No. 04/L-085 on Organic Farming

□ The Law No. 04/L-085 on Organic Farming was constructed pursuant to the Council Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products, and the Commission Regulation (EC) No. 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for its implementation.

□ Eight Administrative Instructions (AI) were elaborated for the efficient implementation of this Law.

1. *AI No. 01/2019 on duties, responsibilities and composition of the Commission on organic farming;*
2. *AI No. 02/2019 on organic production control system, Control Authority, control bodies and the rules for their implementation;*
3. *AI No. 03/2019 laying down the rules for organic plant production;*
4. *AI No. 04/2019 laying down the rules for organic livestock production and feed;*
5. *AI No. 05/2019 laying down the rules on organic aquaculture production;*
6. *AI No. 06/2019 on criteria, standards and conditions for imports of organic products in Kosovo;*
7. *AI No. 07/2019 on designation of the organic production logo and specific requirements for labelling;*
8. *AI No. 08/2019 laying down the rules for production and methods for organic processed products.*



The Certification and Control System

- According to AI No.02/2019 on organic production control system, Control Authority, certification and control bodies and the rules for their implementation, MAFRD represents the Competent Authority and is responsible for organization of the control system.

With a view to implementing the Law on Organic Farming and the accompanying AIs, MAFRD carried out the following activities:

- *Two (2) information sessions on control system, Control Authority, certification and control bodies for organic farming products and foodstuffs;*
- *Two (2) information sessions on certification and control bodies operating in Kosovo;*
- *Three (3) information sessions for the members of "Organika" association, with the topic "Control system, Control Authority, certification and control bodies and the rules for their implementation";*
- *One (1) training session for the Women's Farmers Association of Kosovo, with the subject "Awareness raising on organic farming and the content of the Law on Organic Farming and following Administrative Instructions";*
- *Several training sessions for phytosanitary inspectors and Advisory Services, with the support of GIZ, MAFRD and KFVA.*
- *Several Training-of-Trainers sponsored by GIZ,(online) for the Kosovo Organic Farmers, a small-scale association. were held 2020 and continue in 2021, as well.*



The Certification and Control Capacity for Organic Farming

- ❑ Pursuant to the *AI No. 02/2019 on control system, Control Authority, control bodies, and the rules for their implementation*, the following control bodies are operating, in Kosovo
 - ❑ Albinspekt XK-BIO-139
 - ❑ Q-check P.C XK-BIO-179
 - ❑ Organskakontrola.ba XK-BIO-101
 - ❑ Bio-inspecta.ch XK-BIO-161



Ex-Post evaluation of the regulatory impact of the Law No.04 / L-085 on Organic Farming

- ❑ Based on the 2020 Legislative Program *approved by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo*, the Ex-Post evaluation of the regulatory impact of the Law No.04 / L-085 on Organic Farming has been completed. (dt.16.12.2020).

- ❑ During the work on the Ex-Post Evaluation it had been identified that the organic farming sector has started to grow and develop in recent years, but there are many challenges that need to be faced by farmers and institutions.



The Implementation of the Direct Payment Scheme in 2020 for Organic Farming

- ❑ During 2020, the MAFRD supported the farmers by direct payments of 500 Euro/ha per certified area in organic production of cultivated medicinal and aromatic plants, as well as for each plant crop (*fruit sector, viticulture and cereals*).
- ❑ For the implementation of this procedure the Agency for Agricultural Development is responsible.



National Organic Action Plan (NOAP) of the Republic of Kosovo for 2018-2021

The NOAP provides clearly identified objectives and actions and indicates the actors responsible for its implementation.

- In addition, 13 activity sub-modules were defined within the modules of production, processing, market development, legislation, certification and control, policy, research, education, training and extension services.
- The National Organic Action Plan sends a clear signal to the donor agencies to get actively involved in the proposed actions to boost the organic agriculture development in Kosovo.



Activities of Donors involved in Kosovo in the organic production

The supporters of organic farming GIZ, USAID, and Swiss CARITAS as well as the Associations ORGANIKA, IADK, SWISSCONTACT and Promoting Private Sector Employment (PPSE) are involved with enthusiasm in

- Planning the future of the organic farming in Kosovo, from analysis to action,
- Identification of the needs and potentials of the sector for setting strategic objectives and launching of action points.



Next steps in the Organic Agriculture sector during 2021/22

The new Kosovo National Law on Organic Production and Labelling of Organic Products:

- The Implementation of the Regulation No 2018/848 of the EU-Council and the EU-Parliament into a new Kosovo National Law on Organic Production and Labelling of Organic Products is an ongoing process at the MAFRD, and later at the Kosovo National Parliament.

The new National Organic Action Plan:

- The Ministry with the stakeholders it will preparing the new National Organic Action Plan for the years 2022-2024.

The European Green Deal towards 2030 will include organic agriculture as an important part for realisation of its targets.

Our country recognizes the efforts for sustainable development, and will contribute also with effort for its realisation in our country.

- Agree on a program of a cross-border cooperation project with neighbouring countries.



**Ju faleminderit për vëmendjen!
Thank you for your attention!**