



Bundesministerium  
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Kick off Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group –  
REAWG Organic within the “Agriculture Policy Dialog Germany - Western Balkan” Project

# STATE OF ART OF THE ORGANIC SECTOR IN NORTH MACEDONIA

Mirjana Jankulovska, PhD  
Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food,  
Skopje, North Macedonia

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Agribusiness - one the most promising sectors

Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries (2019) accounted for

- 8.1 % of GDP
- 10.4 % of total trade
- 14 % of the total number of persons employed in the country

Exports of agricultural and food products in 2020 constituted 10.24 % of NM total exports

Top markets for agriculture and food products –

- EU (49.7 % of total exports)
- CEFTA countries (36.1 %)

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## **Six-year National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2021 - 2027** aims

- to strengthen the ability of agricultural sector to compete in the EU and other regional markets
- to promote sustainable and balanced rural development
- retaining the youth population through creating better living conditions

The key strategic goals –

- **to improve competitiveness**
- **economic sustainability**
- **incomes**

by improving food supply security and strengthening the sector’s market orientation



**Organic agricultural sector – the fastest developing**

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The Strategy also focuses on

- **technology and digitalization**
- **application of sustainable environmental practices to mitigate and adapt to climate change**
- **attracting young farmers**

The total agriculture budget (including financial support to agricultural development and subsidies to farmers)

**from \$49.3 million in 2007 to \$175 million in 2020**

accounting for approximately **2.85 % of the national budget**

The largest portion (\$106 million in 2021) - support and direct payments for agriculture production and rural development

**The biggest problem for farming** - that parcels are very small and fragmented, with over 55 percent of parcels consisting of two to five hectares

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## **The National Law for Organic Production**

approved in 2004

in 2009 - harmonized with the EU regulation (EC)  
834/2007 and (EC) 889/2008

regulates the general provisions related to the production,  
processing, marketing and labelling of organic production

applies to all types of organic agricultural products intended for  
human consumption and animal feeding

basic conditions for inspection and certification of organic agriculture

Additional by-laws - complete legal framework on organic agricultural  
production

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The competent authority responsible for the  
implementation of the National Law for Organic  
Production - **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water  
Economy (MAFWE)**

**Official organic label  
in North Macedonia**

**Private organic standards and labels?**



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## **The control and certification process –**

private certification bodies

accredited by the Institute for Accreditation of N. Macedonia

authorized by the MAFWE

- **Pro Cert**
- **Balkan Biocert**

## **National Plan for organic production 2013–2020**

Concrete aims and objectives were to increase the competitiveness of organic production due to successful placement on domestic and foreign markets

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Certified organic production area (ha)</b>	<b>Number of entities</b>
<b>2006</b>	509	<b>102</b>
<b>2007</b>	714	<b>150</b>
<b>2008</b>	1.029	<b>226</b>
<b>2009</b>	1.374	<b>321</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>5.228</b>	<b>562</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>6.581</b>	<b>780</b>
<b>2012</b>	4.663	<b>576</b>
<b>2013</b>	3.168	<b>400</b>
<b>2014</b>	2.359	<b>344</b>
<b>2015</b>	2.632	<b>481</b>
<b>2016</b>	3.240	<b>533</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>2.900</b>	<b>650</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>3.909</b>	<b>799</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>4.207</b>	<b>847</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>3.957</b>	<b>907</b>



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### Plant organic production (2020)

Crop	In conversion	Organic	Total (ha)
<b>Cereal crops</b>	506.96	962.97	<b>1 469.94</b>
<b>Fodder crops</b>	200.06	515.19	<b>715.25</b>
<b>Industrial crops</b>	14.00	61.73	<b>75.73</b>
<b>Vegetable crops</b>	62.86	67.03	<b>129.90</b>
<b>Medicinal and aromatic plants</b>	6.74	141.86	<b>148.60</b>
<b>Fruit crops</b>	375.24	413.82	<b>789.07</b>
<b>Vineyards</b>	129.35	17.58	<b>146.94</b>

### Animal Organic production (2019)

Type	In conversion	Organic	Total (No)
<b>Cattle</b>	2.580	5.816	<b>8.396</b>
<b>Sheep</b>	50.738	71.933	<b>122.671</b>
<b>Goats</b>	1.750	3.656	<b>5.406</b>

### Organic beekeeping (2019)

	In conversion	Organic	Total (No)
<b>Bee families</b>	<b>3.792</b>	<b>6.034</b>	<b>9.826</b>



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## Strengths

- Clean environment
- Traditional farming production
- General institutional system established
- Law and regulations
- Advisory Coordination Commission established within MAFWE
- Accredited inspection and certification body
- Active Organic agricultural associations
- International cooperation

## Weaknesses

- Lack of information
- Difficulties to meet requirements
- Limited availability of farm inputs (organic seed...)
- Small farmers, scattered production, lack of labour force
- Lack of trained advisors
- Lack of contractual farming
- Insufficient and not well organized offer
- Inconsistent government support
- No connection with tourist offers
- Lack of internationally accredited laboratories

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## Opportunities

- Increased interest for organic production
- High demand for organic products in US and WE
- Higher prices
- Support from international donors
- Higher subsidies for organic products
- Opportunities for using natural resources and agrobiodiversity
- Favourable conditions for developing eco-tourism

## Threats

- Lack of demand for organic products on the national market
- Slow development and not many opportunities for export
- Limited budget for support
- Increased administration obligations
- No adequate advisory support
- Higher costs for inputs
- Low capacity and financial power of the processing industry to finalize organic products
- Complete orientation towards international markets
- Reduction of subsidies



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**