



## STATE OF ART OF THE ORGANIC SECTOR IN ALBANIA

**Rudina Cakraj PhD**

Head of Organic Production and Marketing Standards Sector  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

# Information of the existing/current legislation in the field of organic agriculture and market access

## 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

It is under the preparation the Order Minister “On approval of the updated list of products and substances to be used in organic production”, based on EU regulation 2021/1165 “on authorizing certain products and substances for use in organic production and establishing their lists”.

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 the detailed criteria and procedures for the approval of control bodies".
- ✓ Council Minister Decision on detailed rules and conditions for import of biologic production”.

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.

# Draft Strategy of SARDF

Green Agenda

**Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development and Fisheries 2021-2027,**

Organic farming

Albania has 895 ha of organic farming, which is **less than 0.1%** of the agricultural area.

As the potential for export is high and the EU market continues to grow, while the domestic consumer preference also *shows a positive trend*, ***the organic farming areas in Albania are expected to grow, but at a slower pace from EU objective.***

Specific Objective 5: Fostering sustainable and efficient management of natural resources

***Need 2.4: Encouraging organic farming***

Intervention mechanisms

I. Supporting measures for organic farming

- National scheme:
- For organic farming measure in 2022: Organic farms, for the the first year of conversion, are supported by 750 euro, in the second or third year by 1200 euro and farms certified as organic by 1600 euro/year. *Minimum area 0.5 ha*
- IPARD III Programme 2021 – 2027 “Agri-environment and climate and organic farming, schemes

Under the preparation for accreditation within 2022

Implementation in 2023

## Draft Strategy of SARDF

Beneficiaries are the users of agricultural land under conversion or as certified organic farming.

- **Sub sectors:**
  - Organic vegetables – 410 Euro/ha
  - Organic orchards and vineyards – 843 Euro /ha
  - Organic medical and aromatic plants– 300 Euro /ha
- Payments should be annually, per ha with a 5-year commitment.

### **II. Strengthening institutional and administrative capacities towards EU integration,**

TA project for the EU legislation alignment

- Updating the legislation on organic farming and setting-up a staffed MARD department for this sector;

### **III. TA for promoting organic farming**

- The beneficiary is the MARD, while the final beneficiaries are the farmers. Public advisory services shall be involved.
- The environmental and market benefits shall be promoted. A set of actions and a package of practical information for switching to organic farming shall be provided.

## MARKET

- ✓ 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.

### Domestic market

- The local market of organic agricultural products lack, while consumer demand is increasing for these products.
- supermarkets are offering imported organic products;
- sold directly at the farm gate, some products, like olive oil, 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

- ❑ Project Organic Trade for Development (OT4D) in Albania.  
Implementing by IFOAM & Albanian Marketing Assosiation (AMA);
- 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.....;
- (OT4D) project objective to create ***Organic Multi-Stakeholder Platform in Albania***, mainly focused on exports as an instrument for coordinating of joint activities;
- 23.2.2022 was the first meeting for this platform.....
  
- ❑ Project "To enhance the institutional and regulatory framework for organic food production in Albania". BIO.RE.GOAL (Ref. No. 304.4.022-21) co - financing by CEI, implemented by CHIAM Bari.

# Overview of the needs for technical support of the countries/territories for the legal harmonization with the EU regulations in the field of organic agriculture

- In terms of harmonization of national legislation with the new EU one:
  - Revision of existing legislative framework on organic production, in line with new EU regulations.
  - Drafting of the new Law on organic production and;
  - at least 3 bylaw on import rules, livestock and aquaculture production and criteria and procedure for approval of CB-s.

are addressed to Italian project, 2-4.3.2022 first mission of project

Project "To enhance the institutional and regulatory framework for organic food production in Albania".  
BIO.RE.GOAL, co - financing by CEI, implemented by CHIAM Bari.

- Remained priority:
  - RIA document;
  - Review of existing sub legal acts in line with the new EU implementing regulations;

Key practical issues/procedures to be reviewed and implemented, such as:

- Derogations (Exceptional production rules);
- Positive list of product and substances to be used in organic production;
- **Technical means of the notification (written procedure or registration of organic operators in the ministry), arrangements for the publication;**
- Criteria for approval of CB (foreign CB-s);
- **national catalogue of sanctions**
- **group certification provisions**
- Import- export provisions
- written procedures on supervision of CB-s,
- **Control in the market, EU rules on official control 625/2016, regarding the organic production**
- etc

## NEEDS FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT

### ▪ **Priority 2022**

- RIA document for new Law;
- Development of national catalogue of sanctions
- Regional activity: Study visit or special training on group certification

### ▪ **2023**

- Control in the market, EU rules on official control 625/2016, regarding the organic production
- Review of existing bylaws in line with the implementing EU regulations (27..);
- Plant production
- On detailed rules for collection, packaging, transport and storage, labelling and control, of organic products
- Processed food and feed



***Thank you for your attention!***