



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË

MINISTRIA E BUJQËSISË DHE ZHVILLIMIT RURAL

The Third Interim Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group - REAWG on Organic Agriculture

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02nd – 04th November 2022

Niksic, Montenegro

Existing/current organic legislation

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

Existing/current organic legislation

- 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.

Existing/current organic legislation

It is 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”.

The Order of Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development No.349, date 25.7.2022 “On the approval of list of products and substances used in organic production.

Based on existing national Law, it is still the legal gap on following issues:

- ✓ “On detailed rules on **livestock and aquaculture** production,;
- ✓ "On the detailed **criteria and procedures for the approval of control bodies**".
- ✓ on detailed rules and **conditions for import** of biologic production”.

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, to Germany, Austria, France, Switzerland, USA, Bulgaria, Turkey etc.

- ✓ Domestic market

lack of the local market of organic agricultural products, while consumer demand is increasing for these products.

- sold directly at the farm gate, some products, like olive oil, but with the prices which are almost the same as conventional.
- large retail shops as supermarkets are offering imported organic products;

Draft Law on Organic Agriculture

- Progress in drafting and adopting the Law on Organic Agriculture,
- In process work for drafting the new Law on organic production, by the WG supporting by BIOREGOAL Project;
- The first draft is not yet finished;
 - technical issues need to be consolidated;
 - Review according to national legislative techniques;

Is planed:

- ✓ by 7-9 Nov. next meeting of the WG (comments to be discussed)
- technical issues to be consolidated;
 - Positive list
 - Procedure for notification of activities
 - Criteria and procedure for approval of CBs (CBs according to the other standards)
 - Official control and other activities (to precise the tasks for each control authorities)
 - Import rules

Draft Law on Organic Agriculture

- Support by national legal expert in the frame of BIOREGOAL project;
 - ✓ to evaluate the draft Law on organic production aligned with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 and other EU implementing and delegated regulations.
 - ✓ to evaluate draft laws in accordance with the national legislative techniques and legal system of the Republic of Albania.
 - ✓ to identify future national by-laws (DCM, Orders, instructions etc) based on draft Law and Regulation (EU) 2018/848, as well as implementing and delegating acts.

The output : Draft Law on organic production aligned with the EU acquis and Albanian legal system.

- Within the 2022, will be finalized the first draft of the new law
- NPEI 2023-2026, it is planned to be adopted the new Law for the 2nd Q of 2024.

Expressing the needs for technical support of countries/territories for accelerating continuation of legal alignment with EU regulations in the field of organic agriculture.

- The needs of the Albania (Ministry) in the frame of REAWG are:
 - ✓ Expert mission (**support from regional expert Mr. Branislav Raketec, (at the end of November or beginning of December 2022).**
 - ✓ **To discuss and share the experiences on certain technical issues :**
 - ✓ **Certain Technicalities such as :**
 - procedure for notification of the activity,
 - source of data,
 - Database of seeds
 - catalog of sanctions,
 - ✓ **Official control** (to precise the tasks for each CAs (CBs, OCA, CA, in line with certain articles of reg.2017/625, as well)
 - ✓ **Import rules**
 - National approach on import
 - tasks and obligations of CAs (customs, OCA, CA ...)
 - ✓ Etc

Further needs

- **Support for drafting of the secondary legislation (according to our priorities)**

- **For the next phase of REAWG to follow a practical approach** – focusing in the implementation of this legislation - to find the best practices from the regional counties – exercises, for the most important implementing issues such as,
 - National import regime, in place/ or not;
 - National catalog of sanction, in place/ or not;
 - Group certification (to visit a successful group of farmers in the region, at best a livestock farmer)
 - etc, according the countries needs;

Priorities

Albanian Priorities:

➤ Drafting of the legislation:

- Finalization of the draft law (at the end of the 2022)
- Proceeding with drafting of the secondary legislation (2023-2024) according to the following priorities:
 - ✓ Import rules (establish our import regime approximating with the EU one, precise the tasks of customs, OCA (NFA), CBs...)
 - ✓ Control rules (OCA, CBs, criteria and procedures for the approval of control bodies);
 - ✓ Production rules (plant, livestock, aquaculture, etc);
 - ✓ Establishment of the organic operators database/register, (including the all operators under the organic certification system);