



The Fourth Interim Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group - REAWG on Organic Agriculture within the "Agriculture Policy Dialog Germany - Western Balkan" Project

# Organic agriculture, legal harmonization, transposition, certification, and access to the European market of the Republic of North Macedonia

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Duess, Albania

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## ► Content

- legal harmonization, transposition,
- certification,
- organic agriculture,
- access to the European market



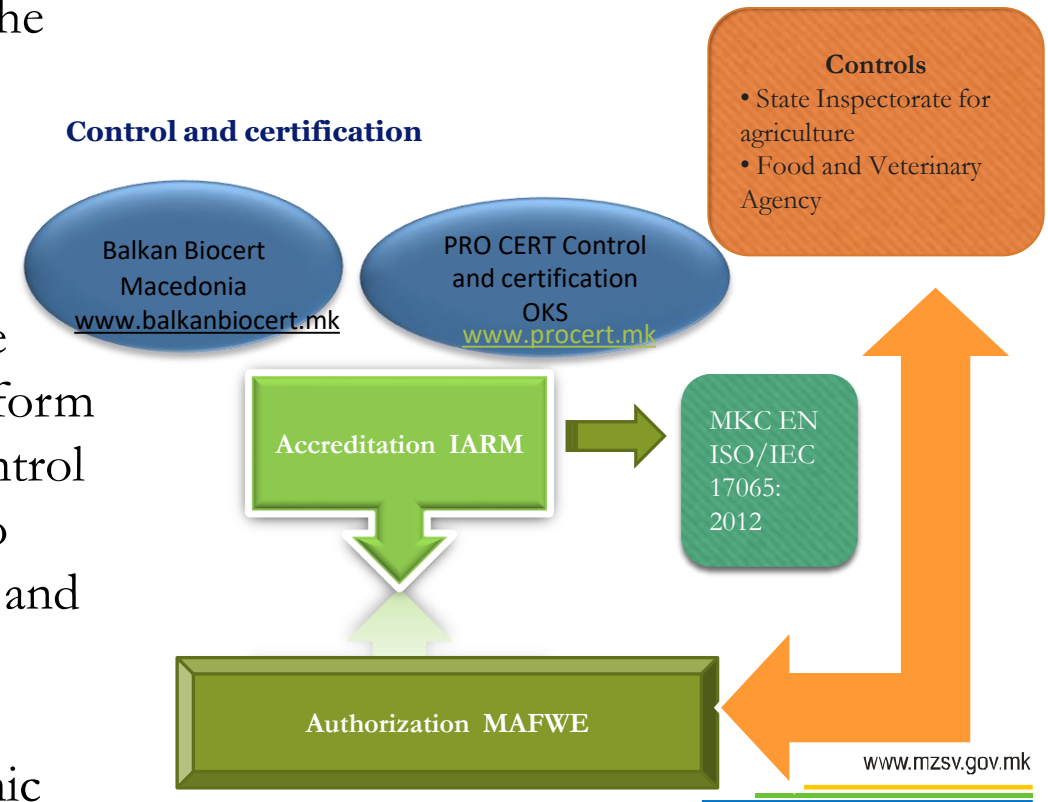


## LEGISLATION

- ✓ National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2021 - 2027
- ✓ Law on Organic Agricultural Production - Official gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, issue 146/09, 53/11, 149/15, 39/16 and 132/16 and „ Official gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia 150/21); harmonized with EU Regulations (EC) 834/2007, 28.06.2007 and (EC) 889/2008, 05.09.2008;
- ✓ Adopted bylaws regulating the field of production, processing, labeling of organic products, authorization and certification, as well as control systems.
- ✓ Activities are in progress for harmonization of the legal regulations in the field of organic production with the EU Regulation (EC) 848/2018;
- ✓ The current status in drafting the law on organic agricultural production is a draft version and put on public discussion ([www.ener.gov.mk](http://www.ener.gov.mk)) which already finish. We don't have any comments during the open period.
- ✓ In this period, adjustments was been finishing the area of inspection performed by SIA(The State Inspectorate for Agriculture) and AFV (The Food and Veterinary Agency).

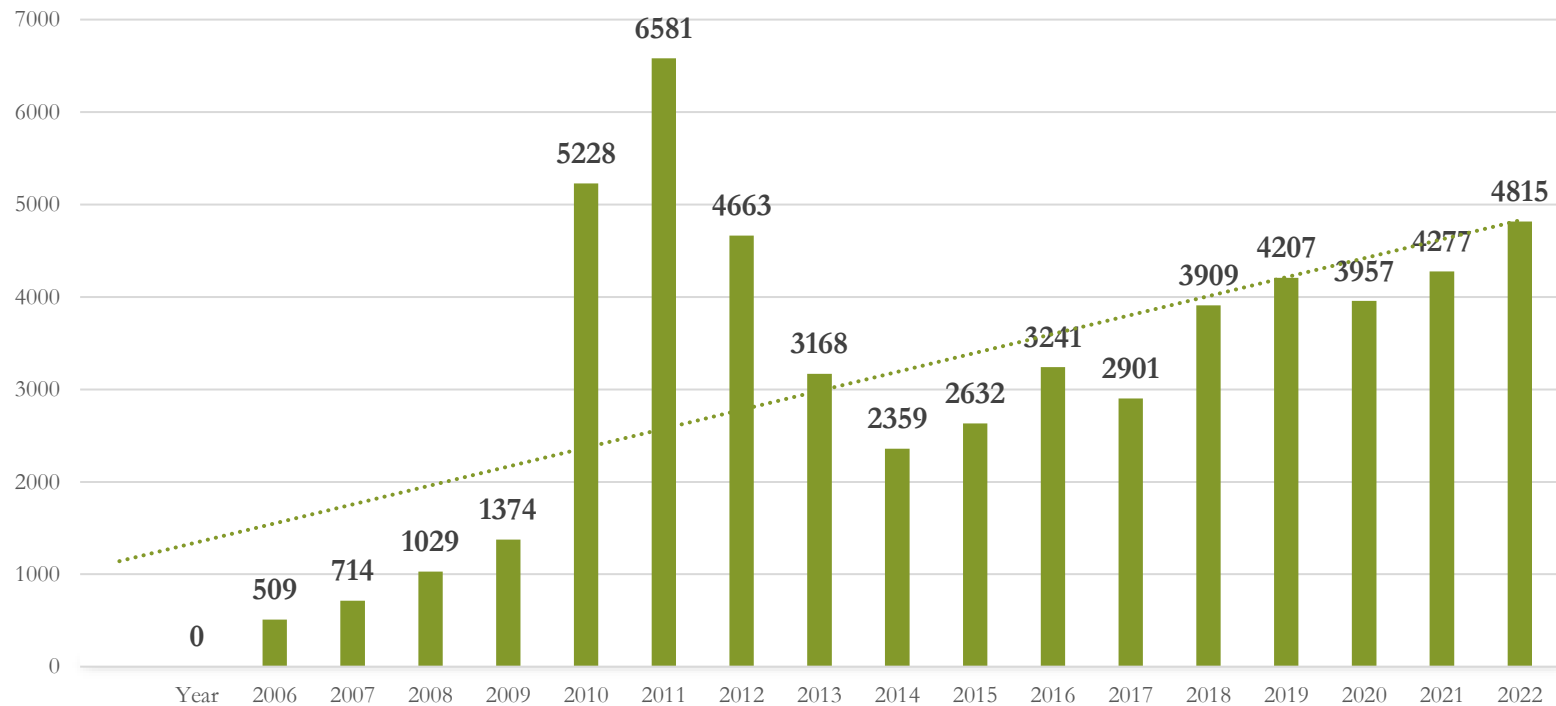


- ✓ The legislation, the competent body, the control bodies and the accreditation and certification system are established and functional
- ✓ The expert control in the organic agricultural production is performed by a control / certification body authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy to perform expert control in the organic agricultural production. The control system and certification of organic production is delegated to two control / certification bodies: Balkan Biosert Macedonia and Pro Cert Control and Certification OKS.
- ✓ The complete control and supervision in the system of organic production is performed by the State Inspectorate for Agriculture (SIA) and the Food and Veterinary Agency (FVA). Also, every entity that applies for financial support in organic production is subject to control and payment by the Agency for Financial Support in Agriculture and Rural Development (AFSARD).





Areas under organic production /ha (2006-2022)

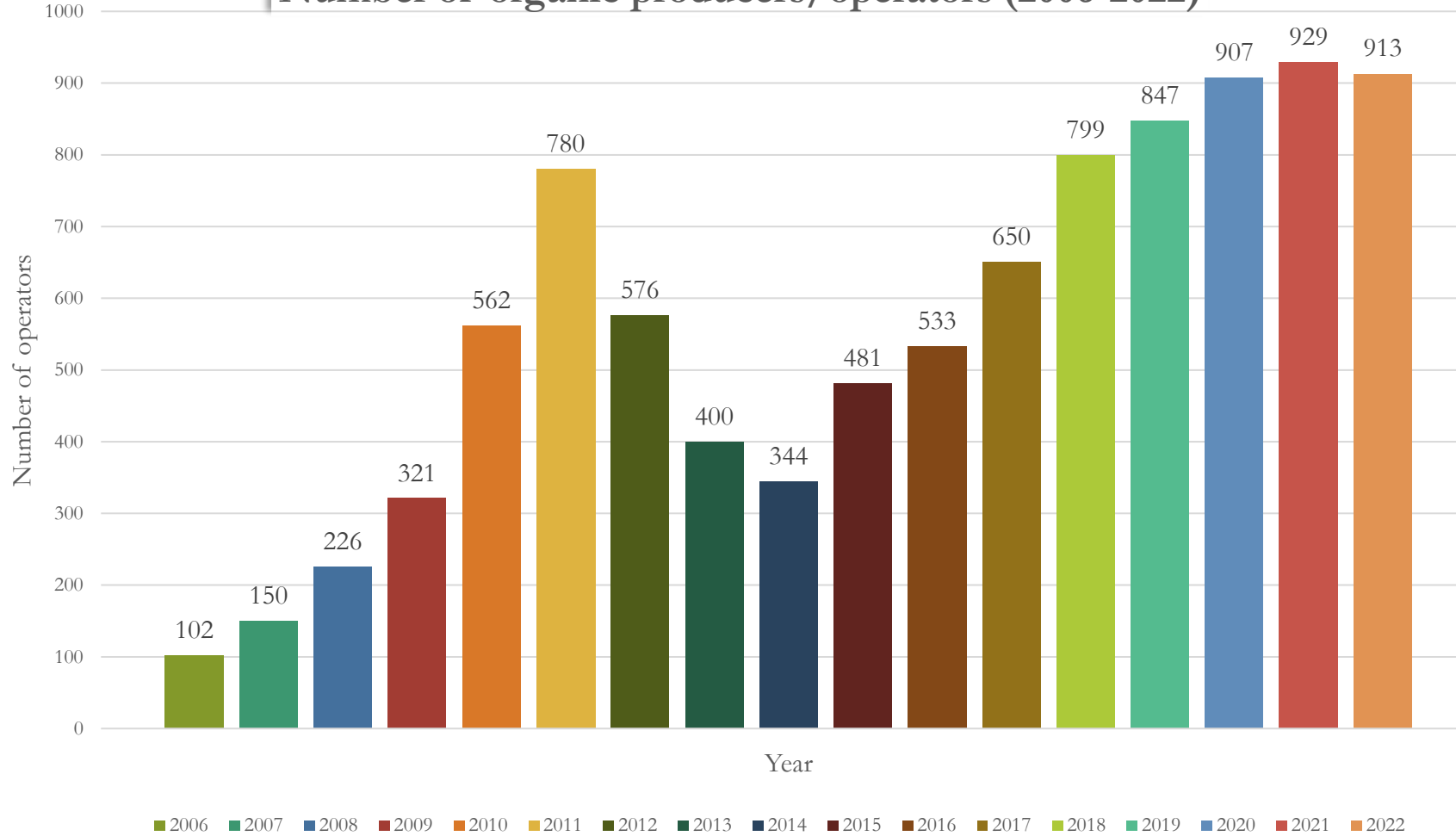


Areas under organic production / ha (2006 - 2022)	
Year	Total certified production area / ha
2006	509
2007	714
2008	1.029
2009	1.374
2010	5.228
2011	6.581
2012	4.663
2013	3.168
2014	2.359
2015	2.632
2016	3.241
2017	2.901
2018	3.909
2019	4.207
2020	3.957
2021	4.277
2022	4.815

The development of organic production continues with increasing continuity. The system of organic agriculture includes more and more entities, and also the production capacities are expanded. In recent years, there has been an increasing trend in organic production, both in arable land certified for organic production and in the number of entities.



Number of organic producers/operators (2006-2022)

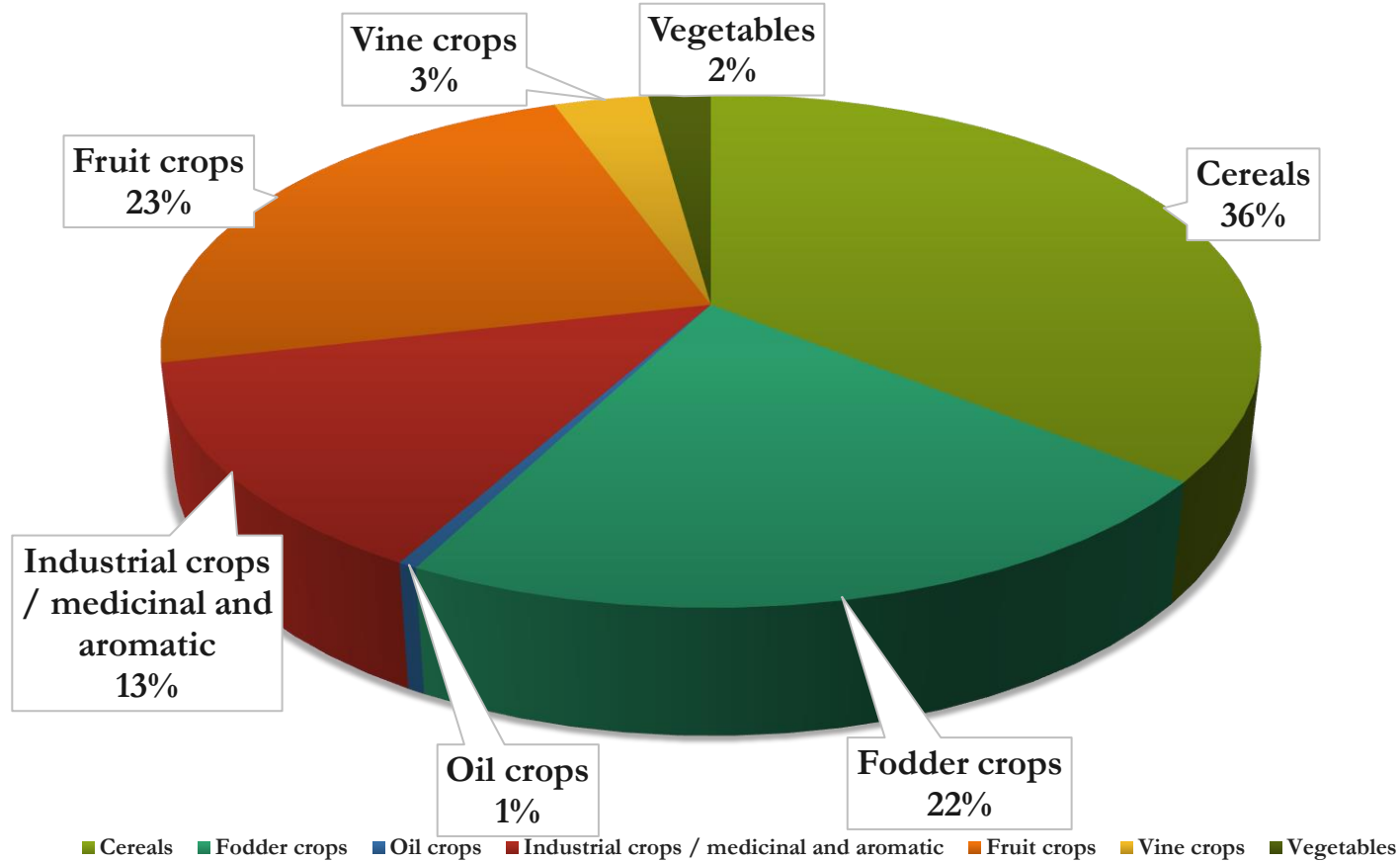


Number of organic producers/operators (2006-2022)

Year	Number of operators
2006	102
2007	150
2008	226
2009	321
2010	562
2011	780
2012	576
2013	400
2014	344
2015	481
2016	533
2017	650
2018	799
2019	847
2020	907
2021	929
2022	913



## Organic plant production (%) -2022 ha

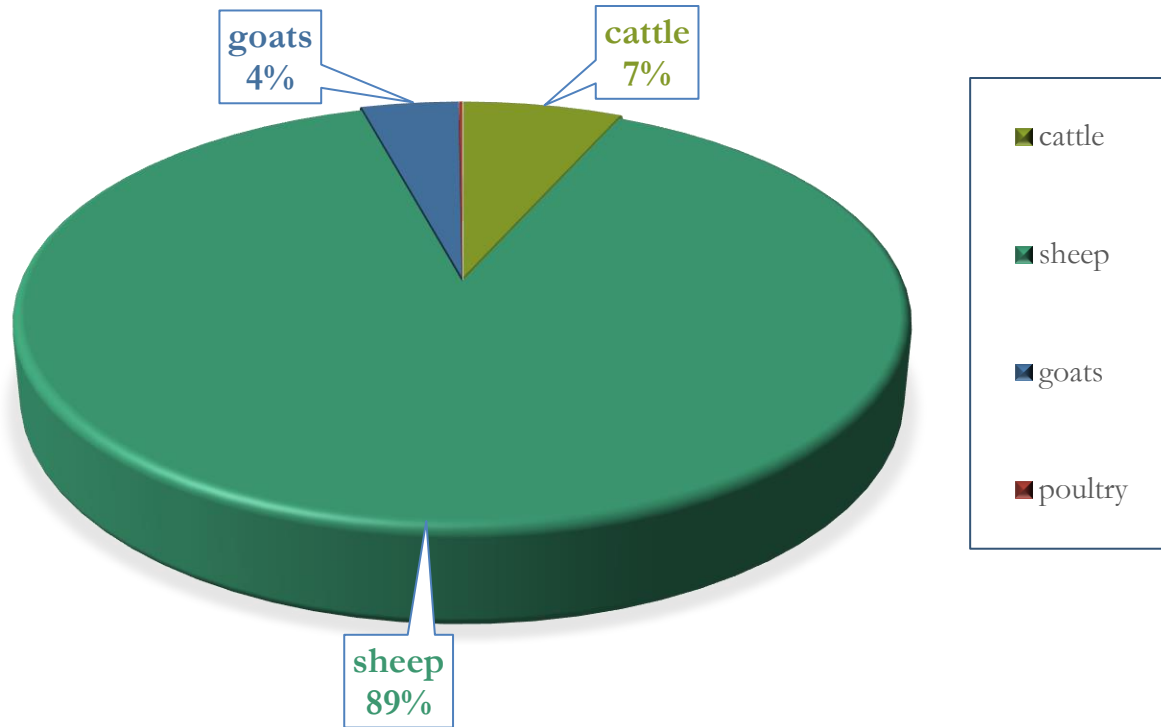


Type of culture	ha
Cereals	1.648
Fodder crops	994,5
Oil crops	21,6
Industrial crops / medicinal and aromatic	613,6
Fruit crops	1.060,9
Vine crops	152,2
Vegetables	100,0

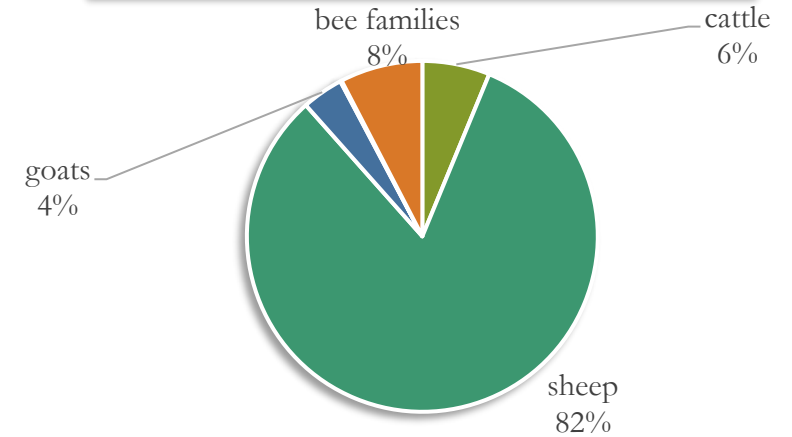
Cereals have the largest share in organic crop production, followed by fodder, industrial/medicinal and aromatic crops, followed by fruits, grapes and fresh vegetables whose share in total organic production is about 2-3%, and oil crops by 1%.



## Livestock production - 2022year



## Livestock and beekeeping production - 2022year



kind of animal	Number of heads
cattle	8.239
sheep	108.707
goats	5.043
poultry	171
bee families	10.072

In livestock production, the leading branch is sheep breeding (89% of organic livestock production). The share of organic goat breeding and cattle breeding is 4-7%. The organic livestock production is impeded by lack or expensive organic feed. As the sheep breeding practises are mainly nomadic on “clean” mountainous pastures, this sector is much “easier” to be certified as organic.





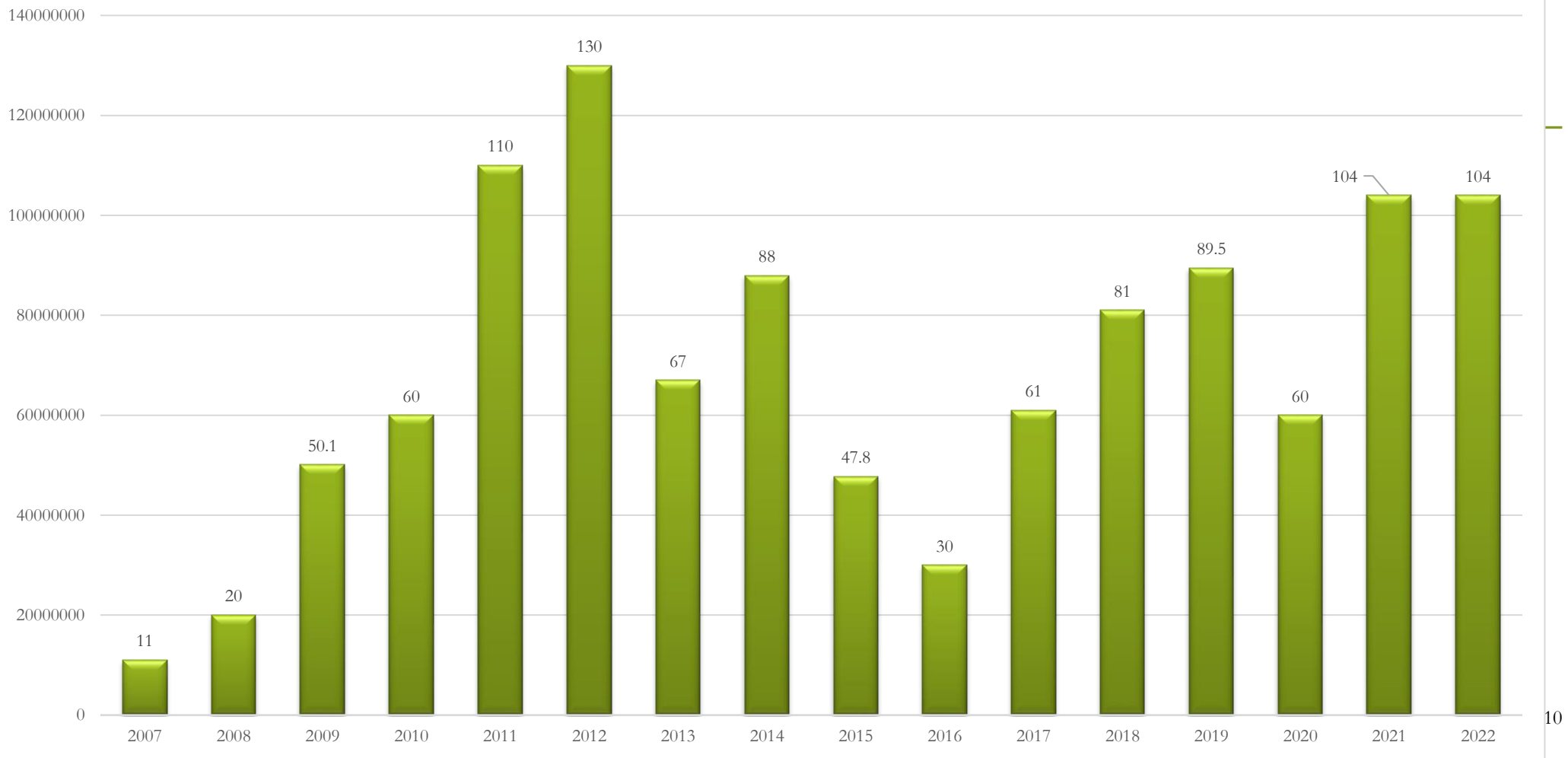
## Financial support

According to the National Program for Agriculture and Rural Development 2023-2027, the financial support of organic production continues in 2023. Support for organic production in 2023 is for additional direct payments with:

- 30% - conventional fodder production,
- 50% - agricultural crops, livestock and beekeeping,
- 70% -fruit growing and viticulture and
- 100% - horticultural production, as well as
- covering 50% of the costs for certification of organic production and covering 70% of the costs for agrochemical, pedological or analysis of pesticide residues, heavy metals, etc. materials on soil and in organic products.



Amount of financial support for organic agricultural production 2007-2022  
year/in million denars





## ➤ market access



- ✓ Organic production has a limited domestic market. There is an increased export demand for organic products, such as essential oils, herbs, spices, fruits, vegetables and honey.
- ✓ The supply of processed organic products is almost insignificant and there are almost no links between organic farmers and processors. Organic production needs greater recognition and verification of increased market value through higher prices, which for the most part is still not the case and is often sold without the necessary differentiation.
- ✓ On the domestic market there is a small supply of input materials for crop production, including seeds and seedlings and protective products permitted for use in organic crop production. The absence of animal feed and appropriate veterinary medicine for organic livestock breeding is a weakness for the further development of certified organic meat and dairy products.



➤ **market access**

The ecosystems in the Republic of North Macedonia are characterized by great biological diversity, which enables the offer of a large number of wild products on the markets in the country and abroad.

The sale of organic products directly from the farm or on the green markets, although it is an important sales channel in all developed markets, in the Republic of North Macedonia is almost non-existent. The habits for buying organic products, according to the current market structure (producers, buyers, wholesalers and retailers), are aimed only at supermarkets, and at the same time there is almost no habit among consumers to purchase products directly from the farm.



➤ **market access**

- ❖ In order to increase market consumption, the focus of policies to support recognized organizations of organic producers will be to support common activities to finalize organic production in the formal trade channels, improve the marketing of organic products in the country and abroad and increase public awareness of organic food.





## Prospects and way forward

### **Short/medium term Priorities for Organic Farming:**

- to increase the competitiveness of organic production in the Republic of North Macedonia for successful placement on domestic and foreign markets.

### **Support is needed to:**

- Establish an electronic system of databases of organic agricultural production,
- Training of farmers in primary production, use of protection products in organic production and
- Development of livestock organic production and obtaining final organic products (meat and dairy products).
- We need support from domestic and foreign experts to prepare by laws in the process for harmonization with EU legislation





*Thank you for your attention*

