



# Challenges of the organic sector in N. Macedonia

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# Introduction

Description of natural areas, soils, climate and agricultural land on the territory of the Republic of N. Macedonia:

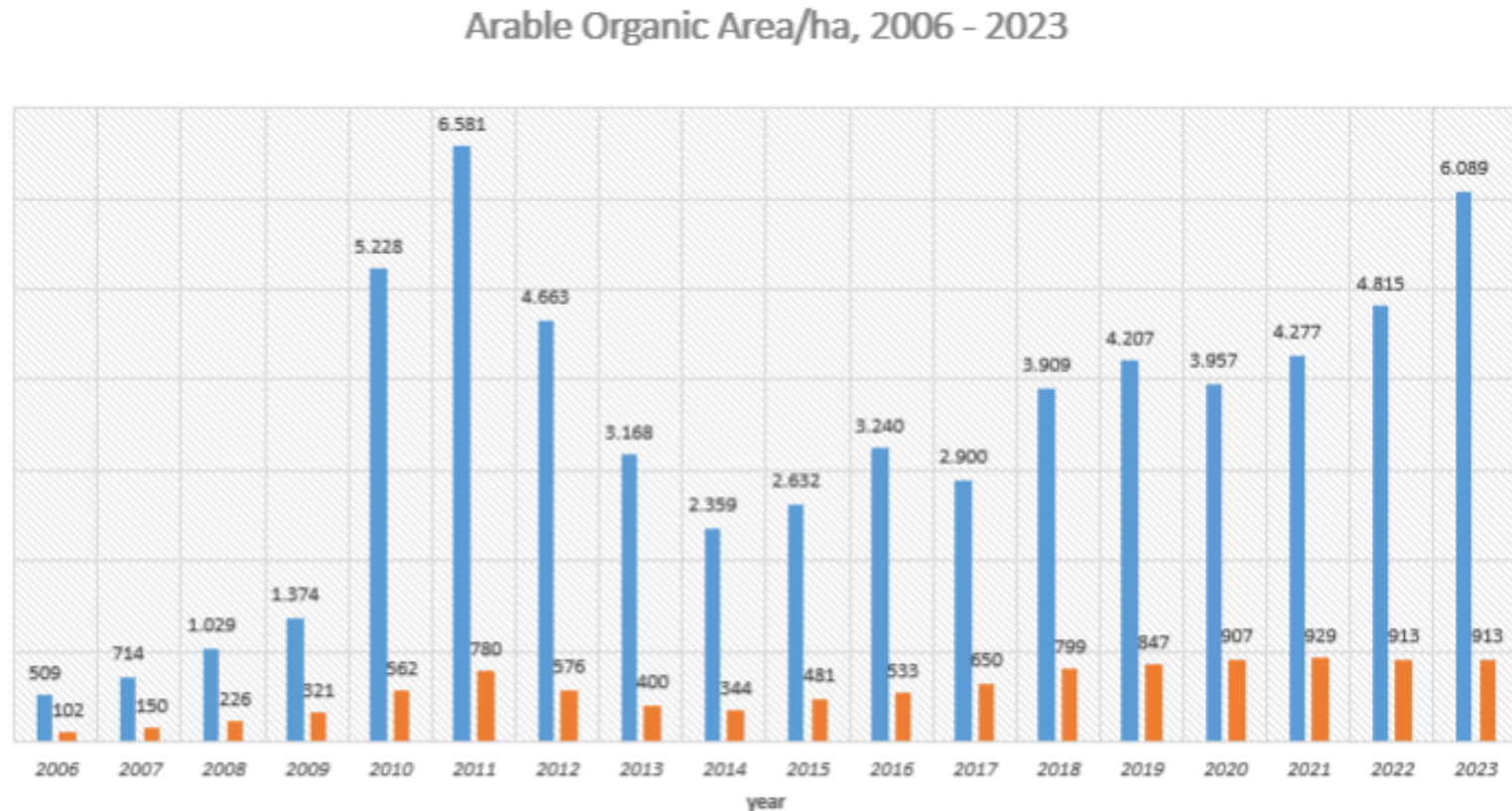
- total area of the Republic of N. Macedonia 25.713 km<sup>2</sup>
- mountains 80%, lowlands 19%, natural lakes 2%
- developed hydrologic network
- more than 30 soil types
- continental and Mediterranean climate
- 41% agriculture land (about 1.063.000 ha) of the total area, out of which 1/2 of agriculture land is arable area

# Introduction

- the organic sector in general in N. Macedonia is increasingly popular, but still faced with several significant challenges
- significant degree of divergence of the statistical data relevant to this sector can be observed by analyzing the data from the past almost two decades as in terms of:
  - the number of operators
  - certified areas
  - certified livestock farms
  - processing facilities
  - even in the extent of annual subsidies for organic agricultural production

# Statistical Data

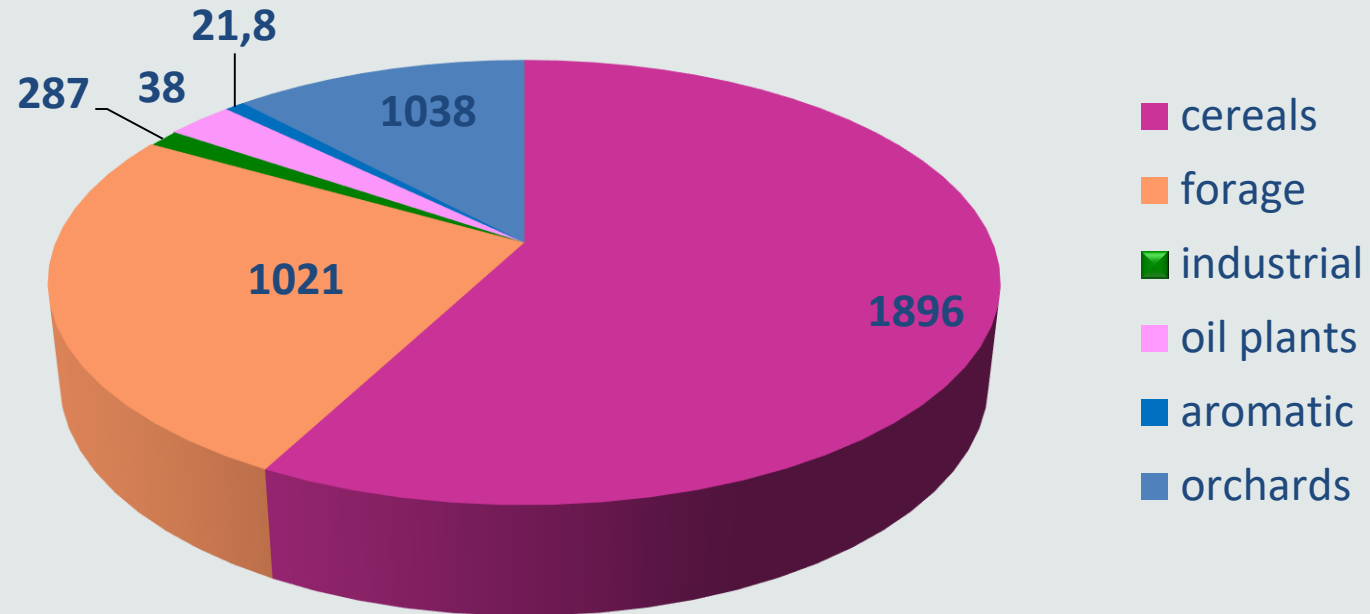
year	Arable organically certified area/ha, 2006-2023	number of operators
2006	509	102
2007	714	150
2008	1.029	226
2009	1.374	321
2010	5.228	562
2011	6.581	780
2012	4.663	576
2013	3.168	400
2014	2.359	344
2015	2.632	481
2016	3.240	533
2017	2.900	650
2018	3.909	799
2019	4.207	847
2020	3.957	907
2021	4.277	929
2022	4.815	913
2023	6.089	913



number of operators  
 Arable organically certified area ( max. in 2011 year, 1,22 % of agriculture arable land)

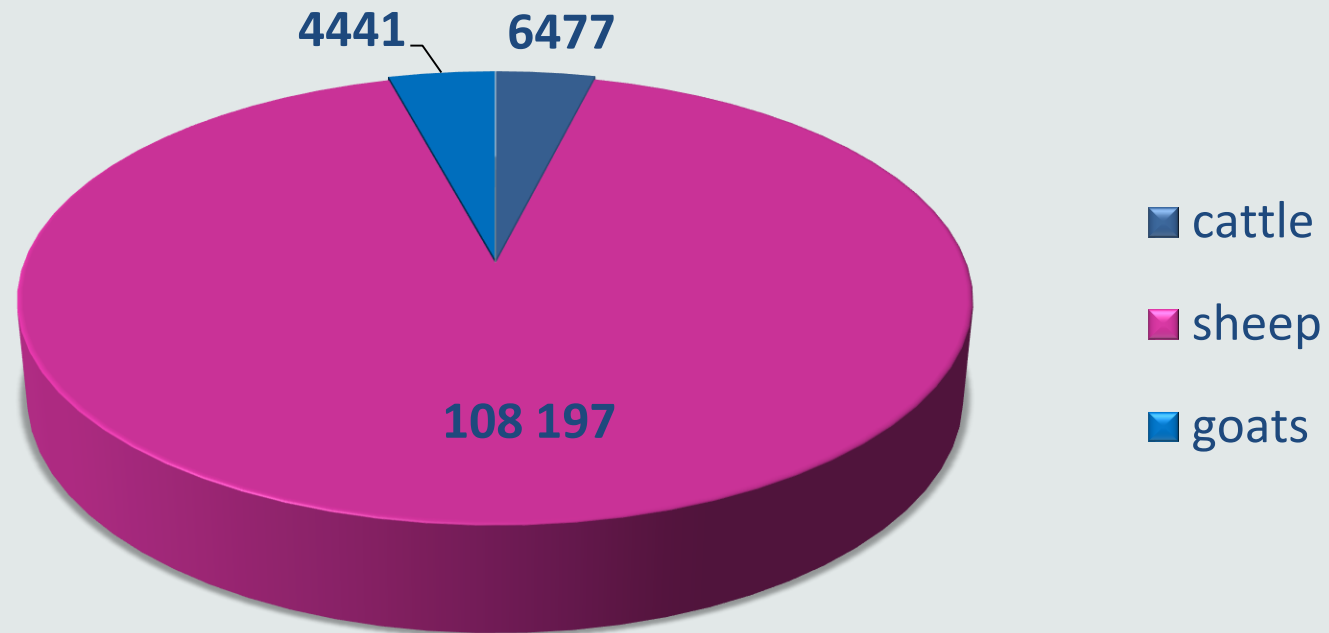
# Statistical Data

Plant Production (ha) – 2023:



# Statistical Data

Livestock Production – 2023:





# Statistical Data

Despite:

- the regular adoption of laws regulations
- strategies for the development of this sector
- subsidizing producers and processors
- organizing and visiting fair events
- including curricula in the field of organic production in different levels of the educational process
- etc...

... which are the reasons for such divergent movements and situations with the organic sector in the Republic of N. Macedonia?

# Chronology of Legislation / Policy

- Law on Organic Agricultural Production (2004)
  - regulates organic agricultural production
  - defines conditions for obtaining certificates
  - introduces standards for production control
- Bylaws (2004-2006)
  - after the enactment of the law in 2004, several by-laws were enacted detailing the standards and procedures for certification, inspection and labeling of organic products
- National Strategy with Action Plan for Organic Production in the Republic of Macedonia 2008 – 2011
  - creating conditions for sustainable development of organic agriculture
  - increase production
  - improve market conditions for organic products

# Chronology of Legislation / Policy

- Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Organic Agricultural Production (2009)
  - advancement of certification procedures
  - additional harmonization with the regulations of the European Union
  - national logo for organic product (Off. Gazette of the RM, No.146/2009, 07.12.2009 and No. 53/2011, 14.04.2011)



- By laws and Lists Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007, 28.06.2007 and Council Regulation (EC) 889/2008, 05.09.2008 (Off. Gazette of the RM, No.161/2010, 15.12.2010 and No. 163/2010, 17.12.2010)

# Chronology of Legislation / Policy

- National Strategy with Action Plan for Organic Production in the Republic of Macedonia 2013 – 2020
  - increasing of the organic agriculture areas
  - improving the quality of organic products.
  - vision for developing organic agriculture as an important part of the national economy, through:
    - sustainable management of natural resources
    - increasing competitiveness
    - ensuring market access for organic products
- Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Organic Agricultural Production (2012)
  - adjustment of the Macedonian legislation with the new EU standards for organic agriculture
  - new criteria for certification and labeling

# Chronology of Legislation / Policy

- Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Organic Agricultural Production (2015)
  - the capacities for control and inspection of organic production are strengthened
  - increased transparency in the certification and support of small organic producers
- Rural Development Program (2017)
  - aims to encourage economic and social development in the rural areas, with an emphasis on:
    - sustainable agriculture
    - infrastructure modernization
    - diversification of rural economic activities
    - environmental protection
  - strong focus on inclusive development, support for:
    - young producers
    - female producers
    - retail producers
  - introduction of subsidies for organic producers
  - the development of organic agriculture is promoted as part of the national agrarian policy.

# Chronology of Legislation / Policy

- New Law on Organic Agriculture (2021)
  - seeks to modernize organic production in accordance with the latest European standards, especially in the terms of:
    - certification
    - control
    - international trade in organic products
  - enables an increase of the support of the organic producers through subsidies and financial assistance
- Current changes (2023 - 2024)
  - announced digitalization of the certification procedures
  - increasing inspections to prevent irregularities in the production of organic food

# Chronology of Legislation / Policy

All these laws and amendments are shaping the legal framework of organic agriculture in Macedonia and are ensuring continuous adaptation of the regulations according to the European and international standards.

The “Goce Delčev” University in Štip contributes to the promotion and improvement of the situation with the organic sector in Macedonia.

# Examples of Subsidizing Organic Production in the R.N. Macedonia - 2022

Expert control and certification are covered by the state with 50% and 70%, but no more than 9000 Macedonian denars (146 €), following:

- analyzes of soil properties
- detection of pesticide residues, heavy metals and other harmful substances

Farmers can receive subsidies for organic products, for their **processing, finishing and packaging**, up to 150,000 Macedonian denars per user (**2439 €**).

Support by refunding 5% of the product value or up to 150,000 Macedonian denars is provided for:

- the export of fresh and processed organic products
- products originating from transitioned production (inorganic to organic)



# Examples of Subsidizing Organic Production in the R.N. Macedonia - 2023

Support for organic production continues with additional direct payments with an increase compared to conventional production of:

- 30% for fodder crops
- 50% for field crops, livestock and beekeeping
- 70% for fruit growing and viticulture
- with an increase of 100% for vegetable production

# Examples of Subsidizing Organic Production in the R.N. Macedonia

Alexo Kojovski from the village of Bučin is producing organic pepper with his family for the third consecutive year.

He has contract with the pepper processors.



# Examples of Subsidizing Organic Production in the R.N. Macedonia

- for those delivered to a processing facility, there are additional subsidies of 6 denars per kilogram (100% more than conventionally produced) for the producers of organic "kurtovska kapija"
- i.e., if he delivers 5,000 kilograms per hectare, he will receive an additional 30,000 denars
- or together with the subsidies per area, a total of 102,000 denars (1,700 €)

source: <https://agrotim.mk/organsko-proizvodstvo-prednosti-sbvencii-perspektiva/>

# Examples of Subsidizing Organic Production in the R.N. Macedonia - 2023

As positive example we can mention the Project supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation through the Program for Increasing Market Employability - I.M.E Program:

"PRODUCTION OF ORGANIC PEPPER IN CONTRACT WITH PEPPER PROCESSORS"

- high subsidies of 72,000 denars (1171 €) per hectare of organic pepper and other benefits
- i.e., if you decide to produce organic pepper of the "kurtovska kapija" variety, then you have 60,000 Macedonian denars (about 1000 €) per hectare, twice more subsidies than conventional production which is 30,000 denars or about 500 € per hectare
- if your area is from 1 to 5 hectares, then you can receive MKD 72,000 (1171 €) per hectare

source: <https://agrotim.mk/organsko-proizvodstvo-prednosti-sbvencii-perspektiva/>

# Weaknesses of the Development of Organic Agriculture in the R. N. Macedonia

We wonder which are the weaknesses of the development of organic agriculture in the Republic of N. Macedonia?

- lack of organically certified seeds and planting material?
- lack of pesticides and fertilizers allowed in organic production?
- the distance to markets?
- low level of promotion and education of the organic sector?
- the price of organic products is higher than the purchasing power of the citizens?

treba li uste da stoe ovaj link? source: <https://agrotim.mk/organsko-proizvodstvo-prednosti-sbvencii-perspektiva/>

# Weaknesses of the Development of Organic Agriculture in the R. N. Macedonia

What should be undertaken?

-Greater education for this type of production for:

- producers
- consumers
- cooperation
- educational workshops
- greater representation in the media about the benefits of organic production
- attendance at fairs and their support
- joint promotion

# Contribution of the Faculty of Agriculture - Goce Delčev University in Štip to the Promotion and Improvement of the Situation with the Organic Sector in R.N. Macedonia

Department of  
Agriculture



Unit for  
Organic  
Production

- State Agricultural Inspectorate - SAI
- Agency for food and veterinary - AFV
- Institute for accreditation of the RM - IARM
- Agency for financial support in agriculture and rural development - AFSARD
- **Agriculture Faculties**
- National Federation of organic associations – FPOPM
- Accredited and authorized control bodies

# Contribution of the Faculty of Agriculture - Goce Delčev University in Štip to the Promotion and Improvement of the Situation with the Organic Sector in R.N. Macedonia

Study programs – Master degree:  
Department of Plant Production, **Organic Agriculture Module**

## Gene Bank Facilities at the Faculty of Agriculture



- Short-term and mid-term storage conditions
- Used for storage of own breeding germplasm collections
- Other germplasm collections used as breeding resources



# Contribution of the Faculty of Agriculture - Goce Delčev University in Štip to the Promotion and Improvement of the Situation with the Organic Sector in R.N. Macedonia

## Laboratory Facilities



# Contribution of the Faculty of Agriculture - Goce Delčev University in Štip to the Promotion and Improvement of the Situation with the Organic Sector in R.N. Macedonia

Organic agriculture related publications:

- Mihajlov, Lj., Trajkova, F., Zlatkovski, V., Hristova E. **2011. Biodiversity in the Republic of Macedonia.** Journal of Life Sciences, Vol. 5, pp. 873-877.
- Mihajlov, Lj., Trajkova, F., Zlatkovski, V. **2010. Technology for organic production of soybean in Macedonia.** Book of Abstracts. International Conference on Organic Agriculture in Scope of Environmental Problems, 03 – 07 February 2010, Famagusta, Cyprus Island, p. 37.
- **Study on sustainable development of organic farming in the East planning region.** Goce Delčev University, Faculty of Agriculture, Štip, **2010**, pp. 166.
- Mihajlov, Lj., Trajkova, F., Zlatkovski, V. **2010. Climate change and the impact on agriculture in Republic of Macedonia.** Book of Abstracts. Second Balkan Conference on Biology, 21-23 May 2010, Plovdiv, Bulgaria, p.42

# Contribution of the Faculty of Agriculture - Goce Delčev University in Štip to the Promotion and Improvement of the Situation with the Organic Sector in R.N. Macedonia

Organic agriculture related publications:

- Zlatkovski, V., Mihajlov, Lj., Trajkova F., Bičikliski, O. 2010. **Status and development of organic agriculture in the Republic of Macedonia**. Book of Abstracts. International Conference on Organic Agriculture in Scope of Environmental Problems, 03 – 07 February 2010, Famagusta, Cyprus Island, p. 130.
- Mihajlov, Lj. 2009. **Guidelines for organic production of soybean**. MAFWM. pp. 100.
- Mihajlov, Lj. 2007. **Guidelines for organic production of tomato**. MAFWM. pp. 53.
- Koleva-Gudeva, L. 2007. **Guidelines for organic production of pepper**. MAFWM. pp. 60.

# Contribution of the Faculty of Agriculture - Goce Delčev University in Štip to the Promotion and Improvement of the Situation with the Organic Sector in R.N. Macedonia

Faculty trial fields:



Strumica



Balvan



Ovče Pole – Amzabegovo  
(under organic certification)



**Thank you for your attention!**