

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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STATUS AND DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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ABSTRACT

Traditional way of production in agriculture had never disappeared in the Republic of Macedonia. Such production still exists in remote areas, where human influence over the nature did not succeed to harm the environment as in the area where intensive agriculture is practiced. Although until 2005 there was no certified organic production, through current governmental support program much has been done in order to promote rural areas potential in organic agriculture.

Keywords: EU Reg. 2092/91, EU Reg. 834/2007, traditional production, support program, harmonized legal framework

INTRODUCTION

This poster gives overview to the previous and current Legislation fully harmonized with latest EU regulation on organic agriculture. It also gives perspective over the National support program through the years, and the reflection of such program to the development of organic agriculture in Macedonia.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The development of organic agriculture begun in 2004 after the First National Law on Organic Agriculture [3] was adopted by the National Assembly. It was based on EU Reg.2092/91 [2] and since then many efforts were give in order to introduce to Macedonian farmers the opportunity they have thus transforming the handicap into advantage (Figure 1). The number of certified grower records is increasing (Figure 2), mostly in crops with less demand for technology like medicinal herbs, indigenous species and specific fruits (Figure 4, Figure 5).

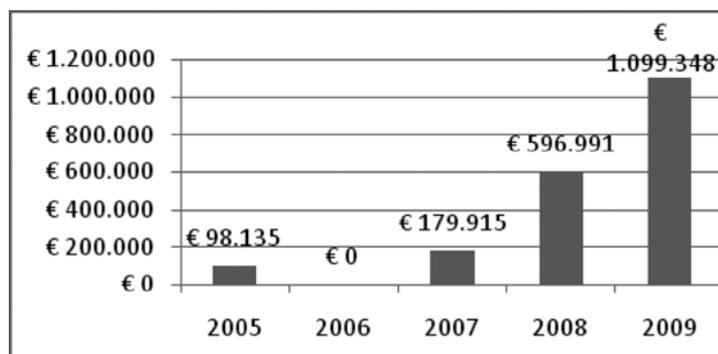


Figure 1. Level of government subsidy for organic production over the years.

In 2006 with assisted by Swiss' SDC & FiBL a National Strategy and Action Plan 2008-2011 [5] has been developed. That document was the turning point for driving the development of the organic agriculture, as primary goals were set as well as the identification of the rest of the participants who have their role in the development process (Figure 1).

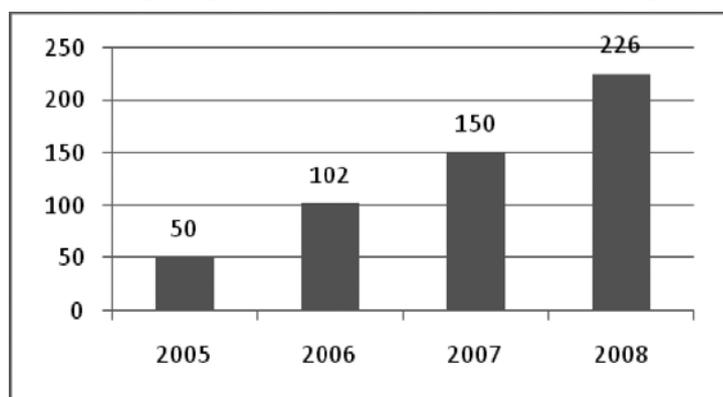


Figure 2. Increasing trend of number of organic farms

After EU had issued the new regulation (EU Reg. 834/2007 [1]) Macedonia decided to follow the path by preparing a new, fully harmonized with EU Regulation Law on Organic, which makes The Republic of Macedonia the only country in the Western Balkans (not EU member) having fully harmonized legal framework [4].

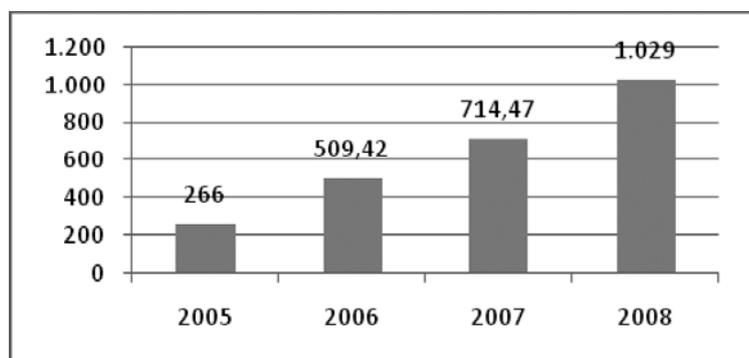


Figure 3. Certified area under organic production (ha).

On the other hand the number of growers reached a critical level as the volume of production is big enough to pose a problem for the grower and small enough to be considered as serious trading partner (Figure 3).

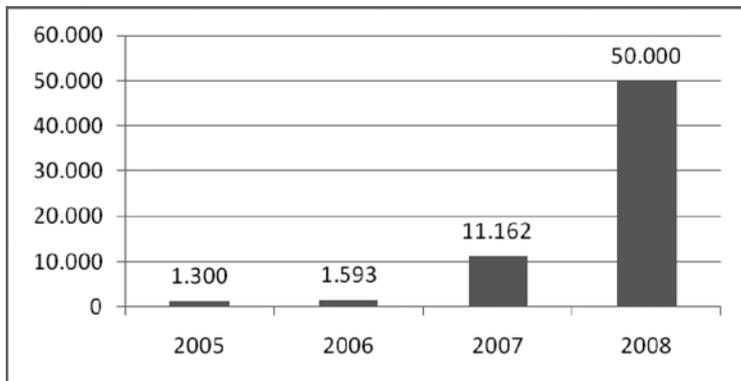


Figure 4. Area under organic pastures, indigenous species and fruits (ha).

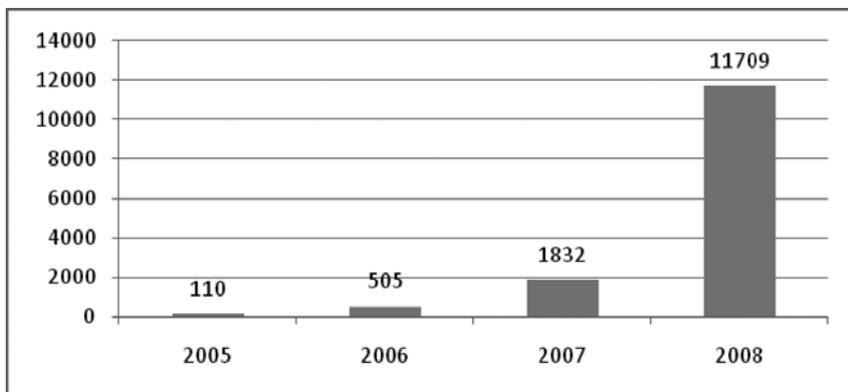


Figure. 5 Number of bee-hives certified as organic.

3. CONCLUSIONS

It is imminent for the farmers and the Government too, to understand the necessity for creating suitable development rather than subsidizing support program, as the marketing agencies are demanding ready-to-sell product.

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