Organic Data Networks

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Growth of the organic agricultural land 1999-2011

Source: FiBL-IFOAM-SOEL Surveys 2000-2013, based on data from governments, the private sector and certifiers.
Development of organic agricultural land in the regions 1999-2011

Source: FiBL-IFOAM-SOEL Surveys 2000-2013, based on data from governments, the private sector and certifiers.
Development of the number of organic farms 1999-2011

Source: FiBL-IFOAM surveys 1999-2013

Source: FiBL-IFOAM-SOEL Surveys 2000-2013, based on data from governments, the private sector and certifiers.
Development of the global market for organic food 2000-2011

Source: Organic Monitor, various years
Europe and European Union: Market growth 2004-2011

Source: FiBL-AMI Surveys 2000-2013
Development of the organic market in selected countries 2004-2011

Dotted lines: Due to fluctuating exchange rates a direct year-to-year comparison is not necessarily possible.
Organic data collection systems world-wide 2011 for data on area, operators and production (total 162 countries)

- Government collection systems (70 countries)
  - Data from the certifiers
  - Census/farm structure survey
  - Direct payments
- Private collection systems (35 countries)
  - Data from the certifiers
  - Company data
- No collection system (55 countries)
  - FiBL and IFOAM collect the data from the international certifiers

Source: FiBL and IFOAM 2013
1980s: Data collection begins

› **Private sector institutions** (mainly in Europe and North America) begin to collect data on organic agriculture on a country level (area totals and number of producers). The data are based on membership in the producer/sector organisations.
1994: Start of official data collection in all EU countries

1994: With the implementation of EU regulation on organic agriculture many EU countries start governmental data collection (area, producers), based on the data of the accredited certifiers.
1997: Eurostat starts its data collection

1997: **Eurostat** begins to compile the official data provided by the member states: area and producers. The types of data collected have increased substantially since then.
End 1990s: collection of market data begins

- End of 1990s: First countries begin to collect market and trade data (mainly domestic market). These activities are mainly carried out by the private sector. In 2000 a first study is released in the framework of the European OMIARD project, covering a number of European countries.

- ITC, the International Trade Centre releases a study with global market data.
1999: Data collection on organic agriculture worldwide starts

› BioFach asks the German Foundation Ecology & Agriculture (SÖL) to provide data on organic agriculture worldwide. Until today data collection is carried out by FiBL in cooperation with IFOAM with funding from BioFach.
Area, producers, markets – the ten leading countries 2011
2003: Denmark begins to collect external trade and domestic market data
2004: EISfOM Starts

› 2004: Beginning of the European EISfOM project (European Information System for Organic Market Data). Recommendations include to set up a centralized point for data collection, including market data.
2005: Data tables at the Eurostat website

- **2005: Eurostat** provides data collected among member states on its website with a dynamic data table.

![Dynamic data table example](image)
2006: Mediterranean Organic Agriculture Network starts to coordinate data collectionsince among ist member states
2010: FAOSTAT

- 2010: FAOSTAT includes organic farming in its annual survey on land use on organic agriculture worldwide. It includes the FiBL-IFOAM data into its Resources database.
2010: RUTA starts to coordinate data collection in Central America

› The network for Rural Development in central America (RUTA) begins joint data collection with FiBL-IFOAM
Organic farming

Organic agriculture is a production management system that aims to promote and enhance ecosystem health, including biological cycles and soil biological activity. It is based on minimizing the use of external inputs, and represents a deliberate attempt to make the best use of local natural resources. Methods are used to minimize pollution of air, soil and water. Organic agriculture comprises a range of land, crop and animal management procedures, circumscribed by a set of rules and limits usually enforced by inspection and certification mechanisms. Synthetic pesticides, mineral fertilizers, synthetic preservatives, pharmaceuticals, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), sewage sludge and irradiation are prohibited in all organic standards.

Growth rates of land under organic management in Western Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the United States of America have been impressive despite low-base beginnings and the reclassification of land. Between 1995 and 2010, the combined area of organic cultivation tripled to 38 million hectares. A number of industrial countries have action plans for developing organic agriculture. Targets are set for the sector’s growth and resources are allocated to compensate farmers during, and sometimes after, the conversion period, and also to support research and extension in organic agriculture.

Organic practices that encourage soil biological activity and nutrient cycling include: manipulating crop rotations and strip cropping; green manuring and organic fertilization (animal manure, compost, crop residues), minimum tillage or zero tillage and avoidance of pesticide and herbicide use. Research indicates that organic agriculture significantly increases the density of beneficial invertebrates, earthworms, root symbionts and other
2012: OrganicDataNetwork

- Funded under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development
- Running 2012-2014
- Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Raffaele Zanoli, University of Ancona
- AIM: The OrganicDataNetwork project aims to increase the transparency of the European market for organic food through better availability of market intelligence about the European organic sector in order to meet the needs of policy makers and market actors.

The OrganicDataNetwork project will:
- provide an overview of all relevant public and private organic data collectors;
- collect currently available data on organic markets in Europe, and produce a European database after having checked their reliability and consistency;
- develop a set of practical recommendations on data collection and dissemination (Code of Practice and a manual);
- improve the availability and the quality of published market reports on the organic sector in a number of case study countries;
- lay the foundations for a long-term collaboration on organic market data collection.
Germany: «Working Group Organic Market» - Data collection linked to data dissemination

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Quelle: Arbeitskreis Biomarkt auf Basis von GfK, Nielsen, Klaus Braun Kommunikationsberatung und BNN
Successful national data networks

› Work together on the data collection (e.g. Germany, France, Switzerland)
› Publish the data annually to show the sectors performance.
› Point of time of publication/presentation is known (Germany: BïoFach; Switzerland: Media event in March)
› Good PR work (media conference, press releases)
› Attractive, compact brochure
Conclusion

› In many countries, particularly in Europe, national networks exist that give good access to existing national market data related to organic agriculture.

› However, on an regional and international level, such activities are scarce even though FiBL and AMI have been providing market data (national totals) in the framework of the FIBL-IFOAM global statistics.

› The Eurostat database and network as well as the FAOSTAT database are promising developments, but do not yet focus on market data.

› Therefore, the OrganicDataNetwork activities are important to show ways how and international platform for organic market data can be set up.
The World of Organic Agriculture 2013

- 14th edition of The World of Organic Agriculture
- Is available at the FiBL and the IFOAM booths (Hall 1, Stands 150 and 240). There is a discount for IFOAM members
- After BioFach the book can be bought at the FiBL and (shop.fibl.org) IFOAM webshops www.ifoam.org.
- Presentations, key data and background is available at www.organic-world.net/yearbook-2013.html.