



UNDER THE BANNER OF NATURE CONSERVATION



2007 YEARBOOK

ORGANIC FARMING IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



The Olomouc-based Bioinstitut o.p.s. was established in 2004 as a partner organization for the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL Frick in Switzerland. The organization's task is to serve as an umbrella for research and education in organic farming, to facilitate the real-life application of scientific advances and research in the field of organic farming as well as to conduct publishing and educational activities both domestically and in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Besides international cooperation with FiBL, the IFOAM EU Group, the Avalon Foundation, and SVWO, Bioinstitut closely cooperates with the Faculty of Science of Palacký University Olomouc, Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno, the PRO-BIO Association of Ecological Farmers, the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment of the Czech Republic, and other organizations active in the area of organic farming, nature preservation, and landscape development.

Bioinstitut Activities:

The Application of Scientific Advances and Research in the Field of Organic Farming:

- Participation in the project titled, "Optimization of the Agricultural and River Landscape in the Czech Republic, with a Focus on the Development of Biodiversity," supported by the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports under the National Research Program, the Health and Quality Life Program.
- Work on the Czech part of the international "Organic Farmers for Nature" project, the goal of which is to create a network of model organic farms focusing on the preservation of nature and biodiversity. The network's goal is to achieve legislative changes supporting nature and landscape conservation.
- Development and management of an organic farming information network serving the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, data and information collection for the purposes of the Organic Europe database established by FiBL, the Swiss research institute.

Projects Addressing Education and the Dissemination of Information: educational lectures promoting organic farming and organic foods, plus "Let's Discover the Entire Agricultural Year on an Organic Farm" - a year-long practical course in organic farming located at the Biofarm Sasov.

Publishing: publishing original advisory handbooks on practical organic farming, FiBL handbooks, and educational materials; cooperation on PRO-BIO Association bulletins.

- Preparations for plant protection registered in the Czech Republic which can be used in organic farming; the update for 2007/2008
- Practical Handbook: 90 Arguments for organic farming
- Practical Handbook: Processing Organic Products under the Conditions of Primary Production
- Practical Handbook: Organic Potatoes
- Textbook: Organic Farming in Practice

Consulting and Advisory Services: an information and advisory center working within the framework of the project titled "Agri-Environmental Information and Advisory Centers in the Czech Republic: Creation of a Network in the Pardubice, Olomouc, Moravian-Silesian and Zlín Regions."

Areas for Which we Provide Advisory Services:

- Agri-Environmental Programs: options, subsidies, preparation for inspection
- Advisory Services for Managing the Agricultural Landscape: farming plans for agricultural enterprises focused on nature conservation
- Organic Farming: Plans for converting to organic farming, education, marketing
- Organic Foods: Production, labeling, promotion, sale, information for consumers of organic foods

You can find out more about the activities of Bioinstitut in our 2006 Annual Report, which is available on our website:

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Introduction

In 2007, organic farming in the Czech Republic showed considerable development. As of December 31, 2007, the share of organically farmed land was approximately 7.35 % of the total agricultural acreage. On the same date, the acreage of grassland was more than 257,000 ha. In comparison to the previous year, the acreage of arable land grew by nearly 6 thousand hectares to a total of 29,505 ha. The greatest increase occurred in vineyards which (from a total of 1,870 ha of land under permanent cultivation) grew from 18.9 ha in 2006 to 245 ha. Compared to last year, the number of organic farmers increased by 355 farms, which means that on 31.12. 2007 there were 1,318 organic farms and 253 producers of organic food registered in the Czech Republic. The considerable increase in interest in organic agriculture is mainly due to the advantageous allowances for organic farmers and organic food producers under the new Rural Development Program (EAFRD, 2007 - 2013). Another important aspect is the increased demand for organic raw materials from producers of organic food-stuffs, caused by growing interest from abroad. With regard to marketing and general promotion of organic food, various retail chains launched massive consumer campaigns promoting their own brands of organic food, and this played an essential role in 2007. One of the sustainable production and consumption programs prepared in 2007 was the "Organic Farming and Organic Food Program," which was approved by the Council of the Czech Government on May 10, 2007. This program defines numerous measures for supporting the development of organic farming and the consumption of organic food in the Czech Republic. Implementation of these measures has been estimated to require approximately CZK 10 million annually. The program will be launched in 2008.

Úvod

Ekologické zemědělství v roce 2007 dosáhlo v České republice výrazného rozvoje. Podíl ekologicky obhospodávané plochy na celkové výměře zemědělské půdy byl k 31.12. 2007 cca 7,35%. Výměra travních porostů dosáhla k tomuto datu více než 257 000 ha. Téměř o 6 tisíc ha se oproti předchozímu roku zvýšila výměra orné půdy (29 505 ha). Největší nárůst je patrný u vinic (z celkových 1.870 ha trvalých kultur činí vinice 245 ha oproti 18,9 ha v roce 2006). Počet ekologických zemědělců se v porovnání s loňským rokem zvýšil téměř o 355 farem, takže k 31. 12. 2007 je v ČR registrováno 1.318 ekologických farem a 253 výrobců biopotravin. Za razantním zvýšením zájmu o ekologické zemědělství stojí zejména zvýhodněná bonifikace ekozemědělců a výrobců biopotravin v novém Programu rozvoje venkova (PRV, 2007 - 2013). Významnou roli hraje i zvýšení poptávky po biosurovinách ze strany výrobců biopotravin, které je také způsobeno zvýšeným zájmem zahraničních odběratelů. Z pohledu marketingu a obecné propagace biopotravin sehrály v roce 2007 zásadní roli masivní spotřebitelské kampaně maloobchodních řetězců propagující své privátní značky biopotravin. Jako jeden z programů udržitelné spotřeby a výroby byl v roce 2007 připraven a 10. 5. 2007 Radou vlády pro udržitelný rozvoj také schválen program udržitelné spotřeby a výroby „Ekologické zemědělství a biopotraviny“. Tento program stanovuje řadu opatření na podporu rozvoje ekologického zemědělství a spotřeby biopotravin v ČR, jejichž realizace by si vyžádala přibližně 10 milionů Kč ročně. Plnění tohoto programu bude zahájeno v roce 2008. Úplné znění programu je dostupné na stránkách Ministerstva zemědělství (www.mze.cz).



„Ekologické zemědělství hraje velkou roli při údržbě pestré a zdravé krajiny. Jeho podporou pomůžeme zachovávat tradiční krajinný ráz českého venkova.“

Mgr. Petr Gandalovič, ministr zemědělství

„Organic farming plays an important role in the maintenance of a diverse and healthy landscape. By supporting organic farming, we help to conserve the traditional character of the Czech rural landscape.“

Mgr. Petr Gandalovič, Czech Minister of Agriculture

Bioinstitut, o.p.s. - The Institute for Ecological Agriculture and Sustainable Landscape Management has prepared a national report about the state of organic farming in the Czech Republic. The report was published in Czech and English as the "Organic Farming in the Czech Republic – the 2006 Yearbook" and is also available in English as "Country Report" at www.organic-europe.net. The publication that you are holding in your hands updates last year's report. It expands its scope by introducing other projects and its conclusion focuses on introducing a few organic farms which have an active attitude towards land conservation. At the time this report was being prepared, most of the available statistical data about the state of organic farming in the Czech Republic were from 2006, however, some of the basic data come from 2007.

Bioinstitut Olomouc, Joint Authors

The Current State of Organic Farming in Numbers

The Development of Structure

In 2007, the number of organic farms – and with it, the amount of organically farmed land – has again increased. After a slight decrease in 2005, its share of the total measure of the Czech Republic's agricultural land fund reached 7.35% as of December 31, 2007. As of this date, 1,318 organic enterprises were in operation in the Czech Republic. For the most part, this trend was the result of the approval in 2006 of the Rural Development Program (RDP), which, starting in 2007, replaced the system of governmental support under the jurisdiction of the HRDP. In the end, the originally promised amount

Table 1 The Development of Organic Farming Statistical Data as of 31 December 2007

| | 31 Dec 2006 | 31 Dec 2007 |
|---|-------------|--|
| Number of organic food producers | 152 | 253 |
| Number of organic farms | 963 | 1,318 |
| Area of agriculture land in organic farming (ha) | 281,535 | 312,890 |
| Share of organic farming of the total area of agricultural land in (ha) | 6.61 | 7.35 |
| Arable land area (ha) | 23,478 | 29,505 |
| Permanent grassland area (ha) | 232,189 | 257,899 |
| Permanent crops (orchards, vineyards) (ha) | 1,195 | 1,870 (of that 1,625 ha of orchards and 245 ha vineyards) |
| Other land use (ha) | 24,670 | 23,616 |

Source: The Ministry of Agriculture



was not approved by the government, but it still resulted in a significant increase in compensation, especially for permanent crops (orchards, vineyards, hop yards) and special herbs and vegetables.

Table 2 The Development of Total Area of Organically Farmed Land in the Czech Republic

| Year | Number of Enterprises | Total Area under OF in ha | Percentage of the Agricultural Land Fund |
|------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1990 | 3 | 480 | ^^ |
| 1991 | 132 | 17,507 | 0.41 |
| 1992 | 135 | 15,371 | 0.36 |
| 1993 | 141 | 15,667 | 0.37 |
| 1994 | 187 | 15,818 | 0.37 |
| 1995 | 181 | 14,982 | 0.35 |
| 1996 | 182 | 17,022 | 0.4 |
| 1997 | 211 | 20,239 | 0.47 |
| 1998 | 348 | 71,621 | 1.67 |
| 1999 | 473 | 110,756 | 2.58 |
| 2000 | 563 | 165,699 | 3.86 |
| 2001 | 654 | 217,869 | 5.09 |
| 2002 | 721 | 235,136 | 5.5 |
| 2003 | 810 | 254,995 | 5.97 |
| 2004 | 836 | 263,299 | 6.16 |
| 2005 | 829 | 254,982 | 5.98 |
| 2006 | 963 | 281,535 | 6.61 |
| 2007 | 1 318 | 312,890 | 7.35 |

Source: The Ministry of Agriculture (Data as of December 31, 2007)

The main reason for the increase in the number of organic farmers is the increase in the compensation amounts for organic farming within the Rural Development Program 2007 – 2013 (RDP). Other motivating factors for entering OF are the creation of a competitive environment in the area of the price for the inspection of organic farms as well as the growing demand for organic commodities from producers of organic foods.

Table 3. The Number of OF Enterprises in as of December 31, 2006 and 2007

| Enterprises according to business type | Year 2006 | Year 2007 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Organic enterprises, applicants for registration | 963 | 1,318 |
| Organic food producers (including distribution) | 152 | 253 |
| Persons introducing organic products and foods to the market | 57* | 95* |
| Importers of organic foods from third-world countries | 13 | 18 |
| Producers of feed and seeds for sowing | 10 | 15 |
| Contract processing (independently registered) | 4 | 3 |
| Organic bee keepers | 1 | 6 |
| Total number of enterprises | 1200 | 1707 |

* In accordance with Act No. 242/2000 Coll. on organic farming, from 2006, retail stores which only sell organic foods to consumers in consumer packaging are not subject to a registration requirement. For this reason, these businesses are no longer included in the statistical overviews.

Source: The Ministry of Agriculture

Table 4 The Development of Organic Farming within the Agricultural Land Fund's Structure in the Czech Republic

| Land use | 2001 area (ha) | | 2002 area (ha) | | 2003 area (ha) | | 2004 area (ha) | | 2005 area (ha) | | 2006 area (ha) | |
|---------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| | Total | % | Total | % | Total | % | Total | % | Total | % | Total | % |
| Arable land | 19,164 | 8.78 | 19,536 | 8.31 | 19,637 | 7.7 | 19,694 | 7.5 | 20,766 | 8.1 | 23,478 | 8.3 |
| Permanent grassland | 195,633 | 89.69 | 211,924 | 90.13 | 231,683 | 90.86 | 235,379 | 89.4 | 209,956 | 82.4 | 232,190 | 82.5 |
| Permanent crops | 963 | 0.45 | 898 | 0.38 | 928 | 0.36 | 1,170 | 0.4 | 820 | 0.3 | 1,196 | 0.4 |
| Other land use | 2,354 | 1.08 | 2,778 | 1.18 | 2,747 | 1.08 | 7,056 | 2.7 | 23,440 | 9.2 | 24,671 | 8.7 |
| Total | 218,114 | 100 | 235,136 | 100 | 254,995 | 100 | 263,299 | 100 | 254,982 | 100 | 281,535 | 100 |

Source of Data: The Ministry of Agriculture, Prepared by: K. Dyrtrtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)

In 2007, the number of organic food producers increased by 101 enterprises to a total of 253. Greater marketability of organic foods fueled by increased consumer demand was the primary reason for this growth. Another motivation for many companies' conversion to organic production stems from the increase in incentives for organic farmers and organic processors visible in selected RDP measures. A positive trend leading to the production of organic foods can be also seen in the evolution of OF in the Agricultural Land Fund's structure. The predominant type of farming – on permanent grasslands in mountain and foothill areas and focused on landscape preservation and raising beef cattle – still remains the main characteristic of OF in the Czech Republic. With the increase in the amount of organically farmed land, permanent grassland (PG), however, has not increased. This has been typical for past periods as well, and this trend did not significantly contribute to the development of domestic organic food production (with the exception of beef.) In 2007, permanent grassland area increased to 257,899 ha. The amount of arable land (in 2007 it increased by 6,027 ha to a total of 29,505 ha) as well as the amount of permanent land with permanent crops has grown, which should be reflected in an increase in organic foods and food production.

Organic Food Processing and Production

In 2007, there were 253 registered & certified producers of organic foods. The increasing number of producers is undoubtedly a plus, considering the continuing shortage of organic foods on the Czech market. Besides well-established producers specializing only in organic foods (such as PRO-BIO obchodní spol. s.r.o., Sluneční brána s.r.o. and Country life s.r.o.,) other conventional producers and processors (i. e. Olma a.s., Jizerské pekárny, Kostelecké uzeniny, Emco, etc.) have started to introduce new organic food products, motivated by consumer interest. Supermarkets such as Interspar and Delvita (in 2006, it announced its departure from the Czech Republic) are responsible for a significant share of the increase in venues; certified branches offer their own fresh baked goods and even wrap and package beef.

Unfortunately, the smallest share consists of organic food processors and producers who process the foods directly on their farms. The problem with this type of production is the high investment necessary for the construction of such operations because they are subject to strict sanitary regulations. One impetus for increasing the number of such processors could be to add incentives for organic farmers and organic foods processors through selected measures under the RDP program (for example "Adding value to agricultural and food products.") The main organic milk processors (OLMA a.s., Polabské mlékárny Poděbrady a.s., and Valašské mlékárny, a.s.) constantly grapple with a shortage of raw materials and consequently have to reduce deliveries to their customers. The results of the study "The causes for stagnation of organic food production" prepared by EPOS by observing 83 organic farms from 2005 – 2006, reported a decrease in the number of dairy farmers by 33%, and no-

Table 5 An Overview of Organic Food Producers

| Organic Foods Producers and Processors | Number (as of 31.12.06) |
|--|-------------------------|
| Meat | 24 |
| Meat products | 2 |
| Milk | 10 |
| Fruit, vegetables, potatoes | 13 |
| Fruit and vegetable juices | 8 |
| Sugar | 1 |
| Flour and carbohydrate products | 11 |
| Products for baking and confectionery | 36 |
| Pasta | 4 |
| Teas and coffee | 11 |
| Spices and aromatic extracts | 4 |
| Beverages | 5 |
| Wine | 3 |
| Other food production | 20 |
| Total | 152 |

Source: The Ministry of Agriculture

ted that 40% of the organic milk production from these organic farms was sold as non-organic.

The main reason for this is thought to be the scattered nature of production, i.e., that organic farms are located too far from the organic dairies' delivery routes (making delivery costs too great.) Considering the massive investment necessary for housing and milking dairy cows along with increased wage costs, it is not highly likely that organic farms raising cows without milk production would be able to introduce or renew their dairy production in the foreseeable future.

The number of certified slaughterhouses and producers of organic meat from large farm animals is showing growth; however, only a few of these slaughterhouses are in active operation. Most of Czech farm production is still



processed in non-organic slaughterhouses or is exported abroad as non-organic. Currently, beef is mainly available as cuts for consumption and the development of organic meat products is still hampered by the shortage of organic pork. In September 2007, Moravan a.s. Petřvald (in the Moravian-Silesian Region) started a program called "Moravian Organic Beef," focusing on organically processing and producing meat and meat products. Beef cattle for slaughter from organic farms come mainly from North and North-east Moravia where, until now, organic processing has not been carried out on a large scale.

The number of viticulturists entering organic agriculture has grown significantly. As of December 31, 2007, 245 vineyards were registered, and more are anticipated. Not only the demand for organic wine on the European market, but also larger grants for organic vineyards from the RDP (at 23,368 CZK/ha) has contributed to the increased interest from viticulturists. Most of the new interest comes from viticulturists already registered in the integrated production system. The difficult transition to the organic system is made easier by active education and the specially targeted advisory system supported by the Integrated Production of Grapes and Wine Association, members of which make up the majority of the new organic growers. A significant role is also played by Biocont Laboratory Brno, which is mainly active in the area of biological pest control and is flexible about registering new alternative sprays against fungal diseases.

The Size of Organic Enterprises in the Czech Republic

The average size of an organic enterprise – 308.2 ha in 2005 – has decreased slightly to 292.7 ha in 2006. Despite this, the size of organic farms in the Czech Republic is significantly larger than in the surrounding EU countries where organic farms are represented mainly by traditional family-owned farms with an average size under 50 ha. In the Czech Republic, one third of organic farms remain enterprises with between 100 and 500

ha. As far as acreage, the largest percent (30%) is comprised of farms with 500 – 1,000 ha. The size of the largest organic farm is over 3,800 ha. Smaller farms (under 50 ha) are family-owned farms with mixed or specialized production on arable land (for example, vegetables, fruit, and herbs) and those with a varied mix of farm animals (cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, horses). Large organic farms (over 500 ha) are mostly represented by agricultural cooperatives, and joint stock, or limited liability companies focusing on raising beef and dairy cattle.

Table 6: The Size Structure of Enterprises in Organic Farming as of Dec. 31, 2006

| Size groups of Organic Enterprises according to area in ha | 2006 | | | |
|--|--------|------|----------|-------|
| | Number | | Area | |
| | Total | % | Total | % |
| 0 to 5 | 54 | 5.7 | 105.8 | 0.03 |
| 5 to 10 | 38 | 4 | 281 | 1.02 |
| 10 to 50 | 214 | 22.8 | 6,018.3 | 2.18 |
| 50 to <100 | 164 | 17.4 | 12,005.1 | 4.36 |
| 100 to 500 | 290 | 30.9 | 70,113.1 | 25.48 |
| 500 to 1000 | 115 | 12.2 | 84,772.3 | 30.81 |
| 1000 to 2000 | 53 | 5.6 | 73,597.5 | 26.74 |
| 2000 or more | 12 | 1.2 | 28,243.4 | 10.26 |

Source of Data: The Ministry of Agriculture, Prepared by: K. Dyrtrtová (Bioinstitut, .p.s.)

The Location of Organic Farms by Region

The mountain and foothill regions traditionally have the greatest representation within OF in the Czech Republic. Extensive farming on permanent grasslands still constitutes 82.4% of the total area used for organic farming. The Karlovy Vary and South Bohemian Regions, however, rank in the first two places, not only in terms of the number of organic farms but also in land area. The greatest number of organic enterprises in the Czech Republic is in the Šumperk Region (69 farms), followed by the

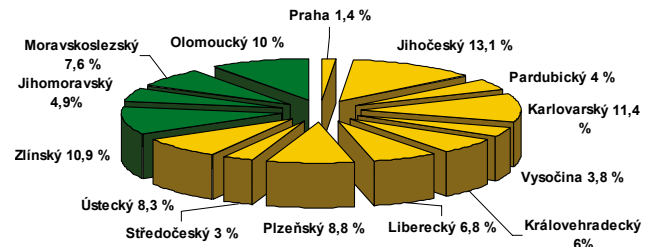


Cheb Region (57), Karlovy Vary Region (50), and Zlín Region (48.) One third of organic farms are located in Moravia. The leading regions in terms of the number of organic farms are Zlín and Olomouc, but the Moravian-Silesian Region – with its almost 35 thousand ha of organically farmed land – is very significant (it has the third largest area of the all the Czech Republic's regions). In the Czech Republic, besides the Karlovy Vary and South Bohemian Regions, the Plzeň and Ústí Regions are also very significant in terms of total area as well as the number of farms. Unfortunately, regions strong in production – such as the Central Bohemian, Pardubice and Vysočina Regions – are still poorly represented. But, even here, the number of enterprises is growing steadily. When monitoring annual growth by region, we have noticed that the Šumperk, Prachatice and Klatovy Regions have experienced the greatest development in their organic farming. On the other hand, areas still showing minimal representation in organic farming are the Karviná, Most, Teplice, Kutná Hora, and Louny Regions.

It must be added that the regional distribution of organic enterprises has been significantly influenced by the location of the PRO-BIO Association Centers. The work of the PRO-BIO advisors contributes to the development of organic farming in the areas where their advisory centers are active.

Graph 1

The Number of Organic Farms by Region in %



Graph 2

The Area of Organically Farmed Land by Region in %

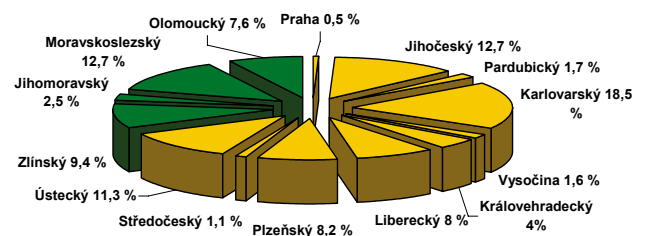


Table 7 Ranking According to the Number of Organic Farms by Region

Table 8 Ranking According to the Area of Organic Land by Region (ha)

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1. South Bohemian Region | 123 | 1. Karlovy Vary Region | 50,827.3 |
| 2. Karlovy Vary Region | 107 | 2. South Bohemian Region | 35,073.1 |
| 3. Zlín Region | 102 | 3. Moravian-Silesian Region | 34,949.3 |
| 4. Olomouc Region | 94 | 4. Ústí Region | 31,007.7 |
| 5. Plzeň Region | 83 | 5. Zlín Region | 25,872.9 |
| 6. Ústí Region | 78 | 6. Plzeň Region | 22,634.0 |
| 7. Moravian-Silesian Region | 71 | 7. Liberec Region | 22,086.9 |
| 8. Liberec Region | 64 | 8. Olomouc Region | 21,019.0 |
| 9. Hradec Králové Region | 56 | 9. Hradec Králové Region | 11,117.3 |
| 10. South Moravian Region | 46 | 10. South Moravian Region | 6,975.9 |
| 11. Pardubice Region | 38 | 11. Pardubice Region | 4,626.8 |
| 12. Vysočina Region | 36 | 12. Vysočina Region | 4,539.4 |
| 13. Central Bohemian Region | 28 | 13. Central Bohemian Region | 3,120.6 |
| 14. Prague | 13 | 14. Prague | 1,285.6 |

Source of Data: The Ministry of Agriculture, prepared by: K. Dyrtrtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)

Data Collection

In order to determine the accessibility of statistical data for organic farming, the Research Institute of Agricultural Economics (VÚZE) in Brno and the organic farming inspection bodies prepared statistical reports in 2007 on organic farms with the goal



of periodically collecting data on organic livestock and plant production for domestic as well as EU (EUROSTAT) use. At the time of the Yearbook's preparation, this data was not available. A periodic report about the state of organic farming in the Czech Republic is also prepared by Bioinstitut for the Organic Europe database established in Switzerland by FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture.) Statistical reports on organic farming are also to a limited extent prepared by the Czech Statistical Office.

This year for the first time, the "Czech Organic Foods Market" yearbook, which describes the recent development of the Czech organic foods market with a focus on 2006, was published commercially. Part of this study is also a general overview of the world and European organic foods markets. This yearbook was written by Green Marketing.

Organic Farming: Legislation and Inspection

■ Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007

On June 28, 2007, the new regulation by the European Parliament and the Council (834/2007) was officially published. As of January 1, 2009, it will replace the existing Council Regulation 2092/2091. The implementing rules for specific areas of organic production are the subject of negotiations starting in autumn 2007.

The new regulation's primary changes:

- The issue of public food was not included in the scope of the new Council Regulation and will be addressed by regulations at the national level.
- In contrast with the existing Council Regulation 2092/2091, the aims and basic principles of organic production have been summarized in one chapter.
- Expansion of its scope by adding aquaculture production, seaweeds and yeast
- It contains a summary catalog of exceptions from production rules under the "flexibility" motto.

- Changes in the labeling of organic products – 70% of the "valid to date" categories are abolished
- New obligatory labeling of all organic foods originating from within the EU with a European Union mark
- A summary of the CR (EC) 882/2004 inspection system: Regulation of foods and feed
- A change in the rules for the import of organic products from third-world countries – import of "conformity products" and "products with equivalency guarantee"
- A threshold of 0.9% GMO was set for inadvertent trace contamination.

■ Commission Regulations (EC) 349/2007 and 1319/2007

Legislative amendments from 2007 include, for example, Commission Regulations (EC) 349/2007 and 1319/2007, which increase the share of allowed feed originating from the transition period and specify rules for grazing animals on conventional pastures when switching from one pasture to another.

■ Inspection Organizations

There are three companies which monitor and certify organizations: KEZ, o.p.s. (Chrudim), ABCert GmbH (Brno) and Biokont CZ, s.r.o. (Brno).



■ PRO-BIO Association Production Guidelines

The PRO-BIO Association of Ecological Farmers approved an update of the association production guidelines, which have been prepared according to the guidelines of the Bioland Association and are approved by the Bio-Austria and Bio Suisse Associations. The guidelines constitute a higher standard which supports a holistic approach and improves the transparency of the entire system – from eco-production to processing organic products, from inspection and certification to the sale



of organic products. It requires that the organic enterprise be a strictly closed system, that more strictly detailed procedures for processing be adhered to, that the chemicals allowed for use in processing organic products be reduced, and that there be stricter requirements for farm animal welfare, in addition to other such regulations. Organic raw materials for organic foods with the PRO-BIO/Bioland standard offer purchasers and consumers organic foods produced under stricter conditions than those defined by Act No. 242/2000 Coll. and CR (EEC) 2092/91. Their standard offers thorough monitoring of raw materials from the producer to the dealer to the processor. Products made in compliance with these standards are considered equal to organic products with the Bioland label.

■ Natural and Organic Cosmetic Certification

In 2007, the Chrudim-based KEZ o.p.s. expanded its certification program, adding certification of natural cosmetics having a percentage of organic raw materials. Selected products from the cosmetics manufacturers Salus (M+H, Míča a Harašta s.r.o.), Botanicus spol. s.r.o., NobilisTilia s.r.o., and Syncare Plus s.r.o. received the CPK Certificate (Certified Natural Cosmetics) and CPK Bio Certificate.



The support of organic farming and organic food production, RDP

State support (repeatedly renewed from 1998) was disbursed up until 2003 on the basis of a Government Order by which support programs for the non-production functions of agriculture were defined.

From 2004 to 2006, the conditions for state support were amended by the Horizontal Rural Development Plan (HRDP), which included the "Organic Farming" measure stipulated by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 242/2004 as one of its agri-environmental measures. Organic farmers also had the option to use advantageous point allowances when applying for support from the Agricultural Operational Program (OP)

Starting in 2007, OF support was secured by the Rural Development Program 2007-2013 (RDP) program document, which replaces the HRDP and the Rural Development and Multi-Functional Agriculture Operational Program. In the framework of AEO/RDP, OF is supported by Government Order No. 79/2007 Coll.

Table 9 presents an overview of the amount of funds disbursed from 1998 to the present in the framework of the RDP. In the table, you will find an overview of the growth of payments that occurred during the transition to the RDP. The greatest growth was seen in funds for permanent crops (vineyards, orchards, hop gardens) – 90% – and permanent grasslands – 70%. The smallest increases occurred for arable land – only 20%.

Table 9 The Evolution of State Support for OF in CZK/ha

| Use of land | 1998 | 1999-2000 | 2001-2003 | 2004-2006 | 2007 | Growth IV/III (%) | Growth V/IV (%) |
|----------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | I | II | III | IV | V | | |
| Arable land | 2,200 | 2,130 | 2,000 | 3,520 | 4,266 | 76 | 21 |
| Permanent Grasslands | 2,200 | 1,065 | 1,000 | 1,100 | 1,954 | 10 | 77 |
| Permanent Crops | 2,200 | 3,195 | 3,500 | 12,235 | 23,368 | 250 | 90 |
| Vegetables | 2,200 | 2,130 | 3,500 | 11,050 | 15,524 | 216 | 40 |
| Special Herbs | 2,200 | 2,130 | 2,000 | 11,050 | 15,524 | 453 | 40 |

Source of Data: The Ministry of Agriculture, prepared by: K. Dyrtrtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)



Graph 3 provides an overview of the total funds applied for and received for organic farmland in the years 1998 – 2007. In 2007, there is a noticeably sharp increase in applications submitted within the framework of the RDP. The amount of grants received for 2007 was not known at the time this data was processed.

■ Support from RDP 2007-2013

Axis II – Improvement of the Environment and Countryside, II. 1.3. Agri-environmental Measures – Title II. 1.3.1.1. Organic Farming

Rate Amount:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Arable land | EUR 155/ha |
| Permanent grasslands | EUR 71/ha |
| Permanent crops | EUR 849/ha |
| Vegetables and special herbs | EUR 564/ha |

The rate amount in CZK will be determined in the following years by the EUR/CZK exchange rate. The exchange rate for 2007 is 27.525.

Organic farmers will receive the same amounts of payments on land area during the so-called transition period.

Taking into consideration the low amount of organic food production, the Ministry of Agriculture has decided to improve the allowance for organic farmers and organic food producers wi-

thin the framework of the RDP. In 2007, favorable allowances were applied according to the following guidelines:

Axis I – Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

1.1.1 For modernizing agricultural holdings

Applicants received a 27-point advantage if they engaged in OF on their entire area of farmed agricultural land or 15 points if they engaged in OF on at least 50% of the area of farmed agricultural land.

1.1.3 For increasing the added value of basic agricultural and forestry production

Organic food producers received a 20-point advantage compared to conventional farmers; producers who both registered as organic farmers and were simultaneously engaged in OF on the entire area of farmed land received an additional 15 points. Farmers who engaged in OF on at least 50% of the area of farmed land received 7 points.

1.3.3 In support of young farmers

An applicant in the transition period or registered as an organic entrepreneur and not engaging in other agricultural production at the same time receives 27 points. If an applicant in the transition period or registered as an organic entrepreneur engages in organic farming on at least 50% of area of agricultural land farmed, they can receive 15 points.

Axis III – The Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of the Rural Economy

III.1.1 For diversification in non-agricultural activities – objective a)

An applicant engaged in organic farming on their entire farmed area will receive 15 points; 10 points are given if this involves at least 50% of the area of land farmed.

III. 1.3 a), III.1.3 b) For support of tourism – objective b)

15 point advantages are given to organic farmers if they engage in organic farming on all the area of land farmed and 10 points if they engage in organic farming on at least 50% of the area of land farmed.

■ Support for Advisory Services

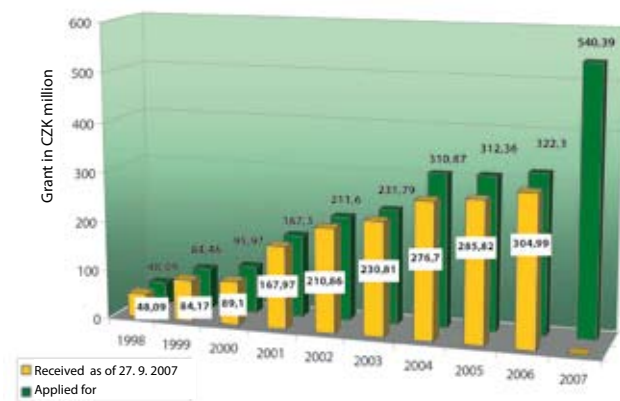
In 2007, a grant entitled “9. F. – Support for Advisory Services in Agriculture” provided state support for organizations with the status of Regional Information Center for Development of Agriculture and the Countryside, public universities, and entities carrying out research activities with ministerial scope. The maximum grant amount awarded was 500,000 CZK. This year, the grants were not available for those providing advisory services for organic farming.

■ The “Organic Farming and Organic Foods” Program

On May 10, 2007, the Government Council for Sustainable Development approved the Ministry of Agriculture’s “Organic Farming and Organic Foods” program as part of the “Sustainable Production and Consumption” program. This program is a concrete measure which details the tasks of the “Action Plan of the Czech Republic for Developing Organic Farming to 2010” (which the government passed on March 17, 2004 by Resolution No. 236/2004) and is therefore one of the specific mechanisms for the action plan’s implementation. The Program’s main goals are:

- Improving consumer confidence in the system of organic farming and certified organic foods by means of promotional activities

Graph 3 Overview of grants applied for and received in CZK mil.



Source of Data: The Ministry of Agriculture, prepared by: K. Dytrová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)



- Promoting consumer awareness and the marketing of organic foods by their use in the public food service
- Support for the production of organic foods
- Support for the marketing of organic foods
- Research, education and advisory services for organic farming
- Starting in 2008, program implementation should be supported yearly by approximately CZK 10 million.

■ Advertising Campaign 2008-2010

In July 2007, the European Commission approved SAIF's application for a grant for an advertising campaign project titled "The Promotion of Organic Farming and its Products – Natural Riches." The campaign focuses on increasing awareness of organic farming and organic foodstuffs with the goal of increasing consumption of organic foodstuffs. It will be launched in 2008 and will continue to 2010. Total project costs are 24.3 million (not including 19% VAT), 50% of which will be paid by the European Commission, 50% by SAIF. The advertising agency Ogilvy & Mather, s.r.o. will be responsible for the actual implementation of the campaign.

■ "Organic Living" 2007 Campaign

The educational promotional campaign "Organic Living – Get to Know Organic Farming and Organic Foods" ran from September – December 2007. It was implemented for MoA by Nexos X, s.r.o.; the company was chosen based on the results of a selection process. The campaign cost a total of CZK 4 million. The results and evaluations of the campaign were not known at the time of the yearbook's preparation.



Research and Education Education

In the framework of secondary school education, OF instruction is part of educational programs in the field of agriculture. As part of their agribusiness field of study, some secondary vocational schools have expanded instruction both in theoretical (Humpolec, Dalovice, Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Šumperk, Staré Město u Uherského Hradiště) and in practical areas (i. e., SZeŠ Dalovice School Farm).

Organic farming is taught in various forms (most often as an elective course) at all agricultural universities (CAU Prague, MUAF Brno, USB České Budějovice) and at colleges with a natural science focus (such as The Faculty of Natural History at Palacký University Olomouc (PU Olomouc) and the Faculty of Science at the J.E. Purkinje University in Ústí nad Labem). At the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno (MUAF), organic farming is taught as an elective topic as part of the fields of study of three faculties; in 2007, students completed 23 bachelor theses, 7 master's theses, and 1 dissertation which directly focused on the topic of organic farming in various contexts. In upcoming years, 47 bachelor's theses and 27 master's theses have been assigned.

At the Faculty of Agrobiological, Food, and Natural Resources based at the Czech Agricultural University in Prague (CAU), there are five subjects in the field of organic farming in the Department of Crop Production; starting in 2008, they plan on offering an accredited 3-year bachelor's degree in Organic Farming. At PU Olomouc, instruction in organic farming is carried out as part of classes in agro-ecology, pedology, and disciplines connected to landscape ecology and landscape planning (each of these class has at least 20 students).

The Faculty of Agriculture at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (AF USB) is the most active in university level education in organic farming. Its bachelor's study program offers a major in "Permanently Sustainable Farming Systems" and its master's study program offers a major in "Agro-ecology" with a specialization in organic farming. Instead of accepting the originally planned 60 students for the Agro-ecology major, the university accepted twice that number. Due to great interest, accreditation was awarded to a combined form of the major titled "Permanently Sustainable Farming Systems," in which 40 applicants beginning in 2007 started instruction in the form of lifelong learning in cooperation with the SzeŠ in Písek. In 2007, an e-learning Organic Farming course, which 35 participants have completed successfully, was held at the AF USB as part of the Ecologica International project. The school is now preparing its "Multifunctionality of Organic Farming in LFA" summer course for students from 14 European universities. AF USB is also a member of the ENOAT (European Network of Organic Agriculture Teachers).

An Overview of Certain Research Projects in OF Active in 2006-2007

- NAZV QG50034: New technological procedures in organic farming on arable land for achieving quality suitable for food and feed processing (2005-2009) / USB České Budějovice, Research Institute of Crop Production, EPOS, CAU in Prague, MUAF in Brno.
- NAZV 1G58063: Improving the quality and efficiency of milk and dairy product production systems under organic farming conditions - from securing nutrition to technical dairy production to its processing – as a competitive alternative to the conventional system (2005-2009) / Milkom a.s. - VUM, EPOS, VUP, s.r.o., VUChS s, s.r.o.
- MEYS (Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports) 1P05ME808: Buckwheat genetic source diversity (*Fagopyrum sp.*), its use for the permanent development of agriculture and production of healthy food in the Czech Republic and China (2005-2007) / Research Institute of Crop Production, v.v.i., USB České Budějovice
- INTERREG IIIA: JČ/09-R: Verification of suitable cereal crops (winter wheat, spring barley) for Czech organic farming (2005-2007) / USB České Budějovice





- VaV-1 No./4/8/04: The expansion of organic farming on arable land in the landscape, organic production for greater food and feed use (2004-2007) / CAU Prague
- NAZV QG 50107: Options for pesticide reduction in the cultivation of oil bearing plants (2005-2009) / CAU Prague
- MSM – 2B06101: The optimization of agricultural and river landscapes in the Czech Republic with an emphasis on biodiversity development / PU Olomouc, Bioinstitut, CAU Prague, The Czech Hydro-meteorological Institute, MUAF Brno, OSEVA PRO, Rožnov-Zubří Grassland Research Institute, Havlíčkův Brod Potato Research Institute, VÚP, s.r.o.
- MSM 6007665806: Permanently sustainable farming methods in foothill and mountain areas focused on creating harmony between their production and non-production applications (2005-2010) / USB České Budějovice
- HU/05/B/F/PP - 170018 ECOLOGICA: Development of a central data bank on a European level for the education of ecological farming advisors / Corvinus University of Budapest, USB České Budějovice and others.
- FP6-2006-INCO-DEV-3, EULACIAS: Breaking the spiral of unsustainability in arid and semi-arid areas in Latin America using an ecosystems approach for co-innovation of farm livelihoods. Coordinator: Wageningen University, solution providers: USB České Budějovice, Università degli Studi di Firenze (Italy) Universidad de la Republica (Uruguay), Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (Argentina), and Universidad Autónoma Chapingo (Mexico).



■ E-Learning Course

The Internet instructional program designed for OF advisors, farmers and students of agricultural universities contains 14 chapters covering the entire subject of organic farming and its advisory services in Europe. The program includes a series of 12 printed educational texts connected to individual instructional modules and a cumulative organic farming textbook. This year, the first official two-stage instruction took place with the participation of 35 students. In the Czech Republic, the course is available in Czech and English; wider distribution is currently the subject of negotiations. The main project solution provider is Department of Ecological and Sustainable Farming System within the Faculty of Horticultural Science at Corvinus University in Budapest. The contents of the E-Learning Program are created jointly by the following partners: Ludwig Boltzmann Institute, (Vienna, Austria), SPU in Nitra (Slovakia), Agricultural University of Maribor (Slovenia), Mógert, (Hungary), Biocert, s.r.l. (Naples, Italy), Prijekuli Plant Breeding Institution (Lithuania), and AF USB in České Budějovice.

■ Practical Course in Organic Farming

A one-year educational course designed for the lay and farming public with a focus on practical instruction. Instruction is carried out in ten two-day seminars and is conceived according to the new "Organic Farming in Practice" textbook (Šarapatka, Urban, 2006.) For the most part, the lecturers are also authors of individual chapters of the textbook. Practical exercises were carried out under the leadership of Josef Sklenář and included excursions to organic enterprises in the Czech Republic and Austria as well as participation in the Bio Academy's activities. The course is organized by Bioinstitut in cooperation with Biofarm Sasov and the Vocational School of Business and Services in Jihlava (spring 2007 – spring 2008). The course has 23 participants with an interest in OF who will receive a certificate upon completion.

■ Courses and Education in OF under the Projects in the Network of Agri-Environmental Information Centers

During the course of carrying out various projects supported by the European Social Fund and coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment, numerous trainings, courses, and excursions were offered. These projects were organized by: EPOS Brno, ZERA Agency Náměšť nad Oslavou, PRO-BIO Šumperk, PRO-BIO RC Litomyšl, PRO-BIO RC Jeseníky, PRO-BIO RC Moravská brána, PRO-BIO RC Bílé Karpaty, Bioinstitut Olomouc, Daphne ČR, PRO-BIO RC Šumava and others. A list of realized events and their results are available at the following websites:

- www.agro-envi-info.cz
- www.zdravakrajina.cz
- www.zeraagency.eu
- www.bioinstitut.cz
- www.pro-bio.cz
- env.isumava.cz

Conferences on Organic Farming in 2007

■ Bioacademy 2007

An International Conference on Organic Farming. The main topics of Bioacademy's 7th year, which took place July 27 – 29 in Lednice na Moravě, were organic farming's role in relation to landscape protection and climate change, organic food processing on farms, and the specifics of raising pigs and fish at a level of organic quality. Czech organic food processors again drew attention to the causes for the low level production of organic foods in the Czech Republic and pointed out the issue of farm processing and its subsequent marketing.



The current text of the “sanitary package” on sanitary requirements in food processing does not take the specific conditions of small processors into account and is one of the main reasons for the small number of farms with their own organic food processing. In Germany, for instance, the volume of processed organic food sold from the farm for meat and meat products reaches up to 35% of the total turnover. In the Czech Republic, however, it is negligible and is often carried out in illegal sales for the above-mentioned reasons. Conference participants called on the PRO-BIO Association of Ecological Farmers and other branch associations to actively discuss this situation with the responsible authorities, particularly with representatives of the State Veterinary Administration. The small number of marketing cooperatives able to help develop the marketing of Czech organic foods was brought to attention.

A demonstrably lower production of greenhouse gases, a more economical style of land management which minimizes soil erosion, and the overall greater ability of organic farming to adapt to climate change – these are the results of research presented as part of the general meetings focused on the relationship between organic farming and climate change.

Isabelle Peutz, at the time head of the organic farming section of DG Agriculture in the European Commission, warned of the present danger: “With the increased demand for organic foods, however, there is the increased risk of increased costs for transportation and the danger of narrow specializations, which can, as a result, significantly damage the overall effectiveness of organic farming.” The consumer plays one of the key roles in this area; their behavior should be actively directed at changing consumption models, such as taking into account the local production of foods.

At the conference, numerous projects were introduced presenting organic farming as an instrument for optimizing landscape use. A correctly functioning, healthy landscape shows greater biodiversity, and its maintenance requires a comprehensive approach. “For a landscape to be really healthy, it is not enough to merely stop fertilizing with industrial fertilizers,” commented Jiří Urban (Bioinstitut, Organic Farmers to Nature project.) He also emphasized the importance of an ecological infrastructure and farm management. The new European Directives for organic fish farming, which will become effective in 2008, were introduced at the conference. There were 270 participants from 27 countries at this 7th year of the international conference on organic farming in Lednice. Besides Isabelle Peutz, well-known guests included Urs Niggli, director of the FiBL Research Institute; Francis Blake, director of IFO AM; and Bernhard Freyer from the Austrian Institute of Organic Farming. The conference also included excursions to model farms in Austria, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. Bioacademy’s main organizers are traditionally the PRO-BIO Association of Ecological Farmers in cooperation with Bio Austria, with the expert cooperation of FiBL, Bioinstitut, and PU Olomouc. The event is carried out under the auspices of the IFOAM EU Group; Petr Gandalovič, the Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic; and Martin Bursík, Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic with financial support from EU-TAIEX, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria, the Ministry of Agriculture of Slovakia, and other private sponsors. The conference was held on the grounds of the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry Faculty of Horticulture in Lednice. The conference included a printed collection of Bioacademy 2007 abstracts and a multimedia CD containing all the lectures presented, in addition to photo documentation, the conference program, a memorial volume, and archive of previous years.

■ “Organic Farming” Conference

On the 15th anniversary of organic farming in the Czech Republic, this international scientific conference took place in February 2007 at CAU in Prague. The theme topics were the practical findings from organic plant cultivation and animal husbandry; the scientific part was focused on the significance of organic farming for sustainable development. The event’s main organizer was CAU in Prague, and the co-organizers were the PRO-BIO Association and Bioinstitut.

■ Vino-Envi Conference

A conference with international participation focused on the issue of the transition from the system of conventional and integrated production to organic production of grapes and wine. Its goal was to increase awareness of modern technologies used in organic farming to preserve vineyards, to showcase the experiences of foreign organic vintners, and to discuss marketing analyses of the organic wine market. The conference was held September 6 – 7, 2007 in Mikulov. The event’s main organizer was the Integrated Grape and Wine Production Association.



Advisory Services for Organic Farming

Advisory services for organic farms are carried out in particular by professional organizations and private advisors (accredited and non-accredited). The Regional Center (RC) of the PRO-BIO Association secures advisory services for members of the PRO-BIO Association. This center offers specialized advisors accredited by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic. The RCs work very well in several areas (they not only carry out the obvious preparations for OF inspection, but also do work such as preparing investment projects within the framework of RDP and specialized consulting with a focus on quality market production). Elsewhere, quality advisory services for OF suffer from the small number of organic farms in the region or from RC passivity. Organic farms which are not members of the PRO-BIO Association have the option to use the services of private consultants. Other organizations active in OF advisory services besides the PRO-BIO Association of Ecological Farmers o.p.s. (Šumperk, 11 regional centers in the Czech Republic) include EPOS Spolek poradců v ekologickém zemědělství České republiky, o. s. (The Alliance of Organic Farming Advisors of the Czech Republic, civic association) (Brno), and Bioinstitut o.p.s. (Bioinstitut, Olomouc), which offers specialized advisory services in the area of landscape management, improving biodiversity on organic farms, and supervising farm plans; Green Marketing

(Brno) functions primarily in the area of promoting and marketing organic foods. Basic advisory services for OF in certain regions are also supplied to a small degree by the 13 branches of the Regional Information Centers for the Development of Agriculture and the Countryside (KIS). The most active of these in this respect are the KIS in the Karlovy Vary, Moravia-Silesian, South Bohemian and the Olomouc Regions. Besides individual advisory services, which primarily take place directly on farms, the above-mentioned branch organizations also organize numerous topical seminars intended predominantly for organic farmers and organic food processors. A list of advisors trained and accredited by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic through the Institute of Agricultural and Food Information (ÚZPI) is regularly updated on the ÚZPI website. As of October 1, 2007, 38 accredited advisors for organic farming were recorded in the registry.

Organizations Providing OF Advisory Services

■ PRO-BIO Association of Ecological Farmers

With a network of 11 regional centers and two specialized divisions -- "Sellers" and "PRO-BIO League" -- this is the largest organization to bring together organic farmers, producers, and sellers of organic foods. Based in Šumperk, the PRO-BIO Association organizes a network of specialized organic food stores and brings together consumers who have an interest in organic foods and organic farming. The association provides its members with basic advisory services, and according to its members' needs, it organizes specialized advisory services for both groups and individuals on topics in the field of OF (organic animal husbandry and plant cultivation, farm processing, biodynamic agriculture, utilizing grants for OF, etc.). PRO-BIO is one of the active stakeholders involved in proceedings during the preparation of grant programs and prepares expert interpretations of existing legislation for the needs of its members. Besides field advisory services, numerous regional centers offer assistance preparing mandatory agricultural documentation even outside the scope of OF (completion of emergency plans,



keeping records of feeds and fertilizers) and process applications for grants from national programs and RDP. Together with Bioinstitut, it handles current data and helps transfer the findings of science and research on OF into real practice. The association initiates and actively assists preparations to convert conventional processors over to OF, particularly in the areas of processing milk and dairy products, the production of baked goods, and meat processing. It is a main organizer of the Bio Academy which promotes the Organic Food Product of the Year competition and acts as a partner for Organic Food Month and numerous other professional, educational, and promotional activities. It administers the "AGRI-ENVI NETWORK" – Agri-environmental information and advisory centers in the Pardubice, Olomouc, Moravian-Silesian and Zlín Regions. In 2007, the association expanded its network of regional centers from 10 to 11 by adding a Krkonoše and Podkrkonoší PRO-BIO regional center. As of December 31, 2006, the PRO-BIO Association membership included 486 individuals and legal entities as well as 156 members of the PRO-BIO League section.

■ EPOS Alliance of Organic Farming Advisors, civic association

This is a civic association of advisors, research workers, and teachers in the field of organic farming. The association works with numerous institutions in farming and the environment. It provides methodological and individual advisory services to organic farmers, organizes educational events, implements projects to support organic farming and sustainable development of the countryside, works on research tasks dealing with OF, and publishes materials for disseminating information with a focus on OF. It is the administrator of the "Agro-Envi-Info" long-term project in the South Moravia and Vysočina Regions.



■ Bioinstitut, o.p.s.

An organization which is active in the area of education, promotion, and the



transfer of scientific knowledge about organic farming into practice. It is a partner organization of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in Frick, Switzerland. It works closely with the PRO-BIO Association and numerous professional institutions in the area of agriculture and the environment. It participates in building and administering the information network for countries in Central and Eastern Europe for the Organic Europe database (www.organic-europe.net) established by FiBL. It provides organic farmers with professional advisory services concerning the application of scientific findings to actual practice (Practical Handbook edition, "A list of registered preparations for plant protection") and specialized advisory services for a project focused on increasing biodiversity on organic farms (the "Organic Farmers for Nature" project.)

■ Green Marketing - Mgr. Tomáš Václavík

The agency provides marketing and economic consulting services for organic farmers and producers, distributors, and sellers of organic foods. It organizes the "Czech Organic Food Product of the Year" competition and coordinates the "September – Organic Food Month" promotional event. In 2007, Green Marketing organized the "Organic Foods in Retail" conference.

Green marketing

■ EkoConnect e.V.

Founded in 2003, this is a non-profit, publicly beneficial organization based in Dresden. It is engaged in sharing information, understanding, and experience and is a platform for the meeting of individuals and organizations. In the Czech Republic, it is the administrator of the "Bio Connects" ("BIO SPOJUJE") project, focused on organic farmers, and the project "Let's Learn on the Farm" ("Učíme se na statku") for children, providing experience-based ecological education.



Projects Focused on the Support of Organic Farmers

■ Model Organic Farms in the Czech Republic

The model farm system is a well-known tool for increasing the number of organic farmers. Model enterprises provide organic or conventional farmers

who are considering converting to an organic method of farming with information on procedures used, necessary inputs and their suppliers, opportunities to use RDP's agri-environmental measures, and information about their own integration into the organic product business. Organic farms offer the public a look at everyday life on an organic farm, its unique quality, opportunities, and problems. In addition, model enterprises can provide information on the specifics of the production of certain commodities and the success of regional products on the local market.

Currently there are two model farm systems under development in the Czech Republic. The pilot project titled "Model Organic Farm Network" has been realized within the framework of another project titled, "The Network of Information Centers Focused on Agri-Environmental Programs in the South Moravian and Vysočina Regions." At the moment, it contains six model organic farms with different focuses and types of farm production and which will be equipped with information systems for the public that are currently under construction. A trial run of a project of regular excursions is also underway. The project is financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) and will be implemented by the EPOS Alliance of Organic Farming Advisors of the Czech Republic.

A second model farm network has been created under the jurisdiction of "Organic Farmers for Nature," a multi-year project where farms are chosen for the model system on the basis that, as part of ecological farming model, they provide for active landscape maintenance and increased biodiversity. The degree of maintenance of the landscape is evaluated at selected organic farms, an inventory survey of plants and animals is gradually carried out, individual farm plans are completed and implemented, and a system of information billboards for the





public is introduced. In 2007, 9 model farms were integrated in the model farm network; the great interest on the part of farmers can not be met due to project's financial limits. Model farms will play a key role in the next step, which is to provide information in the form of shared experiences and findings for both the professional and lay public. The project's administrator is Bioinstitut, o.p.s.

■ **EVVO Network Platform for Agriculture and the Countryside**

An informal association of the networks of non-profit organizations involved in implementing projects under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment's agri-environmentally oriented programs. Projects implemented by individual organizations have shifted the traditional activities of ecological advisors towards practical education and advisory services for rural areas, a subject that is currently not covered by the Ministry of the Environment or the Ministry of Agriculture. The platform is comprised of seven non-profit organizations which cover most of the Czech Republic's various regions with their activities. Of all the platform's projects, organic farming and the promotion of organic foods are among its pivotal and model activities. The members are EPOS; the PRO-BIO Association of Ecological Farmers; Daphne ČR; the Šumava Regional Development Agency; the Ecological Center Meluzína Děčín; PRVO – the Advisory Center for the Countryside; Konoopa; and a new member, the PRO-BIO League Prague. With their activities, they cover the following regions: PRO-BIO Association of Ecological Farmers – Pardubice, Olomouc, Moravian-Silesian, Zlín Regions; the Šumava Regional Center of the PRO-BIO Association – South Bohemian and partially the Western Bohemian Regions; EPOS o.s. – the Vysočina, South Moravian Regions; Daphne ČR – South Bohemian Region; PRVO – the Liberec Region; Ecological Center Meluzína – Ústí Region; PRO-BIO Liga

– responsible for the countryside and OF in Prague as well as media exposure. In 2006 – 2007, the platform was financed by the European Social Fund within the Human Resources Development program. The majority of partners have partial projects which end in the first quarter of 2008 and the platform will probably not find a source of comprehensive financing in the near future, which returns the situation to its pre-2007 state. For these reasons, as of May 1, 2007, the activities of one of the network partners - PRVO (the Advisory Center for the Countryside) in the Liberec Region have been terminated. The financing sources for a well functioning system are presently the subject of negotiations.

■ **Organic Farmers for Nature**

The goal of the "Organic Farmers for Nature" international project is to attempt to actively incorporate farmers into endeavors leading to increasing biodiversity in the agricultural landscape. The project, which is at present underway in Austria, Switzerland and the Czech Republic, is focused on the dissemination of information and the practical education of farmers in methods which will lead to increasing biodiversity on genetic, species, and biotope levels. The project's main activities are the dissemination of information about this topic among target groups and the practical application of procedures which lead directly to increasing biological diversity in the landscape. Such things include drafts of farm plans and their introduction into practice, active maintenance and the creation of ecology-stabilizing elements in the landscape, and adjusting grant mechanisms in such a way that they help increase biodiversity and active maintenance of the landscape. The goal



is for there to be systemic support of biological diversity (i.e., in the form of an individual approach to the actual needs of farms, of which farm plans are one example) included in the grant programs of participating countries. In the Czech Republic, "Organic Farmers for Nature" is focusing its first phase on the thematic dissemination of information among organic farmers and the professional public and on the supporting communities of farmers who both have an interest in creating a healthy landscape in their environs and want to share their experiences with others. The project includes the creation of a model farm network. The project's administrator is Bioinstitut, o.p.s.

■ Bio Connects

A project of cooperation between border-sharing regions – Saxony and Northwest Bohemia – focused on increasing awareness, education, and strengthening mutual relations in the field of organic farming. This year, a number of practically focused seminars intended primarily for organic farmers were held on the topic of processing food on the farm. The seminars included excursions to organic farms in both Saxony and Bohemia. Practical experiences on Czech and German farms show that the processing of organic products on German farms takes place under significantly simpler legislative conditions. The project is taking place from 2006 to 2008. EkoConnect e.V. is the project administrator.

■ GC Ekolog Computer Program for Record-Keeping

In 2007, a new program for record-keeping in organic farming, GK Ekolog, was introduced on to the market. The program offers computer record-keeping for soil blocks and animal registry, pasture usage, and medical treatment of animals. It makes

it possible for farmers to easily calculate the animal's burden on pasture land and to determine organic nitrogen per unit of area. The company Geocentrum Olomouc developed the program in cooperation with the PRO-BIO Association as part of the OP HRD "Agri-Envi Network" project.

Promotion and Consumer Confidence

Besides state administration authorities, numerous non-profit organizations are active in the area of promotion and disseminating information about organic farming. Traditionally, a substantial part of these activities is provided by organizations active in the provision of ecological advisory services (PRO-BIO Association and its RC, Bioinstitut, EPOS, Green Marketing). However, in the last several years, organizations focused primarily on the consumer public have been active in the area of dissemination of information. Massive advertising campaigns by supranational retail chains can be considered one of the important enterprises in the area of organic food promotion.

Companies concerned with long-term publicity and disseminating information about OF and organic foods among consumers include the PRO-BIO LEAGUE for Protecting Food Consumers and Friends of Organic Farms, the League for Environmental Alternatives (LEA), EkoConnect e.V, and (partially) Hnutí Duha and companies involved in the sale of FairTrade products. With few exceptions, participation of state authorities is secured in the form of co-financing the selected projects of non-profit organizations. Media publications focused on OF and organic foods are published regularly: "BioMonthly - a Monthly for Per-



manently Sustainable Development” (vh press) and “Bio Store,” designed primarily for producers and sellers of organic foods (Green Marketing).

In 2007, various traditional events were held including the Barták Cup, the “Czech Organic Product Food of the Year” professional competition, the “Favorite Czech Organic Product of the Year” consumer competition, and “September: Month of Organic Foods and Organic Farming.” After a year’s silence, the Czech Republic was represented at the international Biofach trade fair and on the national level, organic farmers were represented at the Země Živitelka (Earth Provider, České Budějovice) and Biostyl (Organic Style, Prague) trade fairs. There was a large increase media interest, when the majority of large-scale news media, including TV (for example ČT 1’s Phenomenon, Battle for a Valley – Our Countryside Cycle), dedicated attention to the subject of organic foods and organic farming.

Organizations focused on Consumer Education

■ The PRO-BIO League for Protecting Food Consumers and Friends of Organic Farms

This is an independent civic association whose mission is to inform and protect consumers where foodstuffs are concerned, to contribute to lifelong education, and to increase the general awareness of environmentally friendly behavior and sustainable development. The PRO-BIO League is an independent consumer branch of the PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers. Its main activities include organizing the weekly operation of the Prague information-advisory center on organic foods, organic farming, and an environmentally friendly lifestyle. The center has a library with 800 books. The PRO-BIO League runs an information portal at www.biospotrebitel.cz on events in the organic world with updates, a virtual advisory center, an information directory, and an address book of organic farms, sellers, and processors of organic foods in the Czech Republic. Its other important activities include publication and information-disseminating activities. For its members, it ensures a collection point for Czech organic farm products. It also organizes the “Favorite Organic Product of the Year” competition.



■ The League for Environmental Alternatives (LEA)

This is a civic association with the goal of ensuring a permanently sustainable power supply that takes the environment and humanity into greater consideration and of inspiring behavior that supports land conservation. Since its founding in 1993, the organization has systematically promoted options for using renewable energy sources, energy conservation, an environmentally responsible lifestyle, and a holistic approach for individuals and society towards farming in the Czech countryside. Its website is www.biopotraviny.info. It also organizes the traditional Prague Organic Fair and periodic consumer tests.



■ Hnutí Duha (The Rainbow Movement)

Hnutí DUHA, a member of the international Friends of the Earth federation, publishes regional BIO news, organizes organic fairs and excursions to organic farms, promotes and lobbies for OF, and carries out market research among consumers.



Traditional Events for Consumers...

■ The Barták Cup

The PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers traditionally awards the “Best Organic Farmer of the Year” prize to one of its members as acknowledgment for their work and the results they have achieved in the field of organic farming. The prize is an itinerary trophy cup full of gold coins called the Barták Cup and named after Richard Barták, the doyen of Czech organic farming. The event is announced the last weekend in May and is always located at the winning farm. Country Life, based in Nenačovice u Berouna, became the 15th holder of the traveling Barták Cup for its long-time activities in the production, sale, and promotion of organic foods. The prize ceremony was accompanied by a musical performance by the band Nezmaři, a tasting of organic foods, and a tour of the organic farm.

■ September – Month of Organic Foods and Organic Farming.

The goal of this project’s third year was to increase public awareness of Czech organic farms and to provoke a public interest in visiting some of them. The slogan of this year’s event was “Organic Living;” a total of 108 events organized by almost 70 different organizations were held as part of the campaign. Their website, www.mesicbiopotraviny.cz, received a total of 16,378 hits with more than 63,000 pages viewed. Almost 1,500 contestants entered the Bio Quiz consumer contest. More than 320 retail stores supported the campaign and organized special promotional events. All the major daily newspapers, television, and radio stations – including regional media – mentioned the event. In addition, a calendar of events and thematic posters were printed as part of the campaign. Green Marketing acted as the event’s main coordinator.



■ ‘Czech Organic Food of the Year’ and ‘Favorite Czech Organic Product’

In September 2006, the results of the 5th year of the “Best Czech Organic Food Product of 2006” contest were announced. The competition’s winner was Valašské Meziříčí Dairies’ BIO, a fermented cow’s milk beverage. Besides the main prize, three honorable mentions were awarded – two were for organic eggs from Pavel Kýr and Abatis for increasing organic methods for raising laying hens in the Czech Republic. The third honorable mention was awarded to Pro-Bio obchodní společnosti s.r.o.’s Biolinie line of semi-finished foods: Jahelník (a millet dish), Pohankový dezert (a buckwheat dessert), and Bulgur s červenou čočkou (Bulgur with red lentils.) The prize was given for the marketing concept of meals that are quick to prepare and the products’ attractive packaging. Twenty organic products were nominated for the competition. The competition also included the category ‘Best Organic Store of the Year,’ won by Albio, an organic retail store in Prague; the organic store Robi in Bruntál received an honorable mention. Mgr. Tomáš Václavík of Green Marketing was the organizer and professional sponsor of the competition. Associated with the part of the competition evaluated by professionals was the consumer competition “Favorite Czech Organic Product,” where consumers chose their favorite organic food product from the 20 foods nominated in the professional competition. The winner was the BIO fermented cow’s milk beverage from Valašské Meziříčí Dairies, while goat products from the Břeží Organic Farm took second place and organic farmer’s cheese from the Polabské Dairies finished third. The competition took place by voting at www.biospotrebitel.cz and by printed voting ballots; a total of 949 valid votes were cast. The festive announcement of the results took place at the Biostyle 2007 trade fair



in Prague. Five raffled voters received substantial prizes. The PRO-BIO League organized the consumer competition. In September 2007, the "Czech Organic Food Product of 2007" competition commenced, and for the first time since its inception, the results will be announced at the Salima food trade fair in March 2008. Besides the PRO-BIO Association, the Federation of the Food and Drink Industries of the Czech Republic will sponsor the event -- for the first time in cooperation with Veletřhy Brno (Trade Fairs Brno), which wants to consistently include the competition in the accompanying program for the SALIMA and G+H trade fairs.

■ Pavlov Organic Wines

Twenty-five producers and exhibitors participated in the fourth consumer organic wine-tasting event at Pavlov pod Pálavou, showcasing a total of 82 samples. The 2005 Special Selection Riesling from Weingut Steffens – Kess of Reil/Mosel of Germany was chosen as the favorite white wine; in second place was a 2006 Special Selection Hibernál, from the Eben wine cellar of Vlastimil Peřina from Lednice na Moravě; and in third place was the German 2005 "Quality" Rieslaner from Weingut Rothe in Nordheim. In the organic red wine category, the Spanish blend Novas, a 2003 late harvest wine from Iranzo Fields in Valencia, was the victor and Lautor, a late harvest wine from 2006 (Eben wine cellar, Vlastimil Peřina) came in second. First place in sweet wines was taken by the Italian Passito Bianco, a 2005 Beere-nauselese wine from La Cantina Pizzolato from Villorba, followed by the 2005 "Quality" Riesling from Weingut Steffens - Kess of Reil/Mosel in Germany. In the category of organic sparkling wines, the Italian 2006 Prosecco Colli from La Cantina Pizzolato of Villorba took first place; in second and third place were the 2005 Musicanti and 2006 Frederik organic wines, also from La Cantina Pizzolato in Villorba, Italy. The Abrla family's Pollau Organic Farm and PRO-BIO RC of South Moravia organized the event together with Adonis – ZO ČSOP and the Zatloukal Wine House, with financial support from the Czech Ministry of Agriculture.

Trade Fairs and Exhibitions

■ BioFach 2007: Once again with Czech Participation

On February 15 – 18, Czech organic food and product producers presented their products in the joint national exhibition at Bio-Fach, the largest world trade fair for organic farming (OF) and organic foods, in the German city of Nuremberg. The trade fair exhibition, covering 150 m², was designed for the presentation of individual products and processors of organic foods. The exhibitors included 24 companies (processors and organic farmers engaging in retail sales), 18 of which were members of the PRO-BIO Association. Within the framework of the BioFach Congress, the Czech Republic's presentation was on the topic "The Assortment of Czech Organic Food and Business Opportunities on the Czech Organic Market," during which representatives of the following companies were introduced: the PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers, Green Marketing, Pro-Bio obchodní společnost s r. o., Bio nebío s.r.o., Polabské mlékárny a.s., and Biopark s.r.o. In cooperation with the PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers, the State Agricultural Intervention Fund (SAIF) prepared the joint national exhibition of Czech organic farming and its products.

■ Biostyl

The second year of the Biostyl international trade fair on ecology, healthy living, and a healthy lifestyle subtitled "All about the Earth, All for the Earth" took place on March 16 – 18, 2007 at Prague's Výstaviště.

Exhibitors included representatives for organic food producers, sellers and professional organizations. The trade fair included a



professional conference on the topic "Organic Foods in Retail" with a focus on marketing organic foods and its specifics. Nearly 100 delegates participated in this event organized by Green Marketing. The results of the "Best Czech Organic Product" consumer competition (organized by PRO-BIO League) were ceremoniously announced here. Two hundred and eighty international exhibitors participated in the trade fair, which drew a total of 15,500 visitors. The trade fair's partner was the PRO-BIO Association of Ecological Farmers.

■ Regional Competitions for 'Food Product of the Year'

Competitions for each region's best food products take place in the Czech Republic's various regions. In some of them, organic foods managed to be among the winners. The Bio strawberry-flavored fermented cow's milk beverage from Valašské Meziříčí Dairies won first prize in the Zlín Region's "dairy products" category in addition to the Commissioner's Prize in the 2007 Zlín Pearl competition. In the contest titled "It Tastes Good the South Bohemian Way" (Chutná hezky jihočesky), the BIO Edam goat cheese from František Špatný of Kofa Bílsko farm took second place in the "dairy products" category. The Liberec Region established a separate "organic foods" category for its "Liberec Region Product" competition, in which the company Jizerské pekárny spol. s.r.o. won first prize with its BIO multi-grain bread.

Organics for Kids

■ Organic Goes to School

The goal of the "ORGANIC GOES TO SCHOOL" project is the gradual introduction of organic foods into school food service facilities. The project's planned, long-term output is the targeted dissemination of information about organic foods, the regular purchase of organic foods from local farms, and the strengthening of positive relationships between consumers and farmers. The project is now in the phase of preparing a methodology for the procedure of introducing organic foods into school cafeterias; additional phases will be to verify this methodology in actual practice in the form of pilot projects. Seven food service facilities in the South Moravian and Vysočina Regions are included in the project (implemented by EPOS and Beseda in cooperation with Green Marketing.) A similar project with the same goal is being carried out at a kindergarten in Prague (implemented by the PRO-BIO League in cooperation with ÚZPI.)

■ The Vanda and Standa Performance

A fun music program for children in elementary school on the topic of organic farming and organic products. After agreement with the Institute of Agricultural and Food Information, the program is to take place at the National Museum of Agriculture in Prague with the museum also providing the program's leadership. The program is focused on the topic of supporting organic products with the goal of introducing them to children. The entire program is interwoven with songs about the countryside, organic farmers, and organic products. The program also includes an interactive CD. ÚZPI is implementing the project.

■ Píšťalka Summer Camp

The first children's "organic" camp was held at the Kozodoj organic farm (in the Karlovy Vary Region.) During two sessions, children had an opportunity to become familiar with organic farming and to get an idea of what agriculture is and of basic food production. The Píšťalka Summer Camp was part of Eko-

Connect's project "Let's Learn on the Farm" which, in cooperation with individual farms (for now, primarily in Germany), tries to bring people, particularly children, closer to the source of foods and also to inspire them towards a responsible relationship to the environment and organic farming.

■ BIOfest and the Organic Festival in Staré Město

The first music "biofestival" was held in Staré Město pod Sněžníkem on June 2, 2007. The bands Gaia Mesiah, Volant, S.P.S., Pod Černý vrch, Boron, Senzace příštího léta, Dukla, and others performed in the PRO-BIO company parking lot with the participation of listeners from the entire region. The program included an organic food tasting, an organic ram roast, and other events. The only drawback was the steady rain.

The Organic Festival's second year, designed primarily for families with children, was held on June 14. The full children's program included, among other attractions, the Prague theater group KRAB's performance of the bio-fairy tale "How the Brave Špaldík Saved the Kingdom of Bioharmony," excursions to nearby organic farms, consumer cheese tastings, and performances by the bands Miou Miou, Nadoraz, and Mňága a Žďorp. The organizer of both events was PRO-BIO, obchodní společnost s.r.o., which hosted the events at its own facilities

Websites on OF and Organic Foods

The number of websites seriously concerned with the topic of organic farming and organic foods has increased. The number of internet stores offering organic foods (i. e. specialized virtual stores and food processors' own websites) has also expanded; specialized sections focused on organic foods have begun appearing in a number of discussion portals focusing on health, lifestyle, women, family, and cooking.

■ Selected Websites with Information on OF and Organic Foods

www.agronavigator.cz/ekozem
www.pro-bio.cz
www.biospotrebitel.cz
www.bioinstitut.cz
www.eposcr.cz
www.mesicbiopotravin.cz
www.biopotraviny.info
www.greenmarketing.cz/biozpravy/
www.ziju-bio.cz

■ www.biospotrebitel.cz

This website for people interested in organic foods and organic farming offers up-to-date information on Czech organic farming and Czech organic foods, helps consumers orient themselves when purchasing organic foods, and helps form mutual bonds between organic farmers – organic food producers and their purchasers. The website offers an easy-to-use directory of organic farms, stores offering organic products, organic restaurants, and producers of organic foods in the Czech Republic; an on-line advisory service for consumers; an overview of eco-brands; a log of organic foods and producers using a portion of organic raw materials; and a dictionary of terms from OF and ecology. The portal includes an on-line catalog of book titles on OF, organic foods, and ecological topics (800 titles); a calendar of events; and the column "News from Organic Farms", offering the sale of organic items straight from the farmyard and information on the current needs of organic farms. The website is administered by the PRO-BIO League.



From the Farms

The majority of Czech farmers see the role of the farmer as simply the producer of food. Currently, very few people here espouse the position of the farmer as a conscious caretaker of the landscape. Here is a sampling of three farms where an active approach to the maintenance of the landscape is an integral part of farming.

Agrisen Organic Farm, Nová Seninka

The face of the landscape below Králický Sněžník has already changed completely several times – always accompanying a change in political and economic conditions. Up until 1945, this region was inhabited and farmed by a German population. Traces of the original settlements and its farming – fruit trees gone wild, landscape elements such as mounds, dirt roads, and drainage ditches – can still be seen today. The face of the landscape suffered significant changes with the rise in large-scale Socialist production. The edges of the forests moved down to much lower positions and “cooled” the landscape, though, on the other hand, they increased the landscape’s water retention capability. Fields were joined together, and, until 1992, surrounding land plots were plowed and intensely farmed. As of 1993, the land became overgrown with grass as a result of reduced production. The company AGRISEN s.r.o. started to farm in Nová Seninka and in the Staré Město area in 2002. Presently, it has approximately 100 ha of agricultural land – grasslands, which are used as a source of feed for raising sheep and goats. In terms of sheep raised, specially-bred Wallachian sheep comprise the basic herd of ewes, which are bred with rams of the Oxford Down meat breed. The main product of this husbandry is lambs for slaughter. A supplemental product comes from the husbandry of goats belonging to the Brown Short-Haired breed. Part of the farm’s land falls in the “Králický Sněžník” bird area.

In the agricultural landscape, full of scattered greenery and groves with grazing sheep, a number of un-mowed spaces are visible at first glance - the corncrake lives on several plots here. Sites showing the presence of the corncrake, which is numbered among the strictly protected species, are found in both the “Králický Sněžník” bird area as well as some land plots not included in this area. Its occurrence requires a change in the approach to farming; it is possible to apply for grants under the jurisdiction of the agro-envi measures for land plots on which the bird nests. The rules for its protection include a late hay cutting, mowing plots from the center out, or limitations in mulching. On certain pastures the orange lily blooms at the beginning of the summer. The owners of the farm have accommodated the birds’ needs by removing the land where the bird is found from their grant program, so that the bulk of their fields do not have to be mowed under strictly set terms. They do not attend to these meadows until the autumn and thus enable the preservation and spread of this beautiful, yet greatly threatened species. The farm is included in the model farm network of the “Organic Farmers for Nature” project, and, at present, a farm plan has been prepared for it. The owners are just now considering some of the measures which have arisen from research on the individual sites. One measure would be to open up the riverbed of the stream which runs through the pastures, while another would be to plant a tier shrubs on selected sites.

“In the past, these lands were able to provide for several families using traditional farming methods in Nová Seninka,” says, Martin Hutáň, one of the farm’s owners. “We ecologically raise 250 sheep and about 20 goats. The sale of the final production – lambs for slaughter – however, does not enable us to provide for even one shepherd with a below-average wage. In short, all agriculture in our area is built on grants, while traditional values and past certainties have been turned upside down, and I don’t like that.”



Šetrné hospodaření pod Králickým Sněžníkem

AGRISEN s. r. o. HOSPODÁŘÍ EKOLOGICKY

Před rokem, v únoru 2022, jsme se rozhodli změnit způsob hospodaření na naší farmě. V rámci našeho 100 ha je 100 ha ekologického zemědělství. V roce 2022 jsme se rozhodli změnit způsob hospodaření na naší farmě. V rámci našeho 100 ha je 100 ha ekologického zemědělství. V roce 2022 jsme se rozhodli změnit způsob hospodaření na naší farmě. V rámci našeho 100 ha je 100 ha ekologického zemědělství.

PRO EKOLOGICKÉ ZEMĚDĚLSTVÍ JE TYPICKÉ:

- žádná chemická hnojiva
- výlučně domácí pšenice, přímýchových hnoje
- použití přírodních insekticidů
- použití ekologických zvířat
- absence chemických a geneticky upravených pesticidů
- výlučně domácího masa, vnitřních a vnějších produktů
- čerstvost
- absence GMO, která není ani možná vyloučit

Harmonie člověka s přírodou

MÍSTO PRO PŘÍRODU V ZEMĚDĚLSKÉ KRAJINĚ

Na našich a zemědělských pozemcích AGRISEN s. r. o. najdeme rozmanitost zeleně. Měsíční údržba, která je součástí našeho ekologického zemědělství, umožňuje udržet si původní tvář obilí. V rámci našeho 100 ha je 100 ha ekologického zemědělství. V roce 2022 jsme se rozhodli změnit způsob hospodaření na naší farmě. V rámci našeho 100 ha je 100 ha ekologického zemědělství.

The Farm of Miroslav Šrůtek in Benešov u Kamenice nad Lipou

Since 1993, RNDr. Miroslav Šrůtek has been organically working his farm in a small village, Benešov u Kamenice nad Lipou, on the edge of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands. The farm has an area of 106 ha and is based on raising cattle in addition to market dairy production and poultry; cereals, legumes, and potatoes are cultivated on the arable land. Eggs, milk, and potatoes are sold from the farm.

For Mr. Šrůtek, organic farming is something more than an economic activity – primarily, it is a practical way to take care of the landscape. Here, he can put into practice ecological principles and knowledge from his scientific and educational activities. Mr. Šrůtek is aware that farming does not influence only individual farm lands, but that it is necessary to take into consideration the wider landscape around them as well as historical connections. From the time he began farming, he has been involved in fixing the non-ecological intervention his land has seen during the past 50 years. Most of the measures are related directly or indirectly to the land's water system and its biodiversity. He has divided some fields into smaller ones and has planted grass on the rest. He has lined pathways with trees and bushes in addition to using them to divide large areas of pasture. To reduce pollution in the Včelnička stream running through his land, he built a canal sewer system for the farm and the entire village. The stream itself was restored to an almost pristine state. Instead of a concrete canal, which quickly removes water from the landscape, a stream bordered with grasses and boggy meadows meanders through the valley. The landscape is now much more diverse and has again become a suitable home for many species of animals and plants including rare and protected species. Mr. Šrůtek shares his knowledge and experience of caring for the landscape, protecting biodiversity, and restoring its flowering meadows by providing professional advisory services.

"From the very beginning of my organic farming, I knew that the most important thing is the organic farmer's ecological approach to nature and the landscape," says "farmer" RNDr. Miroslav Šrůtek. "It is just now, after so many years, that this approach is starting to spread because of the fact that farmers must show their farm's ecological advantages in order to get grants. And, that is good, because an unpolluted environment is of no less importance than the production of organic foods."





The Farm of Ing. Josef Folta, Kateřinice

The organic farm of Mr. Folta in Kateřinice lies in the middle of the hilly region of the Podbeskydy uplands. The region's appearance, with its naturally scattered greenery, groves, and mixed small stands of trees lends the farm a picturesque and coherent look at first glance. The harmonic landscape, rich in plant and animal species, is, however, the result of the well-thought out, environmentally friendly approach of a farmer who is aware of the interconnection and consequences of his behavior towards nature. On 114 acres of agricultural land, Mr. Folta raises meat breeds of cattle without market production of milk; cultivates buckwheat, grasses, and clover for seed; and harvests fruit from old, standard-height fruit trees in the nearby orchard.

The farm preserves the unique natural mingling of agro-ecosystems with the local landscape. It is precisely such intersections of nature and farmed land that create numerous specialized "places for nature;" typical places include the blossoming hedgerows along the paths, lines of bushes and trees between fields and meadows as well as groves and scattered greenery that offer cover for more than 85 bird species. The farm's main income comes from the sale of grass seed and the sale of beef cattle, which is processed at an organic quality level in the nearby Moravan CZ, a.s. Petřvald meat plant. Although Mr. Folta is nearly 74, and his life stories could fill a book, he has vitality and optimism to share. He rides around his farm on a horse, because, as he says, you find out fastest from horseback if something is not right in the meadow. Instead of a lawnmower, he much prefers to pick up a scythe. *"Seeing nature is what an organic farmer must know how to do," he says about what he considers to be the most important factor in his farming. "It's a pity that I learned that at a late age. Now I know that it's better to cooperate with nature than to fight it, and that maybe some things are better managed together."*



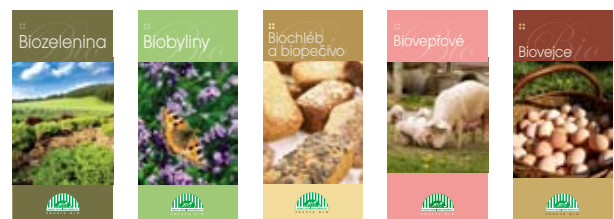
Publications, Promotional Materials

- The textbook *Organic Farming in Practice* (Šarapatka, Urban, 2006,) which complements the two volumes of *Organic Farming – Textbooks for Schools and Practice* (Jiří Urban et col., 2004, 2005.)
- *A Guide for the Organic Farmer* (AF USB 2007) – advisory pages for organic farmers particularly focused on organic cultivation of market crops – wheat, spelt, spring barley, potatoes, buckwheat, oats.
- 10 professional publications which take a cross-disciplinary approach and cover the entire field of OF (*The Basic Principles of Organic Farming, Legal norms and grant titles in organic farming, The European Union and National Cultural Heritage, Inspection and Certification of Organic Production, Soil Fertility, Nutrients and Fertilization of Plants in Organic Farming, Plant Protection in Organic Farming, Horticulture (the cultivation of field vegetables in organic farming), Animal Husbandry in Organic Farming, Post-Harvest Modification, Processing and Storage of Organic Plant Products, Marketing Organic Production, Cultivation and Evaluation of the Suitability of Wheat Species (Triticum aestivum L.) for Organic and Low Input Farming Systems* (AF USB 2007).)
- *Organic Farming* (Moudrý, Konvalina, Kalinová, AF USB, 2007) – a textbook for students of universities with an agricultural focus
- *Conversion to Organic Farming Systems and Designing Organic Farms* (AF USB, 2007) – study materials for university students
- *Cultivation of Plants in Organic Farming* (AF USB, 2007) – study materials for university students
- *List of Registered Preparations for Plant Protection* (Bioinstitut, 2006)
- A Practical Handbook (Bioinstitut, 2006, 2007):
- Processing Organic Products under the Conditions of Primary Producers
- 90 Arguments for Organic Farming
- Organic Potatoes – How to Cultivate Quality Potatoes Organically
- *Organic Farming Bulletin* No. 28 “PRO-BIO and OF in 2007, FiBL – Research and Innovation” Annex to *Farmer* magazine (PRO-BIO Association, 2007)
- *Methodological Papers* (EPOS, 2007)



- No. 24 “Intensive Cultivation of Field Vegetables”
- No. 25 “Cultivation of Clover Grass Mixes on Arable Land”
- No. 26 “The Grassland Management as applied to Meadows and Production of Feeds”
- No. 27 “Energy Use of Biomass”
- No. 28 “How to Become an Organic Farmer”
- No. 29 “Direct Marketing for Organic Farmers”
- No. 30 “Establishing and Caring for Line-Planted Fruit Trees”

- *Sowing Days 2008* (Marie Thonová, PRO-BIO, 2007) Bio Academy 2007 – A Collection of Abstracts (PRO-BIO) Bio Academy 2007 – Multimedia CD (PRO-BIO)
- *The Current State of Organic Farming 2007* (MoA Czech Republic)
- “Amendment of the Act no OF No. 242 – Government Order No. 2092/91” (MoA Czech Republic)
- Instructional CDs: *Organic Farming for Water Protection and Organic Farming and Animal Protection* (Bioinstitut, 2007) designed for ecological education, OF instruction, and education for organic farmers and informational and educational centers.
- *Don't be Afraid to Cook Organic* (PRO-BIO League / PRO-BIO Association, 2007) – an organic cookbook
- *Organic Farming of the Olomouc Region* (Regional Office OL Region, PRO-BIO Association, 2007) – a Czech-English overview of organic farms in the Olomouc Region
- Find Czech Organics (PRO-BIO Association, 2007) – PRO-BIO Association member directory
- A collection of informational fliers for various commodities (2006 – 2007, PRO-BIO League, PRO-BIO Association, Bioinstitut): Organic Beef; Organic Pork; Organic Vegetables; Organic Herbs; Organic Bread and Organic Baked Goods; Organic Cow's Milk and Dairy Products; Organic Goat's Milk and Dairy Products; Organic Eggs; Taste Organic



- 2008 Calendar of Organic Farming with Color Photographs of Organic Farms (PRO-BIO Association, 2007)
- The Healthy Organic Pyramid (ÚZPI, 2007) – a promotional flier for children and youth
- Organic Agro-Oases for the Curious – a little itinerary for connoisseurs of rural tourism (LEA, 2006)

Promotional Materials

- “Žiju bio” (“Organic Living”) t-shirt (PRO-BIO League)
- “Žiju bio” (“Organic Living”) cotton bags (PRO-BIO League)



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Organic Farmers for Nature

The goal of the “Organic Farmers for Nature” international project is to attempt to actively incorporate farmers into endeavors leading to increasing biodiversity in the agricultural landscape. The project, which is at present under way in Austria, Switzerland, and the Czech Republic, is focused on the dissemination of information and the practical education of farmers in methods which will lead to increasing biodiversity on genetic, species, and biotope levels. The project’s main activities are the dissemination of information about this topic among farmers as well as the professional and lay public and the practical application of procedures which lead directly to increasing biological diversity in the landscape. These activities include drafts of farm plans and their introduction into practice, the active maintenance and creation of ecology-stabilizing elements in the landscape, and adjusting grant mechanisms in such a way that they help increase biodiversity and active maintenance of the landscape. The goal is to make systemic support of biological diversity a part of the participating countries’ legislation.

In the Czech Republic, “Organic Farmers for Nature” plans on focusing its first phase on the thematic dissemination of information among organic farmers and the professional public in addition to supporting communities of farmers who both have an interest in creating a healthy local landscape and want to share their experiences with others. The project includes the creation of a network of model establishments. The key to their selection is a high level of biological diversity on farmed lands plus a farmer who actively participates in their maintenance. The structure of the landscape is evaluated at selected organic farms, an inventory survey of plants and animals is gradually carried out, individual farm plans are completed and executed, and a system of informational billboards for the public is introduced.

Currently, 23 organic enterprises are registered in the network. In 2007, mapping and inventory began at nine farms: **The Letní stráň Farm**, belonging to Mr. Pur in Přemyslovské sedlo in Jeseníky, **the Mlýnec Organic Farm** belonging to Mrs. Marková in Smrkov near Jistebnice, **the Farm of Ing. Josef Folta** in Kateřinice near Nový Jičín, **Biofarm Sasov**, belonging to Mr. Josef Sklenář near Jihlava, **BEMARGO** a.s. in Malonty near Český Krumlov, the **RNDr. Šrůtek Farm** in Kamenice nad Lipou near Pelhřimov, the **ZEMPOL** spol. s.r.o. agricultural enterprise in Vítkov near Opava, **AGROFYTO** spol. s.r.o. in Horní Lideč near Vsetín, and **AGRISEN** s.r.o. in Nová Seninka near Staré Město pod Sněžníkem.

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