

Procedure of Inspection and Certification of Organic Products

EU Multilateral Trade Assistance Project
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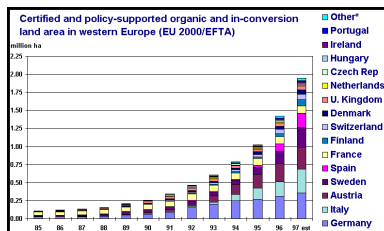
The organic market is one of the fastest growing markets in the world.

- There is an immense increase in organic cultivated land world-wide
- Sales of organic products in Europe increase by 20 % per annum.
- The percentage of organic products of the total food market in Germany has been predicted by WTO and CMA to increase from 3.7 % of today to 10% in the year 2008.

The main Methods used in Organic Agriculture are:

- Increase and maintenance of soil fertility
- Crop protection by preventive measures
- Mechanical hoeing

The development of organic land area in Europe



Today in nearly all major market places for organic products the market is regulated by regulations or standards.

- EU: the Council Regulation 2092/91 since 1993
- USA: USDA / NOP, since 2002
- Japan: JAS, since 2001.

The regulations applies to

- the rules of agricultural production,
- processing,
- inspection and certification,
- labelling
- and the import from „Third Countries“ (non-EU-members).

Two ways for a third country to export organic products to Europe

- „Third Countries List“.
- Import Authorisation

Conversion Period

- **2 years** – first harvest third year = organic
- **3 years** in case of perennial crops (tea, coffee, cashew nuts, etc.)

Who can carry out inspection and certification

- Inspectors of certification bodies that are accredited by the authorities of the target market
- Certification body needs to be accredited according to ISO 65 / EN 11045.

What Gets Inspected?

- Agricultural production
- Processing
- Product flow (trade)

Steps from Inspection to Certification

- Contract with a certification company by the authorities of the target market
- Yearly inspection of agricultural production / processing / commercialisation
- Evaluation of inspection and issuing of certificate after conversion period