



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

2008



YEARBOOK

ORGANIC FARMING
IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC





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Introduction

In the first half of 2008, organic farming in the Czech Republic built on considerable development in 2007. As of 30 June 2008, the share of organically farmed land area was approximately 7.84 % of the total agricultural land area which means again significant increase. The proportion of organically farmed land area is rising also for individual types of land use, only in the case of other land use (land not used for farming purposes, landscape elements) the land area decreased by 1,468 ha. On the same date grassland area was almost 257,000 ha. Significant increase occurred in the arable land area which grew to a total of 33,805 ha. Over the first half of 2008, its land area increased by almost 4,500 ha. The acreage of land under permanent cultivation (orchards) increased by 956 ha and the acreage of vineyards grew, too (by 162 ha).

The number of organic farmers increased in the first half of 2008 by 448, which means that as at 30 June 2008 there were a total of 1,766 organic farms in the Czech Republic. The number of organic food producers increased by 122 enterprises to a total number of 375 enterprises.

The considerable increase in interest in organic farming is mainly due to preferential point allowances for organic farmers and organic food producers under the new Rural Development Programme (EAFRD, 2007–2013). Another important aspect is the increased demand for organic raw materials from organic food producers, who are increasingly represented by large conventional food producers, and 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 which had a significant impact in 2007 and 2008. The state support for organic farming in 2008 was geared towards carrying out of an information/awareness raising campaign promoting organic food. Over the next three years, a total of CZK 28 million will be invested in organic food promotion and raising consumers' awareness of organic farming. 50 % of the campaign costs are financed by the State Agricultural Intervention Fund and 50 % of the campaign costs are contributed by the European Union.

„Our long-term goal is to promote the idea that agriculture is not inconsistent with environmental protection. We seek to raise consumers' awareness of benefits of organic farming for people and landscape and of significance of organic food production and consumption at the national level.”

Mgr. Petr Gandalovič, Czech Minister of Agriculture

1. Current state of organic farming

The data evaluated contain information for 2007 and in certain cases also for the first half of 2008. In this period, there was a rapid rise in the number of organic farms and organic food producers. The largest number of enterprises joined the organic farming system as usually in the first half of the year, i.e. before 15 May 2008, when the time limit for registration of applications for compensation payments for 2008 expired. As at 30 June 2008, the share of organically farmed land area was approximately 7.84 % of the total agricultural acreage.

On the same date, 1,766 organic farms were operating in the Czech Republic, which is almost double the increase in the number of organic farms over the last two years. The total organically farmed land area was 333,000 ha. In the transitional period, 82,400 ha were registered, which accounts for 24.7 % of the land area under organic management (hereinafter referred to as organic farming or OF).

This trend is mainly due to increasing and stabilization of the state support for organic farming under the Rural Development Pro-

Table No. 1 Development of key organic farming indicators from 2006 to the first half of 2008

	31 Dec. 2006	31 Dec. 2007	30 June 2008	Incr. for the 1st half of 2008
Number of organic farms	963	1 318	1766	448
Organically farmed agricultural land area (ha)	281 535	312 890	333 727	20 837
Share of organic farming of the total agricultural land area (%)	6,61	7,35	7,84	0,49
Arable land area (ha)	23 479	29 505,2	33 805	4 300
Permanent grassland area	232 190	257 899	274 786	16 887
Permanent crops (orchards) (ha)	1 195,61 (sady + vinice)	1 625	2 581	956
Permanent crops (vineyards) (ha)		245	407	162
Other land use (ha)	24 671	23 616	22 148	-1 468
Number of organic food producers	152	253	375	122

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture



gramme (RDP). Another factor, which is an incentive for joining the organic farming system, is the rising demand for organic raw materials from organic food producers and foreign consumers.

Last, but not least, the development of organic farming in the Czech Republic is stimulated by consumers who miss in the market fresh domestic organic products and organic food – fruit, vegetables, milk, milk products, poultry meat and pork meat, meat products. In the first half of 2008 the number of organic food producers increased by 122 enterprises to a total of 375 enterprises. A number of food processors extend the range of their products by new organic quality products.

1.1. Development of organic farming in the Czech Rep.

The development of organic farming, since its beginning in the early 90's, has been dynamic. From the alternative farming system supported by a limited range of people, the production recognized by the state and defined by legislation has evolved that has strict rules respecting the environment, animal welfare and which has gained wide support from consumers and their confidence. Currently, the Czech Republic ranks among top countries in terms of organically farmed land area in Europe. It is very likely that the objective that has been set by the Action Plan on Organic Farming till 2010 – 10 % of the land area under organic management by 2010 will be reached..

Table No. 2. Development of total organically farmed land area and number of organic farms in the Czech Republic

Year	Total number of enterprises	Total area under organic management (ha)	Percentage of the agricultural land resources
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	1316	312 890	7,35
2008*	1766	333 727	7,84

* The data for 2008 are only available as at 30 June 2008

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

1.1.1 Structure of organically farmed land area in the Czech Republic in 2007

A positive trend leading to the production of organic food can be also seen in the development of organic farming in the structure

Table No. 3 Development of organic farming within the structure of the agricultural land resources in the Czech Republic(2002-2007)

Land use	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Area (ha)		Area (ha)		Area (ha)		Area (ha)		Area (ha)		Area (ha)	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Arable land	19 536	8,31	19 637	7,7	19 694	7,5	20 766	8,1	23 478	8,3	29 505	9,4
Permanent grassland	211 924	90,13	231 683	90,86	235 379	89,4	209 956	82,4	232 190	82,5	257 899	82,4
Permanent crops	898	0,38	928	0,36	1 170	0,4	820	0,3	1 196	0,4	1 870	0,6
Other land use	2 778	1,18	2 747	1,08	7 056	2,7	23 440	9,2	24 671	8,7	23 616	7,6
Total	235 136	100	254 995	100	263 299	100	254 982	100	281 535	100	312 890	100

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: K. Dytrtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)

of the agricultural land resources. The predominant type of farming – on permanent grasslands in mountain and foothill areas focused on landscape preservation and raising beef cattle – still remains the key feature of organic farming in the Czech Republic, which currently accounts for 82 % of the total land area. However, for the first time in the history of organic farming also the arable land area has been rising steadily. The arable land area in the first half of 2008 was almost 34,000 ha and thereby exceeded 10 % of the organically farmed land area. This increase is likely to continue in subsequent years with the rising demand for organic quality cash crops and in particular the increased need for organic feed and seeds. A relatively high increase in land area was recorded in the case of permanent crops, in particular in orchards (2,581 ha) and vineyards (407 ha) which is mainly due to higher grants for this production, but also e.g. due to the strengthening of know-how for growing organic quality fruit and wine grapes. Over the last two years, the number of wine-growers who joined the organic farming system has risen rapidly (for the first half of 2008 alone, the organically farmed land area has increased by 162 ha) and is expected to rise further. The reason for such elevated interest is in particular the demand for organic wine on the European market, export opportunities and the above mentioned higher grants. Most of the new inter-

est comes from wine growers already registered in the integrated production system. The difficult transition to the organic system is made easier by active education and specifically targeted advisory system supported by the Integrated Production of Grapes and Wine Association.

1.1.1.1. Structure of organically farmed land area by individual regions

The structure of the agricultural land fund in most regions is similar to the nationwide average. Permanent grassland is predominant (mostly over 80 %), while arable land accounts for some 5-10 %. Only in the South Moravian Region, the Vysočina (Highlands) Region and the Central Bohemian Region, the share of arable land prevails. Orchards are more significantly represented in the Prague Region, South Moravian, Olomouc, Zlín and Central Bohemian Regions. Vineyards are located traditionally in particular in the South Moravian Region. Other land use (land not used for farming purposes, landscape elements) both in individual regions and on the nationwide average account for about 8-10%, only in regions strong in production (South Moravian, Central Bohemian region) this type of land accounts for about 1-2 % only.

1.1.1.2. The size of organic enterprises in the Czech Rep.

The average size of an organic enterprise has decreased over the past two years by more than 100 ha to less than 190 ha. This is accompanied by the trend towards increasing participation of smaller enterprises with mixed production in the organic farming scheme. Compared to previous years, when one third of organic farms in the Czech Republic were enterprises with the land area between 100 and 500 ha, currently organic farms with the land area between 10 and 50 ha represent the biggest group (26.4 %). The highest increase in the year-on-year terms (by 131 farms) was recorded in this size group. Despite this, the size of organic farms in the Czech Republic is significantly larger than in other EU Member States where organic farms are represented mainly by traditional family-owned farms with an average size under several tens of hectares. This difference stems from historical context, in particular nationalization of land under the Communist regime, collectivization and subsequent loss of relationship to land. When considering the size structure of enterprises in terms of the land area, then more than 30 % of land area are administered by enterprises sized between 500 and 1,000 ha and enterprises up to 2,000 ha (27 %), i.e. almost 60 %

Table No. 4. Organic farming within the structure of the agricultural land resources by regions as at 31 December 2007

Region	Perma- nent grass- land	Arable land	Vege- tables herbs	Or- chards	Vine- yards	Other land use	Total land area
1. Karlovarský	44 818,6	2 966,1	0	52,1	0	5 455,7	53 292,6
2. Jihočeský	35 969,6	2 932,9	1,9	20	0	3 520,4	42 447,1
3. Moravskoslezský	32 481,3	3 611,2	0,9	23	0	2 256,1	38 372,5
4. Ústecký	30 472,1	1 171,9	1,3	289,1	0	2 709,5	34 643,8
5. Zlínský	23 536,3	3 550,5	4	381,5	0	1 872,1	29 364,2
6. Plzeňský	21 442	2 284,8	0,5	113	0	1 837,8	25 678,1
7. Liberecký	22 614,3	822,4	0	62,8	0	1 405,2	24 904,7
8. Olomoucký	21 777,1	654,3	3	304,7	0	1 713,9	24 452,9
9. Královéhradecký	11 863,1	1 608,6	30,2	86,1	4,8	438,2	14 031
10. Jihomoravský	2 138,8	4 113,1	529,7	184,1	227	74,5	7 263,2
11. Středočeský	41 67,6	2 133,5	2,8	54,1	8,2	165,3	6 532,7
12. Vysočina	24 58,1	2 321,2	13,2	5,4	2,9	328	5 128,8
13. Pardubický	3 885,3	649	0	16	0	263,2	4 813,5
14. Praha	90,7	2,45	0,9	21,5	2,3	1,9	119,6

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: K. Dytrtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)

Table No. 5. The size structure of organic enterprises (farms) in 2006 and 2007

Size structure of organic enterprises by area (ha)	2006				2007				Year-on-year increase by	
	number		area		number		area		number of enterprises	area
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%		
0 to 5	54	5,7	105,8	0,0	130	9,9	246,8	0,08	76	141
5 to <10	38	4	281	1,0	78	5,9	579,2	0,19	40	298,2
10 to <50	214	22,8	6 018,3	2,2	345	26,4	9 368,2	3	131	3 349,9
50 to <100	164	17,4	12 005,1	4,4	219	16,7	16 201,1	5,2	55	4 196
100 to <500	290	30,9	70 113,1	25,5	335	25,6	80 888,8	26	45	10 775,7
500 to <1000	115	12,2	84 772,3	30,8	130	9,9	95 647,2	30,7	15	10 874,9
10000 to <2000	53	5,6	73 597,5	26,7	61	4,7	84 386,4	27,1	8	10 788,9
2000 or more	12	1,2	28 243,4	10,3	11	0,8	24 013,7	7,7	-1	-4 229,7

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: K. Dyrtrtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)

of land are farmed by large farms with the prevailing permanent grassland area. Currently, the land area of the biggest organic farm exceeds 2,660 ha. Smaller farms (under 50 ha) are family-owned farms with mixed production and those with a varied mix of farm animals (cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, horses). A significant year-on-year increase (76 enterprises) was recorded in the case of small organic farms with specialized production on arable land (e.g. vegetables, fruit, herbs). Organic farms over 500 ha are mostly represented by large agricultural cooperatives, joint-stock companies or limited liability companies focusing primarily on raising beef cattle and exceptionally also dairy cattle.

1.1.2. Location of organic farms by regions

The mountain and foothill regions traditionally have the greatest representation within organic farming in the Czech Republic. Extensive farming on permanent grasslands still prevails. The Karlovy Vary Region, with almost 54.5 thousand ha and the South Bohemian region with 47.5 thousand ha, however, rank first and second, respectively, in terms of the organically farmed land area. In terms of the number of organic farms, a significant increase was recorded in the Zlín Region, which moved to the second place (as at 31 July 2008, a total of 195 organic farms were registered there). However,

Table No. 6. Number of farms and the organically farmed land area as at 31 December 2007.

The order of regions by the number of organic farms.			The order of regions by organically farmed land area (ha)		
1.	South Bohemian Reg.	170	1.	Karlovy Vary Region	53 292,6
2.	Zlín Region	150	2.	South Bohemian Reg.	42 447,1
3.	Karlovy Vary Region	120	3.	Moravian-Silesian Reg.	38 372,5
4.	Pilsen Region	119	4.	Ústí nad Labem Region	34 643,8
5.	Olomouc Region	118	5.	Zlín Region	29 364,2
6.	Moravian-Silesian Reg.	107	6.	Pilsen Region	25 678,1
7.	Liberec Region	102	7.	Liberec Region	24 904,7
8.	Ústí nad Labem Region	98	8.	Olomouc Region	24 452,9
9.	Hradec Králové Region	84	9.	Hradec Králové Region	14 031
10.	South Moravian Reg.	77	10.	South Moravian Reg.	7 263,2
11.	Vysočina (Highlands) Reg.	63	11.	Central Bohemian Reg.	6 532,7
12.	Central Bohemian Reg.	55	12.	Vysočina (Highlands) Reg.	5 128,8
13.	Pardubice Region	46	13.	Pardubice Region	4 813,5
14.	Prague Region	7	14.	Prague Region	119,6

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: K. Dyrtrtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)

Table No. 7. Number of organic farms and the organically farmed land area by regions as at 31 July 2008. The order of regions by the number of organic farms.

	Region	Organically farmed land area as at 31 July 2008 (ha)	Increase in the 1st half of 2008 (ha)
1.	South Bohemian Reg.	225	55
2.	Zlín Region	196	46
3.	Pilsen Region	164	45
4.	Moravian-Silesian Region	158	51
5.	Olomouc Region	142	24
6.	Karlovy Vary Region	141	21
7.	South Moravian Region	130	53
8.	Liberec Region	123	21
9.	Ústí nad Labem Region	116	18
10.	Hradec Králové Region	107	23
11.	Vysočina (Highlands) Region	107	44
12.	Central Bohemian Region	87	32
13.	Pardubice Region	56	10
14.	Prague Region	17	10

the South Bohemian Region with 224 enterprises retains its leading position. One third of all organic farms in the Czech Republic, in terms of their number and land area are located in Moravia. In terms of the number of Moravian organic farms, the Zlín Region is

The order of regions by organically farmed land area (ha)

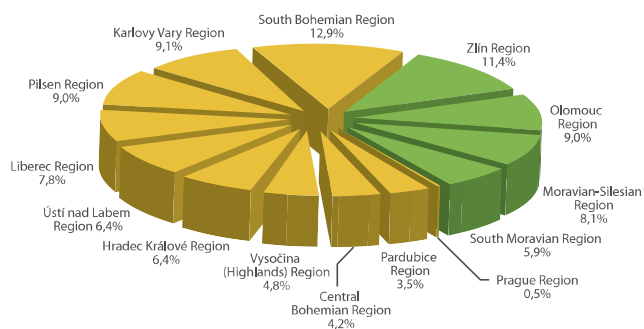
	Region	Organically farmed land area as at 31 July 2008 (ha)	Increase in the 1st half of 2008 (ha)
1.	Karlovy Vary Region	54 524,6	1 232,0
2.	South Bohemian Region	48 712,4	6 265,3
3.	Moravian-Silesian Region	40 814,4	2 441,9
4.	Ústí nad Labem Region	35 327,7	490,0
5.	Zlín Region	30 867,8	1 509,1
6.	Pilsen Region	27 435,4	1 757,3
7.	Liberec Region	25 685	681,8
8.	Olomouc Region	25 398,5	945,6
9.	Hradec Králové Region	15 367	1 336,0
10.	South Moravian Region	9 056,1	1 792,9
11.	Central Bohemian Region	7 965,2	1 432,5
12.	Vysočina (Highlands) Region	6 547,7	1 418,9
13.	Pardubice Region	5 465	651,5
14.	Prague Region	341,9	222,3

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: K. Dyrtrtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)

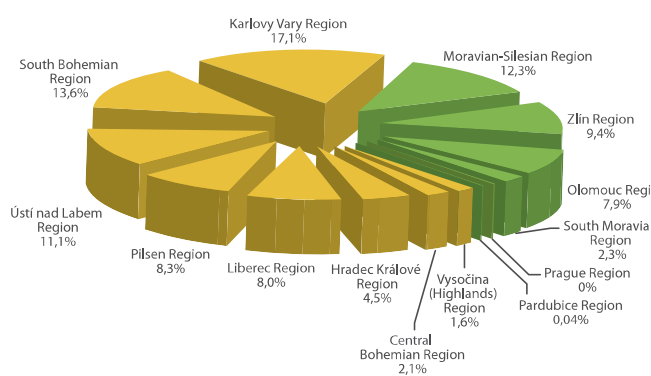
Graph 1.

Share of regions in the total number of organic farms in 2007



Graph 2.

Share of regions in the total organically farmed land area in 2007



Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: K. Dytrtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)

the leading region, however, in terms of the organically farmed land area, the Moravian-Silesian Region, with almost 41,000 hectares is the most significant one (the 3rd largest area by regions in the Czech Republic). In the Czech Republic, besides the Karlovy Vary and South Bohemian Regions, the Pilsen (Pilsen) and Ústí nad Labem Regions are also very significant in terms of the total area, as well as the number of farms. A positive trend has been noted in respect of the rising land area and the number of farms in production areas, in particular in the South Moravian Region (the second largest increase in the number of farms over the last decade), in the Central Bohemian region and in the Vysočina (Highlands) Region. The largest increase in the organically farmed land area by more

Table No. 8. Share of organically farmed land in the total agricultural land area in individual regions of the Czech Republic in 2007. The order of regions by the number of organic farms.

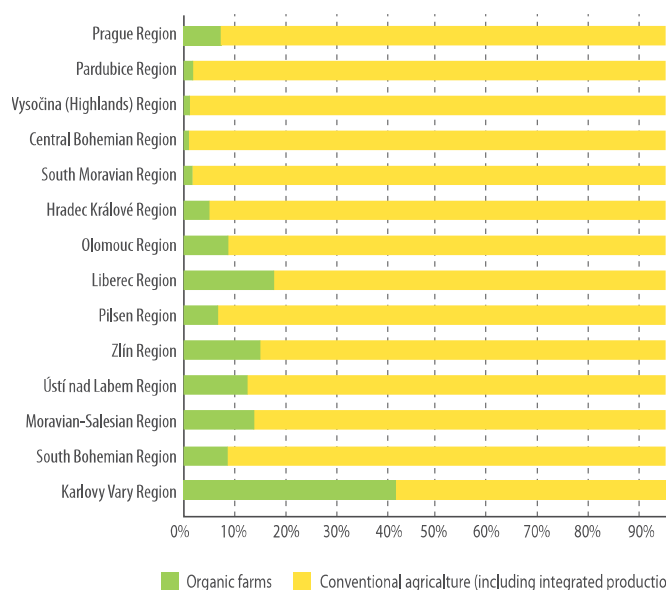
Karlovy Vary Region	41,6%
Liberec Region	17,7%
Zlín Region	15,0%
Moravian-Silesian Region	13,8%
Ústí nad Labem Region	12,5%
Olomouc Region	8,7%
South Bohemian Region	8,6%
Prague Region	7,4%
Pilsen Region	6,7%
Hradec Králové Region	5,0%
Pardubice Region	1,8%
South Moravian Region	1,7%
Vysočina (Highlands) Region	1,2%
Central Bohemian Region	1,0%

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: K. Dytrtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)

Graph 3.

Share of regions in the total number of organic farms in 2007



Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: K. Dytrtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)

than 5,000 ha over the past decade was recorded in the South Moravian Region (the second largest increase in the number of farms over the last decade), in the Central Bohemian Region and in the Vysočina (Highlands) Region. The highest increase in the organically farmed land area by more than 5,000 hectares over the last decade was recorded in South Moravian Region. It needs to be added that the regional distribution of organic enterprises has been significantly influenced by the location of the PRO-BIO Association Centres. The work of the PRO-BIO Association and the activities of its advisors contribute to the development of organic farming in the areas where these advisory centres are active.

Table No. 9. Number of entrepreneurs registered under Act No. 242/2000 Coll., on organic farming

Enterprises by business type	Year 2006	Year 2007
Organic enterprises, applicants for registration	963	1318
Organic food producers (including distribution)	152	253
Persons introducing organic products and food to the market	57*	91*
Importers of organic food from third-world countries	13	20
Producers of feed and seed	10	16
Contract processing (independently registered)	4	2
Organic bee keepers	1	6
Total number of enterprises	1 200	1 706

*In accordance with Act No. 242/2000 Coll. on organic farming, from 2006 retail outlets that sell organic food to final consumers only in consumer packaging are not subject to registration. For this reason, these entities are no longer in statistical overviews.

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

1.1.3. Organic farming and total agricultural land area in the Czech Republic

If we examine the share of organic farming in the total agricultural land area by regions, in seven regions the share of organically farmed land area exceeds the nationwide average. Much higher than average, with more than 41 %, the Karlovy Vary Region is the leading region, followed by the Liberec (17.7 %) Zlín (15 %), Moravian-Silesian (13.8 %) and Ústí nad Labem Regions (12.5 %). In production areas, the share of organic farming ranges from 1 to 2 %

Table No. 10: Number of staff of organic enterprises

Type of employment	Year 2006			
	Number of full-time staff	Number of part-time staff	Total number of staff	Number of full-time employment/year (converted to full-time equivalent) ²⁾
family members	777	301	1 078	900,95
permanent staff	2 353	95	2 448	2 388,95
apprentices/trainees	38	6	44	10,50

Type of employment	Year 2006			
	Number of full-time staff	Number of part-time staff	Total number of staff	Number of full-time employment/year (converted to full-time equivalent) ²⁾
family members	161	134	295	206,97
permanent staff	238	21	259	245,60
apprentices/trainees	0	0	0	0,00

1) only farms registered newly under the organic farming scheme in 2007 (before 31 July 2007)

2) converted to 8-hour working day, 251 working days in 2006 and 2007

Source of data: The Research Institute of Agricultural Economics

1.1.4. Comparison of the current state with 2006

Apart from increasing the number of farmers joining the organic farming scheme and newly registered organic food producers, also the number of organic food importers from third countries has been steadily rising (at the end of 2007, there were 20 importers of this type), together with producers of organic seed and feed (16) and organic bee keepers (6). The new EU Regulation on organic farming should support the development of the production of organic feed, because it promotes reductions in the percentage (share) of authorized conventional feed (currently, 0% of conventional feed is authorized for herbivores and 10 % for other species). Also the recently abolished exemption to the use of conventional seed should, together with other steps, help to create a functioning market in organic seed in the Czech Republic.



1.1.5. Employment at organic enterprises (farms)

By a questionnaire survey of the Research Institute of Agricultural Economics it has been found that farms that have registered for the organic farming scheme in the first half of 2007 employed 161 family members full-time and 134 family members part-time (hence, when converted to the full-time equivalent, 245.6 persons worked on organic farms.) None of the farms that newly joined the organic farming scheme in 2007 answered that they employed apprentices or trainees. Seasonal workers in 2007 worked a total of 54,999 hours on these farms. For comparison purposes, we note that in 2006 a total of 1,078 family members worked on the surveyed farms (897 of 963 total registered enterprises), thereof 777 full-time and 301 part-time which converted to full-time equivalent amounts to a total of 900.95 family members employed. In 2006, organic enterprises employed 2,353 permanent staff and 95 part-time staff, converted to full-time equivalent: 2,388.95 staff. Furthermore, in 2006 organic enterprises employed 6 apprentices/trainees full-time and 38 apprentices/trainees part-time, i.e. converted to full-time equivalent: 10.5 staff. Seasonal or casual staff worked on organic farms in 2006 a total of 196,503 hours

1.2. Production of individual commodities

The statistical questionnaire survey of the Research Institute of Agricultural Economics conducted at organic farms examined the production of organic livestock products and organic plant products in the period 2006-2007. The data for 2007 are based on farmers' anticipated estimate. The tables do not contain any data from organic farmers registered after 31 July 2007.

1.2.1. Produced quantity

1.2.1.1. Production of plant products

According to the survey conducted by the Research Institute of Agricultural Economics in the period 2006-2007 among signifi-



Table No. 11: Organic production of vegetable products in the period 2006-2007

Crops	Organic production in 2006 (tonnes)*	Organic production in 2007 (tonnes)* ¹⁾
Common wheat	6 659,03	7 072,40
Spelt	2 322,45	4 034,24
Durum wheat	570,90	409,30
Rye	548,24	4 962,00
Barley	3 804,30	2 150,03
Oats	3 195,78	5 602,39
Triticale	1 726,86	2 730,45
Grain maize	666,83	1 326,09
Buckwheat	783,71	888,55
Amaranth	44,80	0,00
Total cereals	20 322,90	29 175,45
Pea	336,75	358,72
Beans	2,21	0,21
Broad beans	376,87	243,49
Lupin	45,43	119,00
Soya beans	5,00	4,00
Field pea	251,52	463,10
Other legumes	645,50	1 790,50
Total legumes	1 663,28	2 979,02
Carrot	14,52	1 318,39
Parsley	3,82	211,70
Onion	382,33	54,38
Garlic	1,65	5,74
Cabbage	1,51	454,05
Brussels sprouts	0,54	0,74
Tomatoes	1,35	11,90
Gherkins	2,49	11,56
Pepper	0,70	1,80
Leeks	2,35	2,65
White cabbages and red cabbages	4,52	10,40
Outdoor or unprotected crops	144,91	124,40
Greenhouse crops or crops protected from bad weather	1,75	445,00
Potatoes	1 497,60	2 486,46
Total vegetables	2 060,01	5 139,16
Fresh fruit and temperate zone berries	177,95	189,38
Tree nuts	0,99	1,10
Apples	494,08	711,81
Pears	97,88	432,24
Apricots	67,78	62,02
Peaches	4,00	16,70
Plums	24,04	66,66
Cherries	22,07	37,85
Total fruit	888,79	1 517,76
Grape vines	61,87	89,03

1) anticipated estimate (only data for organic farmers registered before 31 July 2007)

* Production exclusive of crops produced in the transitional period.

Source of data: the Research Institute of Agricultural Economics

cant majority of organic farmers in the Czech Republic (in 2006 among 897 of 963 surveyed farmers and in 2007 among 1,127 of 1,318 surveyed farmers) the anticipated total vegetable production between 2006 and 2007 increased on average by almost 56 %. The highest increase in production was anticipated for rye, lupin, cabbage, greenhouse vegetables and pears. On the contrary, the highest decrease in production was expected in the case of amaranth (in 2007, none was grown on the farms monitored) barley, beans and onion. Despite increase in the production of fruit and vegetables, the largest sellers of these goods, i.e. retail chains, still offer mostly imported fruit and vegetables. Domestic fruit and vegetables are available in particular from specialized organic food outlets and through sales straight from the farm-yard.

1.2.1.2. Production of livestock products

The 2007 data are an estimate of the surveyed organic farmers. Under these estimates, the production of certified livestock products between 2006 and 2007 was expected to rise by almost 9.5 %. However, whereas in the case of organic meat in this period an increase by almost 30 % was estimated, the production of milk products and milk was expected to decline by 2.5 %. The most significant decline in production levels was forecast for organic honey, namely by 44 %. Of individual livestock commodities, the highest increase in production levels

Table No. 12: Organic animal production in the period 2006-2007

Table No. 12	Organic production in tonnes (for eggs in the number of eggs)	
	2006	2007 ¹⁾
Beef (meat)	6 349,9	6 331,8
Sheep and lamb meat	289,8	1 789,7
Goat meat	26,4	27,7
Pork (meat)	47,1	555,2
Poultry meat	1,8	1,7
Total meat²⁾	6 714,9	8 706,1
Cow milk	11 202,5	10 764,6
Ewe milk	10,0	0,0
Goat milk	177,0	343,5
Cottage cheese	13,1	12,4
Butter	1,0	1,0
Cow cheese	5,3	2,4
Ewe cheese	1,1	0,0
Goat cheese	2,5	6,5
Total milk products	11 412,4	11 130,3
Eggs (number of eggs)	410 720,0	438 720,0
Honey	9,0	5,0

1) Anticipated estimate (only data from organic farmers registered before 31 July 2007)

2) Meat values have been obtained by conversion to live weight equivalent and meat yield for individual types of animals based on the determined coefficients

Source of data: the Research Institute of Agricultural Economics

was recorded for pork, sheep (or lamb) meat, goat cheese and goat milk. On the contrary, the highest decline in production levels was estimated for cow cheese, poultry meat and honey. Nevertheless, the demand for organic meat still exceeds its sup-

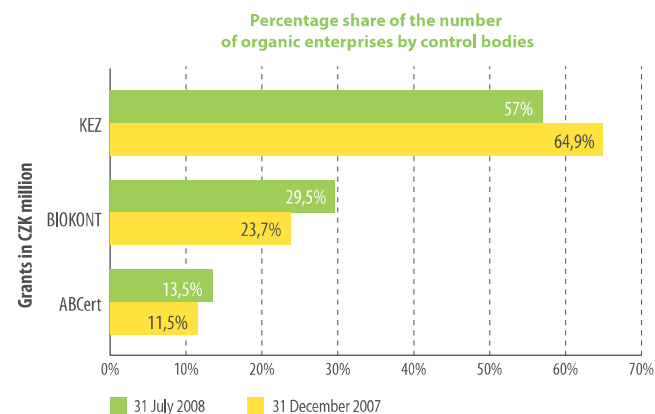
Table No. 13: Number of organic farmers and organically farmed land by control bodies

Control Body	31 December 2007				31 July 2008			
	Number of ent.		Land area (ha)		Number of ent.		Land area (ha)	
	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%
ABCert	151	11,5	22 847	7,3	239	13,5	25 639	7,7
Biokont CZ	312	23,7	35 766	11,4	522	29,5	42 581	12,8
KEZ, o.p.s.	855	64,9	254 277	81,3	1008	57,0	265 289	79,5
Celkem	1318	100,0	312 890	100,0	1769	100,0	333 509	100,0

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: Jan Valeška (PRO-BIO-LEAGUE)

Graph 4.



Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: K. Dytřtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)

ply, in particular in the case of pork and poultry meat whose production despite this fact has been more or less stagnating. Deliveries to retail chains limit fluctuations in supply and „seasonal nature“ of some types of products. Problems surrounding the sale of livestock products force the producers to sell their organic products as conventional products for further processing (e.g. milk) or sell them straight from the farmyard without any certificate (for instance cheese, chicken meat, etc.).

1.3. Control bodies

Control and certification under Act No. 242/2000 Coll., on organic farming is performed by three companies authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture: KEZ, o.p.s. (Chrudim), ABCERT AG (Brno), Biokont CZ, s.r.o. (Brno).

1.3.1. Percentage share of clients of individual control bodies

The control body KEZ, o.p.s., which in the first half of 2008 certified

Table No. 14: Number of infringements dealt with and sanctions imposed under Act No. 242/2000 Coll. on organic farming

Item	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008*	Total
Number of entities charged with infringements	31	20	10	7	3	71
No. of infringements	33	25	11	8	3	80
Total amount of penalties imposed	CZK 212,000	CZK 54,000	CZK 27,000	CZK 50,000	CZK 0	CZK 343,000
Number of registrations withdrawn	1	7	2	2	0	12
Number of administrative proceedings discontinued	0	0	0	2	1	3

*The data for 2008 are only relating to administrative proceedings discontinued till May 2008.

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: Jan Valeška (PRO-BIO-LEAGUE)



57 % of all organic farms and more than 79 % of the farmed land, has the largest percentage share of clients. Other control bodies ABCERT AG and BIOKONT CZ, s.r.o. controlled 13.5 % and 29.5 %, respectively of organic farms and 7.7 % and 12.8 %, respectively, of the organically farmed land area. When comparing an increase in the number of clients (organic farms) in the period between the end of 2007 and the end of July 2008, the control body BIOKONT gained the largest number of clients (increase by more than 68 %). The client base of the control body ABCERT during this period grew by 58 % of clients and the client base of KEZ, o.p.s. increased by almost 18 %.

1.4. Infringements

1.4.1. Number of infringements dealt with and sanctions imposed

Since 2004, the Ministry of Agriculture dealt with a total of 71 cases of infringement of Act No. 242/2000 Coll., on organic farming. The highest number of infringements and the highest number of sanctions imposed relates to the period 2004-2005; in the following years, the number of infringements dealt with was significantly decreasing despite massive increase in the number of organic farmers and organic food processors. Also the infringements dealt with are less serious, since in the period 2004-2005 eight cases of withdrawal of registrations occurred. In the next three years only four registrations were withdrawn.

1.4.2. Types of infringements (in the period 2004-2008)

The most frequent infringements were the consumption of unauthorized feed (in particular in 2004 – 11 cases) and deceitful labelling of food by dealers. The highest number of these cases (7) were recorded in 2005. In 2008, only 3 cases of deceitful labelling

Table No. 15: Types of infringements of Act No. 242/2000 Coll. on organic farming in the period 2004–2008

Type of infringement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Consumption of unauthorized feed	11	1	0	0	0	12
Deceitful labelling of food	1	7	4	0	0	12
Failure to keep records	0	6	3	1	0	10
Failure to render assistance in performance of control of organic farming	0	4	1	2	0	7
Infringement of animal welfare conditions	3	2	0	1	0	6
Introducing food into the market without documentary evidence (certificate)	4	0	0	0	0	4
Repeated infringement of the Act	2	1	0	0	0	3
Deceitful labelling of food supplements	0	0	0	1	2	3
Presence of GMO in organic production	1	2	0	0	0	3
Simultaneous conventional and organic production on the organic farm	1	0	1	0	0	2
Producer failed to ensure that organic production is not mixed up with conventional production	1	0	0	0	0	1
Higher share of conventional feed than allowed by legislation applicable to organic farming	1	0	0	0	0	1
Labelling of organic food contrary to Act	1	0	0	0	0	1
Manner of storage of fertilizers which put at risk the environment	1	0	0	0	0	1
Failure to keep records of animals	1	0	0	0	0	1
Failure to keep records of feed	1	0	0	0	0	1
Infringement of animal housing conditions	1	0	0	0	0	1
Use of barbed wire	1	0	0	0	0	1
Presence of pesticide residues in organic production	1	0	0	0	0	1
Presence of DDT and DDE residues in organic production	1	0	0	0	0	1
Failure to keep records of organic food sale	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tethering of livestock	0	1	0	0	0	1
Environment at risk	0	1	0	0	0	1
Use of plant protection products not authorized for use in organic production	0	0	1	0	0	1
Clear identification of organic products failed to be ensured	0	0	1	0	0	1
Use of unauthorized fertilizers	0	0	0	1	0	1
Suspected use of unauthorized fertilizers	0	0	0	1	0	1
Suspected infringement of rules applicable to the production of organic feed	0	0	0	1	0	1
Deceitful labelling in food advertising	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	33	25	11	8	3	80

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: Jan Valeška (PRO-BIO-LEAGUE)

were dealt with under administrative proceedings, two cases of labelling of food supplements and one case of deceitful labelling of food advertising, these proceedings were discontinued after modification of advertising materials. Other infringements that were dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture under administrative proceedings included the failure to keep the required records (both among farmers and food processors) of organic products (10) and the organic entrepreneurs' failure to assist in control of organic farming (7). These two infringements were also the most frequent reasons for withdrawing organic entrepreneurs' registration. Less frequent infringements then included the infringement of animal welfare conditions (6) introducing into the market food without documentary evidence (certificate) (4), repeated infringement of the Act (3), deceitful labelling of food supplements (3), presence of GMO (genetically modified organisms) in organic production (3) and simultaneous production of the same crops under both conventional and organic management on the organic farm (2). Other infringements of Act No. 242/2000 Coll. were rare.

1.5. Data collection

The data have been taken mostly from the database of the Ministry of Agriculture which is created by control bodies in the course of registration and controls of organic enterprises during the year. The processed data have been taken from the data series till 31 December 2007 and 31 July 2008. In 2007, the Research Institute of Agricultural Economics processed statistical surveys on organic farms with the aim of periodically collecting data on organic livestock and plant production for domestic as well as EU (EUROSTAT) use. Some tables and information have been taken over from this report. Statistical surveys on organic farming are also conducted to a limited extent by the Czech Statistical Office.

A periodic report about the state of organic farming in the Czech Republic is also prepared by Bioinstitut, o.p.s. for the Organic Europe international database established in Switzerland by FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Farming). The yearbook „Czech Organic Food Market“, which describes the development of the Czech organic food market in a given year, is published on an an-

Table No. 16: Number of seeded areas and total land area of GM crops in the Czech Republic in the period 2006–2008

Item	2006	2007	2008
Producers of Bt maize	85	131	171
Total land area of Bt maize (ha)	1290	5000	8380

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: Jan Valeška (PRO-BIO-LEAGUE)

nual basis. Part of this study is also a general overview of the world and European organic food markets. This yearbook is produced by the Green Marketing agency.

2. Growing of GM crops in the Czech Rep.

2.1. Overview of GM land area in the period 2006–2008

Genetically modified crops, i.e. more precisely Bt maize MON810 (as the sole officially grown and permitted GM plant in the Czech Republic) was grown in 2008 on almost 7,787 ha of agricultural land which is about 2.7 % of the total area of 287,676 ha of maize grown in the Czech Republic. In 2007, according to the ISAAA organization ranked 18th among the world's countries with the highest seeded area of GM plants.

2.2. Control of GMO content in organic products

In 2007, organic farming control bodies did not take any sample for testing of the content of genetically modified organisms. In the period 2004–2008, according to the data of the Ministry of Agriculture, three cases of presence of genetically modified organisms in organic products were dealt with, namely in 2004 and 2005.

3. Statistical data on organic food processors

Table No. 17 Structure of organic food producers by production areas in the period 2006–2008

Production area	31 Dec. 2006		31 Dec. 2007		30 June 2008	
	total	%	total	%	total	%
Meat	24	16	16	6	28	7
Meat products	2	1	23	9	29	8
Milk	10	7	25	10	36	10
Fruit, vegetables, potatoes	13	9	22	9	29	8
Fruit and vegetable juices	8	5	4	2	5	1
Sugar	1	1	1	0	1	0
Milling and starch products	11	7	8	3	12	3
Baked goods and pastry products	36	24	57	23	77	21
Pasta	4	3	1	0	2	1
Tea and coffee	11	7	15	6	16	4
Spices and aromatic spice extracts	4	3	5	2	7	2
Beverages	5	3	6	2	7	2
Wine	3	2	17	7	61	16
Other food products	20	13	53	21	65	17
Total	152	100	253	100	375	100

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: Jan Valeška (PRO-BIO-LEAGUE)

Table No. 18 Increase in the number of organic food producers by individual commodities

Production area	2007	2008	Percentage increase 2007/2008
Meat	16	28	75%
Meat products	23	29	26%
Milk	25	36	44%
Fruit, vegetables, potatoes	22	29	32%
Fruit and vegetable juices	4	5	25%
Sugar	1	1	0%
Milling and starch products	8	12	50%
Baked goods and pastry products	57	77	35%
Pasta	1	2	100%
Tea and coffee	15	16	7%
Spices and aromatic spice extracts	5	7	40%
Beverages	6	7	17%
Wine	17	61	259%
Other food products	53	65	23%

Source of data: Pro-Bio Association

Prepared by: Jan Valeška (PRO-BIO-LEAGUE)

3.1. Number of organic food processors and the structure of their focus

As at 30 June 2008, 375 enterprises certified for organic food production were registered, which represents an increase by more than 48 % compared to 2007. Most large conventional food producers who introduce into their production also organic food and who constitute a major part of new organic producers, due to the shortage of domestic raw materials, use foreign organic raw materials. Also outlets of retail chains, which bake/finish baking of organic baked goods or pack – mostly beef – organic meat, constitute a large part of organic food producers. This includes shops of Interspar and Billa retail chains.

Also the number of enterprises processing grapevine has been significantly rising (increase by more than 250 % compared to 2007). A total of 97 % of these enterprises are located in traditional wine-growing areas of the South Moravian Region. The areas where the number of enterprises has significantly risen include meat production, milling production and starch manu-

Table No. 19. Increase in the number of organic farmers, organic food producers and farm producers in the period 2006–2007

Type of enterprise	2006	2007	Increase 2006/2007
Organic farmers	963	1316	37%
Producers and processors	152	253	66%
Producers who are at the same time registered as farmers	24	45	88%

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: Jan Valeška (PRO-BIO-LEAGUE)

facture, processing of baked goods and pastry products. In terms of the volume of production, probably the launch of production of organic bakery products at the company United Bakeries (formerly Delta and Odkolek Bakeries) is perhaps the most important event. United Bakeries is the biggest enterprise in the Czech bakery market and it has launched production of organic food at the new refurbished facility located in Brno which has been adapted to serve these needs.

3.2. Number of farm processors

In the Czech Republic, there are still very few farms processing raw materials directly at the place of their production, i.e. the so-called farm processors, in particular when compared to the total number of organic farmers. Nevertheless, in the period 2006-2007, the number of farm organic food producers increased significantly. The Ministry of Agriculture intends to approve by the end of 2008 a Decree that would modify veterinary and sanitary requirements for farm processing for some food enterprises, while complying with the framework of the rules laid down in the EU legislation.

Table No. 19. Increase in the number of organic farmers, organic food producers and farm producers in the period 2006-2007

Bioinstitut, o.p.s. will prepare for the Ministry of Agriculture methodologies for farm processing of main commodities that will be in line with the requirements of the State Veterinary Administration and at the same time will be approved by organic farming control bodies.

4. Professional associations - unions

4.1. PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers

The PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers is currently the biggest functioning organization to bring together organic farmers, producers, sellers and consumers of organic food. Currently, the association has a total of 606 members from the ranks of organic farmers, producers and sellers of organic food. Organic farmers (437 members) and organic food outlets (89 outlets) constitute the highest share of the association's membership base.



The association in collaboration with major European organic farming associations develops its own guidelines applicable to both farming and processing that comply with the basic European

standard Council Regulation No 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products, but, in addition to it, for instance require transition of the whole enterprise to organic farming and are stricter than basic requirements of Council Regulation No 2092/91 in many other areas (PRO-BIO guidelines are available from www.pro-bio.cz). Apart from this, the PRO-BIO Association provides to its members information, advisory services, interest-free loans, organizes training/educational courses, assists in sales/marketing activities and secures goal-directed promotion and advertising. The PRO-BIO Association is, inter alia, a member of the IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements). In administrative terms, the PRO-BIO Association is divided to individual regional centres providing services to members in a given region. Furthermore, the association has established two specialized sections operating on a nationwide basis, namely the section of organic food sellers, the PRO-BIO

Table No. 21: Structure of the membership base of the PRO-BIO Association as at 17 July 2008

Region	Total number	Relative number %
South Bohemian Region	47	8%
South Moravian Region	38	6%
Karlovy Vary Region	51	8%
Královéhradecký kraj	39	6%
Liberec Region	24	4%
Moravian-Silesian Region	54	9%
Olomouc Region	78	13%
Pardubice Region	38	6%
Pilsen Region	49	8%
Prague Region	30	5%
Central Bohemian Region	31	5%
Ústí nad Labem Region	40	7%
Vysočina (Highlands) Region	36	6%
Zlín Region	51	8%
Total	606	100%

Source of data: Pro-Bio Association

Prepared by: Jan Valeška (PRO-BIO-LEAGUE)

Organic Food Sales and Marketing and the PRO-BIO LEAGUE for protecting food consumers.

Hence, additional associated members of the association are members of the PRO-BIO LEAGUE consumer branch which asso-

Table No. 22: Distribution of the membership base of the PRO-BIO Association by type of land use as at 31 December 2007

Land area	Total land area (ha)	Relative land area (%)
Permanent grassland area	92548,7	88,25
Arable land area excluding vegetables and herbs	9054,5	8,63
Area of vegetables and herbs on arable land	30,5	0,03
Orchard area	369,6	0,35
Vineyard area	13,5	0,01
Other land use area	8143,5	7,77
Pond area	28,2	0,03
Total land area	104872,2	100,00

Source of data: Pro-Bio Association

Prepared by: Jan Valeška (PRO-BIO-LEAGUE)

Table No. 20: Structure of the membership base of the PRO-BIO Association as at 17 July 2008

Member	Total number	%
Total farmers	437	72%
Producers/Processors (without farm producers/processors)	29	5%
Dealers	10	2%
Schools	9	1%
Outlets	89	15%
Other (honorary members, advisors, NGOs)	32	5%
Total	606	100%

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: Jan Valeška (PRO-BIO-LEAGUE)

Table No. 23: Total number of members of the PRO-BIO Association by individual sections including members of the PRO-BIO LEAGUE as at 17 July 2008

Regional centre (RC), sections, branches	Total number	%
RC Krkonoše a Podkrkonoší	29	3%
PRO-BIO RC Bílé Karpaty	49	6%
PRO-BIO RC Jeseníky	89	10%
Pro-Bio RC Southern Moravia	18	2%
PRO-BIO RC Litomyšl	54	6%
PRO-BIO RC Moravská Brána	31	4%
PRO-BIO RC Srdce Čech (Heart of Bohemia)	35	4%
PRO-BIO RC North East	7	1%
PRO-BIO RC North Eastern Bohemia	118	14%
PRO-BIO RC Šumava	45	5%
PRO-BIO RC Vysočina (Highlands)	42	5%
Sellers' section	89	10%
Consumer branch PRO-BIO LEAGUE	251	29%

Source of data: Pro-Bio Association

ciates 251 consumers.

In order to promote sales of Czech organic raw materials, PRO-BIO Association, together with the German Bioland Association established the company SALES-BIO, s.r.o. with a view to placing the Czech production on the Czech market. The main suppliers – members of the PRO-BIO Association – should produce superior quality goods in line with the PRO-BIO association's guideline. At the same time, the option is available of supplying to the Czech market organic products from Germany (soya beans, organic hops, organic seed, etc.), that are here in short supply so far.

4.1.1. Structure of the membership base (by regions + structure of land area)

The Olomouc region, in which about 13 % of members of the PRO-BIO Association live, mainly due to the location of the association's seat in Šumperk, is the region with the highest share of the association's membership base. The least number of the association's members are registered in the Liberec Region (4 %), Central Bohemian Region (5 %) or in the Capital City of Prague (also 5 %), where the largest member group constitute organic food outlets. The structure of the membership base of the PRO-BIO Association more or less corresponds to the location of its 11 regional centres which, however, do not correspond to the administrative division by regions.

Permanent grassland, which represented 88 % of all land areas registered in the association, constituted the largest land area farmed by members of the PRO-BIO Association in 2007. Only

the shares of arable land (over 8 %) and other land use (almost 8 %) represented other significant portions of the total land area. Other land use always accounted for less than 1 % of the total land area farmed by organic farmers registered with the PRO-BIO Association.

4.2. Libera Association of Alternative Farmers

The Libera Association was founded in 1991. It was not possible to obtain information on its activities or members.

5. Support for organic farming and production of organic food

State support renewed from 1998 was disbursed until 2003 on the basis of a Government Order whereby support programmes for non-production functions of agriculture were defined. From 2004 to 2006 the conditions for state support were governed by the „Horizontal Rural Development Plan“ (HRDP) which included, besides other agri-environmental measures (AEM), the „Organic Farming“ measure stipulated by Government Order No. 242/2004 Coll. Organic farmers were given the opportunity to use advantageous point allowances when applying for support from the Operational Programme Agriculture. Since 2007, support for organic farming has been based on the Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 (RDP) which replaced HRDP“ and support from the Operational Programme Rural Development and Multifunctional Agriculture. Based on AEM/RDP, organic farming is supported under Government Order No. 79/2007 Coll.

5.1. Basic grant per land area

Support for organic farmers under RDP 2007-2013 is implemented

Table No. 25: Total paid funds within the Title Organic farming

Year	Paid funds
1998	48 091 000
1999	84 168 000
2000	89 101 971
2001	167 966 104
2002	210 861 131
2003	230 810 809
2004	292 200 000
2005	285 828 855
2006	304 995 064
2007	Applied for funds: CZK 540,395,786

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

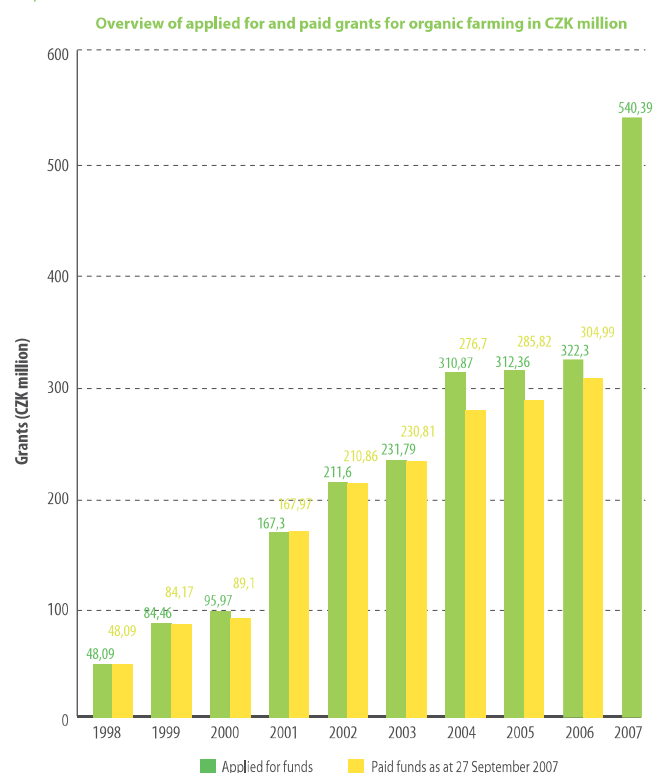
Table No. 24: The rate of financial support under the Rural Development Programme per hectare of farmed land area in the period 1999-2008

Land area use	1999-2000	2001-2003	2004-2006	2007	2008	Change IV/III	Change V/IV
	I	II	III	IV	V	(%)	(%)
Arable land	2 130	2 000	3 520	4 266	4 086	21	-4
Permanent grassland	1 065	1 000	1 100	1 954	1 872	78	-4
Permanent crops	3 195	3 500	12 235	23 369	22 383	91	-4
Vegetables	2 130	3 500	11 050	15 524	14 869	40	-4
Special herbs	2 130	2 000	11 050	15 524	14 869	40	-4

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: K. Dytrtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)

Graph 5.



Note: the amount of paid grants in 2007 was not yet known at the time of the deadline for publishing of the Yearbook.

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: K. Dyttrtová (Bioinstitut, o.p.s.)

within Axis II – Improving the Environment and the Countryside, specifically Measure II. 1.3. Agri-environmental Measure – Title II. 1.3.1.1. Organic farming

Within this measure, organic farmers receive compensation for economic losses incurred due to this management scheme. Payments are disbursed per organically farmed land area, with differ-



ent rates for different land use.

The rate amount:

Arable land EUR 155/ha (2007: CZK 4,266,-/ha; 2008: CZK 4,086,-/ha)

Permanent grassland EUR 71/ha (2007: CZK 1,954,-/ha; 2008: CZK 1,872,-/ha)

Permanent crops EUR 849/ha (2007:

CZK 23,368,-/ha; 2008: CZK 22,383,-/ha)

Vegetables and special herbs EUR 564/ha (2007:

CZK 15,524,-/ha; 2008: CZK 14,869,-/ha)

The rate amount in CZK will be calculated for the following years at the EUR/CZK exchange rate that is determined every year. The exchange rate for 2007 was CZK 27.525, for 2008 the rate has been set at 26,364 CZK which means the reduction in individual subsidies by 4 % compared to 2007. The same amount of payments will be disbursed to organic farmers also for their land area in the so-called transitional period.

5.2. Total grant payments within the title Organic farming

In 2007, within grants for Agri-environmental Measure for Title II. 1.3.1.1. Organic farming, farmers applied for more than CZK 540 million in compensation grants for organically farmed land areas. Neither the total grant payments in 2007, nor the amounts applied for in 2008 were known at the time of the deadline for the publishing of the Yearbook.

5.3. Rural Development Programme (2007-2013)

The Rural Development Programme of the Czech Republic for the period 2007-2013 is based on the National Strategic Rural Development Plan. It has been prepared in line with Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 and implementing rules of the Regulation. Hence, it builds on the former Horizontal Rural Development Plan for the Czech Republic for the period 2004-2006 (HRDP) which it supersedes as the basic programming document for the provision of support to Czech agriculture and rural regions from EU resources.

As already noted above, organic farming is supported under the RDP through Axis II, Improving the Environment and the Countryside, submeasure II.1.3. Agri-environmental measure, Title 1.3.1.1. Organic farming. The form of support has been chosen as a compensation for losses incurred due to organic farming. A grant was determined per land area and its amount is based on the manner of land use under the organic management. See point 5.1.

5.3.1. Preferential point allowance for organic farmers within RDP support

Taking into consideration the low amount of organic food production in the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Agriculture has decided to improve the allowance for organic farmers and organic food producers within the framework of the RDP. In 2007, preferential allowances were applied with respect to the following measures:

Axis I – Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural

Table No. 26: Number of supported projects within closed rounds of RDP and number of supported projects submitted by organic farmers

Measure	Total funds disbursed		Z toho rozděleno mezi ekozemědělce			
	Number of supported projects	Total funds disbursed	Number of supported projects		Total funds disbursed	
			Total	%	Total	%
I.1.1.1 Modernization of agricultural holdings (1st round)	586	CZK 1 336 158 896	120	20	CZK 166 000 000	12
I.1.1.1 Modernization of agricultural holdings (2nd round)	633	CZK 1 585 911 165	134	21	CZK 190 000 000	12
I.3.1 Adding value to agricultural and food products (2nd round)	61	CZK 40 582 111	13	21	CZK 25 500 000	63
I.3.2.Setting up of young farmers(1st round)	204	CZK 223 392 000	54	26	CZK 59 200 000	27
I.3.2.Setting up of young farmers(3rd round)	301	CZK 329 997 533	149	50	CZK 163 900 000	50
III.1.1. Diversification into non-agricultural activities – plan (a) (2nd round)	19	CZK 20 201 493	5	26	CZK 4 100 000	20
III.1.1. Diversification into non-agricultural activities – plan (a) (3rd round)	19	CZK 23 032 761	2	11	CZK 1 800 000	8
III.1.3 Encouragement of tourism activities – plan (b) 2nd round)	117	CZK 262 289 068	26	22	CZK 58 800 000	22
Total	1940	CZK 3 821 565 027	503	26	CZK 669 300 000	18

Source of data: The Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared by: Jan Valeška (PRO-BIO-LEAGUE)

and forestry sector

I.1.1 Modernization of agricultural holdings

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

I.1.3 Adding value to agricultural and food products

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

area received 7 points.

I. 3.2 Setting up of young farmers

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

Axis III – The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

III.1.1. Diversification into non-agricultural activities

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

III. 1.3 a), III.1.3 b) Encouragement of tourism activities

– objective b)

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

5.3.2. Closed rounds of individual support under RDP

As part of measures, under which organic farmers are given preferential treatment, a total of 503 projects of organic farmers have been supported, which accounts for 26 % of all projects (and 18 % of all the funds disbursed) that have been supported under the measures announced to date.

The highest share of organic farmers among supported applicants was recorded under measure „I.3.2. Setting up of young farmers“, in whose 1st round, of the total number of 204 supported projects, 54 projects of organic farmers (i.e. 26 %) were supported; in the 3rd round, the share of supported projects submitted by



organic farmers even accounted for 50 %.

6. Legislation applicable to organic farming

Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007

On 28 June 2007, officially new Regulation of the Council of the European Union and of the European Parliament (No 834/2007) was officially published. As of 1 January 2009 it will supersede the existing Council Regulation No 2092/1991. The implementing rules for specific areas of organic production are under preparation since autumn 2007. The new Regulation's key changes:

- In contrast with the existing Council Regulation No 2092/1991, the aims and basic principles of organic production have been summarized in one chapter.
- Extension of its scope by adding aquaculture production, seaweeds and yeast, etc.
- It contains a summary catalogue of exceptions from production rules under the „flexibility“ motto.
- Changes in the labelling of organic products, 70 % of the „valid to date“ categories are abolished.
- New obligatory labelling of all organic foods originating from within the EU with a European Union mark.
- A summary of the Council Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 control (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“ will be treated differently.
- A threshold of 0.9 % GMO was set for inadvertent trace contamination.

■ Commission Regulations (EC) No 349/2007 and 1319/2007

Legislative amendments from 2007 include, for example, Commission Regulations (EC) No 349/2007 and 1319/2007 which increase the share of allowed feed originating from the transitional period and specify rules for grazing animals on conventional pastures when switching from one pasture to another.

■ Abolition of a general derogation under Commission



Regulation (EC) No 1452/2003

A significant legislative change in the first half of 2008 for organic farmers was the abolition of a general derogation applicable to the use of conventional seed and seed potatoes in organic farming. This derogation was issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on 21 July 2004 in line with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1452/2003. Due to the fact that by issuing the derogation the original intention of the Ministry of Agriculture, i.e. to boost organic seed market and increase organic seed production, failed to be fulfilled, the Ministry of Agriculture decided on abolition of this derogation, namely as at 31 July 2008. Consequently, as of 1 August 2008 the general derogation is no longer in force. An organic entrepreneur is required, if he/she intends to use for his/her farming conventional seed or seed potatoes, to apply with the authorized control (inspection) body for an authorization that control (inspection) bodies may grant in line with the provisions

Table No. 27: Points of sales of organic food in 2008

Type of outlet	Total number	%
Specialized organic food and healthy food outlets	239*	13,1
On-line outlets	55*	3,0
PRO-BIO Association outlets	89*	4,9
Restaurants	20*	1,1
Retail chains	1,428**	78,0
Total	1,831	100%

*In accordance with Act No.242/2000 Coll., on organic farming, from 2006, retail outlets which only sell organic food to final consumers in consumer packaging are not subject to a registration requirement and therefore these data are only unofficial figures from non-profit organization engaged in organic farming monitoring.

** Information on the number of outlets in which organic food is offered in retail chains Kaufland, Hypernova, Albert, DM Drogerie, Globus, Tesco, Penny Market, Plus Diskont, Interspar, Billa and Coop, August 2008. The sale of organic food in normal food outlets (self-service shops, etc.) is not monitored and therefore no data are available.

Source of data: PRO-BIO LEAGUE

set out in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1452/2003.

■ Production Directive of the PRO-BIO Association

The PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers approved an update of the association production guidelines that are modelled on 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

Table No. 28: Supply of organic food in Prague retail chains (in the period 2007–2008)

Retail chain	Number of items on offer from 59 demanded products (October 2007)		Number of items on offer from 102 demanded products (May 2008)	
	Total	%	Total	%
Albert	14	24%	26	25%
Billa	32	54%	34	33%
DM Drogerie	-	-	25	25%
Globus	21	36%	24	24%
Hypernova	27	46%	40	39%
Interspar	43	73%	42	41%
Kaufland	23	39%	19	19%
Penny market	-	-	4	4%
PLUS	14	24%	24	24%
Tesco	41	69%	47	46%

Source of data: PRO-BIO LEAGUE

the transparency of the entire system – from organic production to processing organic products, from control 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, etc. Organic raw materials for organic food with the PRO-BIO/Bioland standard offer purchasers and consumers organic food produced under stricter conditions than those defined by Act No. 242/2000 Coll., and Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91, with the perfect control of raw materials from the producer to the dealer and 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 programme, adding certification of natural cosmetics having a percentage of organic raw materials. Selected products of Czech cosmetic manufacturers Salus (M+H, Míča a Harašta s.r.o.), Botanicus spol. s r.o., Nobilis Tilia, s.r.o. and Syncare Plus s.r.o., received the CPK Certificate (Certified Natural Cosmetics) and the CPK Bio Certificate.

7. Supply of organic food to consumers

7.1. Number of sales points and supply of organic food

The supply of organic food through the retail trade network has been steadily rising, on one hand, due to the rising number of specialized organic food outlets and also thanks to the significant extension of the number of organic quality items available from retail chains and to a lesser extent also the extension of local food outlets. In terms of the number of sales points, organic food is most available from outlets at retail chains (78 % of all sales points) and from specialized outlets (including the outlets of the PRO-BIO Association, they account for 18 %). The remaining sales points are on-line outlets and restaurants.

As regards the supply of organic food, the survey conducted by the PRO-BIO LEAGUE Association in Prague outlets of retail chains showed that from the normal food consumer basket outlets of retail chains offer about 30 % of demanded organic quality items (in 2008).

Table No. 28. Supply of organic food in Prague retail chains (in the period 2007-2008)

7.2. Comparison of prices of organic food

Prices of organic food are, due to the more expensive way of

Table No. 29: Difference between organic food prices and conventional food prices in Prague retail outlets

Monitored period	Difference between prices
July 2007 (40 items)	80%
October 2007 (59 items)	88%
May 2008 (102 items)	95%

Source of data: PRO-BIO LEAGUE

production and processing higher than prices of conventionally produced food. Higher costs of production and processing, according to the data usually stated in this respect, increase the price of organic food by 20-30 %. In theory, therefore, we should pay for organic food in outlets an extra 20-30 % for the protec-

Table No. 30: Difference between prices of organic food on organic farms and in retail outlets

Product	% difference between farm price and price in retail chains	% difference between farm price and price in a specialized organic food outlet
Potatoes	153,6%	86,7%
Onion	168,8%	200,0%
Apples	78,3%	40,0%
Carrot	8,0%	60,0%
Hard cheese	4,0%	18,5%
Butter	8,6%	19,1%
Milk	2,7%	18,4%
Eggs	44,0%	90,0%
Pork neck	45,2%	35,2%
Ham	10,4%	45,2%
Average difference based on all items	41,7%	49,5%

Source of data: PRO-BIO LEAGUE

tion and maintenance of nature and the landscape, animal welfare and other benefits of organic farming to society. However, real situation also reflects excess demand over supply and other market characteristics and therefore organic food prices charged in Prague retail chains and organic food outlets are higher on average by 80-95 % compared to conventional food prices (see Table No. 29). Hence, organic food prices are obviously much



higher than conventional food prices. Nevertheless, a difference between conventional goods prices and organic goods prices also reflects specific features of a different place of purchase, different region and individual commodities and their availability. The lowest price is charged by producers themselves, i.e. on farms upon the so-called straight sale from the farmyard: which, however, involves many complications and extra costs and therefore, so far, due to the low number of farm sellers and their distance from larger cities, this type of sale is not a viable option for most consumers, despite the fact that abroad, e.g. in Austria and Germany, farm outlets account for a significant proportion of organic food distribution.

The largest portion of organic food sales are implemented through specialized outlets and retail chains. Price level of both types of sale is approximately the same, if we disregard special prices and introductory prices of retail chains. On-line outlets account for steadily rising share in organic food sales since they have extended in some cities the range of their products also by fresh food and fruit and vegetables.

7.2.1. Differences between organic food prices and conventional food prices in Prague retail chains and organic food outlets

The ongoing monitoring of organic food prices and conventional food prices in Prague retail chains and specialized organic food outlets shows that the average difference between organic food prices and conventional food prices was 95 %, according to the most recent monitoring findings. An increase in the difference over time can be explained by the increased number of the monitored items, up to the final 102 items according to the consumer

basket of the Czech Statistical Office in May 2008.

7.2.2. Difference between organic food prices on farms, in Prague retail chains and organic food outlets

Based on the comparison of prices performed in Prague outlets in May 2008, organic food prices charged in specialized organic food outlets were about 14 % higher than prices of comparable organic food in retail chains. The most significant increase in the price of farm products within the retail trade network has been found in the case of the most ordinary raw materials - potatoes, onion and eggs. Conversely, the lowest difference has been found in the case of milk products. For the comparison of average farm prices of selected organic food with prices charged by retail chains and a specialized organic food outlet, see Table No. 30.

8. Promotion and education

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 engaged in the provision of ecological advisory services (PRO-BIO Association and its regional centres, Bioinstitut, o.p.s. and EPOS Czech Republic).

In 2007 and 2008 also retail chains participated more significantly in the promotion of organic food. Their promotional activities focus on raising the awareness of corporate brands of organic food (e.g. BIOBIO – Plus Discount, Tesco Organic, Natur*Pur – Interspar, etc.), with an added value of raising the awareness of organic food products. In the course of September and December 2007, the biggest campaign ever in the Czech Republic promoting organic farming and organic food targeted on both



the professional and consumer public was carried out. The campaign titled Organic Living („Žiju Bio“) was coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture and implemented by the advertising agency Nexos X. The total cost of the campaign was CZK 4 million. This one-off campaign was followed up at the beginning of 2008 by the information campaign of the European Commission and the State Agricultural Intervention Fund for the period 2008-2010, under which more than CZK 28 million will be invested in organic food promotion among consumers. The campaign is implemented by the advertising agency Ogilvy&Mather. The companies concerned with long-term publicity and disseminating information about organic farming and organic food among consumers include other non-profit organizations: the PRO-BIO LEAGUE for Protecting Food Consumers and Friends of Organic Farming, the League for Environmental Alternatives (LEA), Eko-Connect e.V., Rainbow Movement (Hnutí Duha), etc. As part of their activities in the area of promotion of Fair Trade products also companies involved in the sale of Fair Trade products provide information about organic farming and organic food (e.g. the Fair Trade Centre, the Ecumenical Academy etc.).

Regularly published periodicals focused on organic farming and organic food include for many years now the printed BIO

monthly, a Monthly for Sustainable Development (publisher: vhpres), and also monthly e-magazine Bio Outlet intended primarily for organic food sellers and dealers (publisher: Green Marketing).

In the first half of 2008, various traditional awareness-raising and promotional events for the general public were held, including the Barták Cup, the Czech Organic Product of the Year professional competition, the Favourite Czech Organic Product of the Year consumer competition and Organic Festival in Staré Město pod Sněžníkem or Pavlov Organic Wine-Tasting in Pavlov pod Pálavou. The new events that were held in the first half of 2008 include e.g. Karlovy Vary Organic Festival on the Kozodoj organic farm. In autumn and in the course of September – Organic Food Month a number of awareness-raising events will be held, of which the most visited one are the Prague Organic Fair in Toulcův dvůr and Organic Harvest Festival in Nenačovice.

The Czech Republic's organic farming was presented in February 2008 by a national exhibition stand at the international trade fair Biofach in Nuremberg. Domestic trade fairs during which organic farming and its products were partly presented included in 2008 Trade Fair Biostyl (i.e. Organic Style, Prague), Food Trade Fair Salima (Brno) and Health Trade Fair (Ostrava).

8.1 Awareness-raising campaigns

8.1.1. Information project Organic living 2007

This information project was carried out from September to December 2007. The agency Nexos X, the winner of the tender, was commissioned to implement it. The project focused on the development of national organic food production in the Czech Republic and explanation of positive impact of organic farming on the environment, in particular to the target group of conventional farmers and both the professional and lay public. The project's main objectives included raising the consumers' awareness of organic farming with special focus on the national organic food production in the Czech Republic and also increasing the consumption of Czech organic food, with the campaign targeted on consumers and the public administration.

PR activities and marketing tools used

- **Direct mailing** distributing information during the campaign to the target group of farmers. The number of e-mails significantly exceeded 5,000. A web site dedicated to the campaign that was in connection with the existing web sites and other campaign activities placed on the address – www.ziju-bio.cz. The web site was visited over the project duration by 12,763 visitors.
- **Smart boxes**, use of advertising space on telephone booths of the company Telefonica O2. Posters were displayed in 12 regional cities (except for Prague), during two different days in a total of 50 places.
- **Telephone information line for farmers.** Direct telephone lines, for which fee was charged, were supplemented by a universal e-mail address info@ziju-bio.cz. Anyone who sent his/her question to the above contact address received a competent answer in writing within approximately 48 hours. The total number



of callers was 253.

- **Sampling or tasting events** that were held already in the course of September in department stores of selected towns/cities in the Czech Republic. A total of 9,660 visitors participated in these events.
- **Public Relations (PR)** events served to address both the agricultural and professional public. Renowned agricultural and economic periodicals were used with a circulation of at least 20,000 copies. The PR campaign focused on the preparation and publication of 3 press releases (officially signed by the Ministry of Agriculture).
- **Education and awareness** raising were implemented in particular through seminars in Prague, Brno and Hořice with the theme „organic food and its impact on lifestyle“, „marketing organic food“ or „organic farming and the system of control (inspection) applicable to organic farming“. A total of 384 participants attended the lectures.

8.1.2. Promotional awareness raising campaign of the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Agricultural Intervention Fund 2008-2010

The implementation of the information campaign focused on the promotion of organic food was approved by Decision of the European Commission in July 2007. On 3 April 2008 the Ministry of Agriculture announced at a press conference the launching of the largest domestic information campaign promoting organic food. Over a period of three years the Ministry will promote organic food and raise the consumers' awareness of organic food products, with the project costs totalling almost CZK 29 million. 50 % of the costs will be paid by the State Agricultural Intervention Fund and 50% by the European Union. The advertising agency Ogilvy&Mather, whose clients include the companies Unilever, Procter&Gamble or Kraft Foods, will be

responsible for the actual implementation of the campaign. The campaign's objective is raising the awareness of organic farming and organic food in the Czech Republic and promoting a positive image of the national and European organic brand. At the same time, the campaign's ambitious objective, in view of the tools chosen, is to explain to consumers complex issues of the impact of own consumer behaviour on the manner of food production and the environment and differences between conventional agricultural production and organic agricultural production (and its specific features – seasonal nature, sale straight from the farmyard, etc.).

The tools and events chosen within the campaign include:

- **Advertising in press** - in particular lifestyle media and dailies
- **Billboards**, a total of 1,200 billboards throughout the whole campaign (1st year 600 pieces, 2nd year 300 pieces, 3rd year 300 pieces). For billboards and advertising in press pictures of real Czech organic farmers on their farms were taken.
- **Road show** around business centres April/May/June 2008 – Prague, Brno, Teplice, Mladá Boleslav, Pilsen, České Budějovice, Zlín – tasting organic food
- **PR activities**, press conference, event for journalists – visiting organic farm in Chrástce, outcomes presented through media
- **Web site**, www.jimebio.cz
- **Information telephone line**
- **Leaflets**, waiting rooms of gynaecologists and paediatricians; sales points – supermarkets
- **Direct mail**, addressing mothers with children
- **Product packages** for mothers in maternity hospitals containing a leaflet with information on organic farming and organic food and a sample of organic fennel tea



- **Organic day**
- **Web competition** for organic food recipes
- **Survey** of the campaign's impact

For the whole campaign a budget of CZK 28,917,000,- will be allocated. Of this budget, 50 % will be paid by the European Commission and 50 % by the State Agricultural Intervention Fund. In the first year of the campaign (launched at the end of March 2008), the budget will be CZK 18,552,100 while in the second and third year campaign costs will amount to CZK 5,604,900, or CZK 4,760,000, respectively.

8.1.3. The Czech Republic is seeking Czech organic food

The campaign of the DUHA (Rainbow) Movement whose objective was to compel significant food producers through consumers' pressure to introduce into their range of products organic quality food. The campaign was launched in June 2007. Based on the survey conducted companies were chosen to be targeted by the campaign. The primary emphasis was on the company Pribina and the firm United Bakeries.

The tools used by the campaign were as follows:

- **Web site** www.ceskebiopotraviny.cz, from which consumers could send to selected producers e-mails requiring the introduction of organic food production and which contains information on organic foods and organic farming, news on organic products offered in the Czech market, quizzes, competitions, recipes, etc.
- **Postcards** addressed to the company Pribina.
- **Awareness raising and promotional events** „Seeking Czech filled cakes“ (Hledá se česká buchta). On trams and suburban trains in Brno and in Prague, on city lights in the Prague Main Railway Station or on large-sized stick-on labels on the side of Brno trams, throughout the whole month of May the above slogan, together with a picture of a cake



filled with plum jam (buchta), bitten into was displayed. Similarly, on both commercial and non-commercial basis banners having the same content are published on many web sites.

- **PR activities**, presentation of the theme of Czech organic food in the media.

The campaign also aimed to extend at extending local market structures as outlets for Czech organic farmers and sources of quality food for local communities. Hnutí DUHA (the Rainbow Movement) prepared an information package containing, inter alia, the brochure titled Fresh Food Near at Hand: Form an Organic Club with your Friends. All these materials are available both in hard copy and in electronic format (DVD) and are freely downloadable from www.hnutiduha.cz/bio. At childcare centres discussions and seminars on organic farming, organic food and organic clubs were organized.

The project was financed from the grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, under the EEA (European Economic Area) Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism through the Civil Society Development Foundation. The campaign costs were about CZK 700,000.

8.1.4. Information advisory centre of the PRO-BIO LEAGUE

Long-term awareness raising activity of the PRO-BIO LEAGUE, a professional consumer branch of the PRO-BIO Association, focuses on the provision of information and services to the target group of consumers, students and the media. Currently, the Information Centre offers every working day between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. services of the library containing over 800 volumes, consumer advisory services for those interested in organic food, organic farming and environmentally friendly lifestyle, advisory



services related to student activities (Master's or Bachelor's final theses). The LEAGUE organizes study trips to selected organic farms, organizes for consumers collection points for Czech organic farm products, publishes the bulletin Consumer of Organic Products and promotional materials, twice a year carries out a comparative test of prices and supply of organic food and organizes a consumer competition for the favourite Czech organic product of the year – CZECH ORGANICS (ČESKÉ BIO). The tools that are used in the Information Centre project include:

Web site www.biospotrebitel.cz, intended for the general public, with information on organic food and organic farming, which also includes a comprehensive directory of entities that contain many pieces of valuable information for consumers - on organic farms, organic food outlets, organic food restaurants and producers, latest developments and events in the area of organic farming, news in the organic food market, current seasonal offer of organic products of organic farms and demand for seasonal staff and volunteers and virtual advisory centre for consumers.

Information telephone line and web advisory centre for the general public.

Educational and awareness raising events - lectures on organic farming and organic food for students and for the general public, study trips to organic farms.

Publication activity - preparation and printing of leaflets and publications.

PR activities presentation of organic food and organic farming issues in the media.

The activities of the Information Centre were supported in 2008



by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of the Environment and the National Network of Environmental Education Centres (NSSEV) Pavučina (Cobweb) by the funding of some CZK 1 million in the aggregate.

8.2. Trade fairs and exhibitions

8.2.1. Biofach 2008

On 21 – 24 February 2008 in Nuremberg, Germany, the main world trade fair for organic products and the most important meeting of the organic sector experts, BioFach 2008, was held. This year's fair, in which about 2,600 exhibitors participated, focused on organic wine whose sale in Europe in 2006 has significantly risen. Biofach was attended by about 45,000 visitors. A wine hall 4A was the fair's new feature. Czech producers of organic products presented themselves together with the Ministry of Agriculture at a



national exposition in hall No. 5.

8.2.2. Biostyl 2008

The third 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 27– 30 March 2008 at the Industrial Palace (Průmyslový palác) at Prague’s Exhibition Grounds (Výstaviště). Exhibitors included representatives for organic food producers, sellers and professional organizations. More than 16.5 thousand paying visitors participated in the trade fair. The exhibition area increased by some 450 m² compared to the last year and the number of exhibitors rose to 290. Despite this, the number of exhibitors from the organic farmer sector declined significantly, compared to the last year’s figures. The trade fair included a professional conference on the topic Organic Food in Retail - BIO SUMMIT 2008. The results of the Favourite Czech Organic Product of the Year consumer competition – the Czech Organics (České bio) 2008 were ceremoniously announced here.

8.2.3. Salima 2008

In the first March week of 2008 at the Brno exhibition grounds SALIMA 2008, the largest exhibition of food industry products and related lines of business, was held. The main themes of this year’s trade fair were organic farming and organic food. The trade fair focused in particular on Czech high quality organic products that were highlighted through a special exposition „organic food” with a possibility of tasting them. At the trade fair the results of the 6th year of the „Czech Organic Product of the Year” professional competition were announced. The competition was organized by the PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers and its partner, together with the Federation of Food and Drink Industries of the Czech Republic, was for the first time

also the company Veletrhy Brno (Trade Fairs Brno).

8.3. Conference

8.3.1. Organic Farming 2007 Conference

The Czech University of Agriculture (CUA) organized on 6-7 February 2007 a conference with the theme organic farming. The Conference was divided into the professional and scientific part. The professional part included two seminars for organic farmers. The first part focused on plant production: cultivation of rape and cereals in organic farming, regulation of weeds, gardening and fruit growing in organic farming, etc. Lectures were given by Czech and Slovak experts. In the second part of the professional seminar focused on livestock production, the following themes were discussed: animal husbandry in organic farming and permanent grassland.

The scientific part of the conference focused in particular on the quality of organic production – soil quality evaluation in organic farming, management of nutrients in organic farming, structure of proteins and the quality of winter wheat under the organic and conventional manner of cultivation, etc. Lectures were given by Czech and foreign experts.

The conference was organized by the Department of Plant Production of the Faculty of Agrobiology, Food and Natural Resources at the Czech University of Agriculture, together with the Czech Agriculture Society attached to the Czech University of Agriculture in Prague, the PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers, Bioinstitut Olomouc and the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice.

8.3.2. Bioakademie 2007

An International Conference on Organic Farming. The main topics of Bioacademy’s 7th year, which took place on 27 – 29 July 2007 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 organic quality pig-breeding and fish culture. Czech organic food processors again drew attention to the causes for the low level production of organic food in the Czech Republic and pointed out the issue of farm processing and its subsequent marketing. Bioacademy was also held in 2008. The conference's 8th year took place on 3 – 5 September 2008. The theme of the conference, that was divided into the scientific and practical part, was „New science and research findings in organic farming“. The traditional programme of Bioacademy includes the presentation of the most topical themes of organic farming through practical lectures that focused in September 2008 in particular on the area of market production and securing the quality of organic food. The scientific conference presented new approaches towards cultivation of cereals and research into cultivars in plant protection and nutrition. The programme was closed by study trips to organic farms in the Czech Republic, in Slovakia and in Austria.

8.3.3. 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 objective was to raise awareness of modern technologies used in organic farming to preserve vineyards, to showcase the experiences of foreign organic wine growers and to discuss marketing analyses of the organic wine market. The conference was held on 6 – 7 September in Mikulov. The event's main organizer was the Integrated Grape and Wine Production Association. In 2008, on 11 and 12 September the second year of this international viticulturist/wine grower conference focused on organic cultivation of grape vine and organic wine production was held. The main theme was soil as the basis of organic cultivation of grape vine.

8.3.4. Biosummit 2008

The meeting of entrepreneurs and experts specializing in the organic food market in the Central European region was held on 27 March 2008 in the Industrial Palace (Průmyslový palác) at Prague's Exhibition Grounds (Výstaviště) and was attended by 250 participants. The conference was divided into three parts: the current state of the organic food market, organic foods and their sale, organic food marketing and category management of organic food. Many Czech and foreign guests addressed the conference.

8.4. Competitions

8.4.1. Czech Organic Product of the Year

In March 2008, the results of the 6th year of the Czech Organic Product of the Year competition were announced. The competition's jury announced Organic Honey from Šumava Region (Pošumavský biomed) as the overall winner of the competition. The competition was in its sixth year divided into 4 categories (bakery products, drinks, milk products and snacks – other). The winner of the bakery products category



were Wholemeal spelt crackers with pumpkin seed and garlic (Celozrnné špaldové kreky s dýňovým semínkem a česnekem) from the Organic Bakery Zemanka. The winner of the milk products category was Organic strawberry sour drink (Bio kysaný nápoj jahoda) from the Dairy Valašské Meziříčí, s.r.o and of the drinks category Hostětín elder syrup produced by the company Tradice Bílých Karpat, s.r.o. The above mentioned overall winner - Organic Honey from Šumava Region won the last category (snacks – other). 70 products were registered for competition. The competition was announced by the PRO-BIO Association, Mgr. Tomáš Václavík of Green Marketing was the organizer and professional sponsor of the competition. The results of the competition were announced at the SALIMA food trade fair 2008.

8.4.2. Favourite Czech Organic Product of the Year

A consumer competition related to the professional Czech Organic Product of the Year competition. The competition is announced and organized by the PRO-BIO LEAGUE, assisted by the company Incheba Praha. Consumers



could vote from 14 February to 30 March 2008 for one of 76 nominated organic foods, namely by questionnaires or electronically on the web site www.biospotrebitel.cz. The winner of the competition were Chocolate coconut biscuits with spelt flour (Čoko-kokosky se špaldovou moukou) from the Organic Bakery Zemanka, white goat's milk yoghurt (bílý jogurt z koziho mléka) from the family farm DORA owned by Pavel Dobrovolný and Jitka Dobrovolná ranked second based on the consumers' grading and the pear brandy made from Madame Verte pears from Zámecké sady Chrámců of Mr and Mrs Syrovátka (hrušková pálenka z hrušek Madame Verte) ranked third.

8.5. Organics for Kids

8.5.1. Organic Goes to School

The objective of the „ORGANIC GOES TO SCHOOL“ project was the gradual introduction of organic food into school catering facilities. The project's planned, long-term output is the targeted dissemination of information about organic food, the regular purchase of organic food from local farms, and the strengthening of positive relationships between consumers and farmers. Seven catering facilities in the South Moravian and Vysočina (Highlands) Regions were included in the project (implemented by EPOS within the project under the Operational Programme Human Resources Development; OP HRD). A similar project with the same objective is being carried out at a kindergarten in Prague (implemented by the PRO-BIO LEAGUE).

8.5.2. Pišťalka Summer Camp

The first children's summer „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 Pišťalka Summer Camp was part of EkoConnect's project „Let's Learn on the Farm“, which, in cooperation with individual farmers (for now, primarily in Germany), tries to bring people, particularly children, closer to the source of foods and thereby inspire them towards a responsible relationship to the environment and organic farming. The second year was held in August 2008.

8.5.3. BIOfest in Staré Město

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

9. Education in organic farming

9.1. E-learning programme

In December 2006, the Ecologica e-learning programme, within the Leonardo da Vinci project which is intended for training/education of advisors in organic farming, organic farmers and students of universities of agriculture, was tested. The course's content has been developed by 8 research and educational institutions from 7 EU Member States, it consists of 14 chapters comprising complete issues related to organic farming and advisory services. 18 students of the University of South Bohemia and 7 advisors in organic farming participated in the testing course. The first official two-stage instruction, in which 35 students participated, took place in 2007. In the Czech Republic,



the course is available in Czech and English and it is sponsored by the University of South Bohemia. Currently, the already paid for version of the course has been prepared for instruction purposes. Upon completion successful course attendees will receive a certificate of course completion within the life-long learning programmes of the University of South Bohemia.

9.2. Practical course in organic farming

A one-year educational course intended for the lay and professional (farming) public with special focus on practical instruction was held from March 2007 to January 2008. 23 „students“ who completed during the course 10 two-day seminars participated in the course. Practical exercises were carried out on the Sasov Organic Farm under the leadership of Josef Sklenář. Lecturers for the theoretical part were Czech and foreign experts and Ing. Jiří Urban was its professional sponsor. The course included also study trips to organic enterprises in the Czech Republic and in Austria and participation in the Bioacademy conference. The course was organized by Bioinstitut, o.p.s., together with the Sasov Organic Farm and the Secondary School of Trade and Services in Jihlava.

9.3. Courses and education in organic farming under the projects in the network of agri-environmental information centres within the OP HRD projects coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment

In the course of implementing various projects supported from the European Social Fund, numerous trainings, courses and study trips were carried out that were organized by: EPOS Brno, Zera Agency Náměšť nad Oslavou, PRO-BIO Šumperk, PRO-BIO Regional Centre Litomyšl, PRO-BIO Regional Centre Jeseníky, PRO-



BIO Regional Centre Moravská brána, PRO-BIO Regional Centre Bílé Karpaty, Bioinstitut, o.p.s. Olomouc, Daphne ČR, PRO-BIO Regional Centre Šumava and others. A list of carried out events and their outputs are available from the following websites:

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

9.4. 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 ones). Regional Centres (RCs) of the PRO-BIO Association provide advisory services to members of the PRO-BIO Association. These centres offer 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 organic farming control (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 organic farming suffer from the small number of organic farms in the region or from RCs passivity. Organic farms which are not members of the PRO-BIO Association have the option to use the services of private advisors. Other organizations active in organic farming advisory services, besides the PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers o.s. (Šumperk and 11 Regional Centres 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. (Olomouc), which offers specialized advisory services in the area of landscape cultivation, improving biodiversity on organic farms, and supervising farm plans; Green Marketing (Brno) operates primarily in the area of promoting and marketing organic food. Basic advisory



services for organic farming in certain regions are also provided to a limited extent by the 13 branches of Regional Information Centres for the Development of Agriculture and the Landscape (KIS). The most active of these organizations in this respect are the KIS in the Karlovy Vary, Moravian-Silesian, South Bohemian and the Olomouc Regions. Besides individual advisor services, which primarily take place directly on farms, the above-mentioned branch organizations also organize numerous thematic 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 web site. By Government Resolution No. 408/2008 on 16 April 2008 the Environmental Consultancy Development Programme in the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as the „Programme“) for the period 2008–2013 was approved. Its purpose is to set strategic measures (priorities) in the area of consultancy (advisory services) focusing on the environment in the Czech Republic for the period 2008–2013. No separate material of this type has been prepared yet for this area and therefore this is the key strategic document under which environmental advisory services will be developed on a systematic and coordinated basis. The programme will be followed up by conceptual and methodological materials incorporated in particular into the Implementation Plan that will contain specific activities for individual measures, including responsibilities and the manner of monitoring effectiveness. The Implementation Plan will be evaluated and updated every three years.

9.5. Organic farming in education

Within secondary education, organic farming instruction is part of framework education programmes in the field of agriculture. As part of their agribusiness field of study, some secondary vo-



cational schools of agriculture have extended instruction both in theoretical (Humpolec, Dalovice, Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Šumperk, Staré Město u Uherského Hradiště) and in practical areas of organic farming (e.g. SZeŠ Dalovice School Farm). Organic farming is taught in various forms at all universities of agriculture (CUA Prague, MUAF Brno, USB České Budějovice) and at some faculties with a natural science focus (such as the Faculty of Science at the Palacký University in Olomouc). At the Czech University of Agriculture in Prague (CUA) organic farming is taught at the Faculty of Agrobiological Sciences, Food and Natural Resources (FANR), but also at the Institute of Tropics and Subtropics. In the academic year 2008/09 the CUA will open at FANR a newly accredited Bachelor's curriculum titled Organic Farming. A graduate of this new Bachelor's curriculum will be able to continue studies of some of the existing follow-up Master's curricula at the CUA. Organic farming is also taught at the Faculty of Agronomy and Operational Economics at the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry (MUAF) in Brno. At the Palacký University (PU) in Olomouc,



instruction in organic farming is carried out as part of classes in agro-ecology, pedology and disciplines related to landscape ecology and landscape planning (each of these classes has at least 20 students). Currently, at the PU research is in progress relating to organic farming, in particular to agro-ecological issues, quality of soil and impact on landscape and individual elements of the environment. The research is financed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of the Environment, and the National Agency for Agricultural Research. The Master's curriculum at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of South Bohemia (USB) offers a major in Agro-ecology with a specialization in organic farming as one two specializations in this field of study. In the academic year 2007/08 at the organic farming section of the Department of Agro-ecology of USB, 29 themes of Bachelor's final theses and Master's final theses were announced. Organic food is also the subject of lectures given by Prof. Ing. Jana Hajšlová, CSc. from the Institute of Food Chemistry and Analysis at the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague (ICTH), as part of the Food Safety classes. The Institute of Food Chemistry and Analysis at ICTH participates in the project of the 6th Framework Programme QLIF (Quality of Low Input Food), coordinated by the University of Newcastle in the UK. The project focuses on assessment of impact of the manner of farming on the quality of production.

10. Non-production functions of organic farming

10.1. Organic farmers for nature – organic farming promotes diversity

In 2006, the Czech Republic started to participate in the international programme „Organic Farmers for Nature“ which is aimed at nature and landscape protection at the level of organic farms. The programme,



which is sponsored in the Czech Republic by Bioinstitut, o.p.s., focused at its first stage in particular on general dissemination of information on organic farming among organic farmers. The programme's objective is to address organic farmers who intend to increase biodiversity on their farms and gradually create an informed community that will wish to take an active part in measures increasing biodiversity. A Club of Organic Farmers for Nature has been established which currently associates 32 member farms (i.e. 8,054 ha, which accounts for 2.5 % of organically farmed land area in the Czech Republic). Furthermore, a network of 9 model farms has been designed on which during the year natural science research was conducted and which are willing, besides normal principles of organic farming, actively introduce nature protection elements. Moreover, it is important that they impart their experience to other farmers and present such experience also to the general public (consumers and the media). Thereby image of organic farming is being improved among both the professional and lay public



and environmental benefits of this type of farming are presented. Organic farmers had the opportunity to be informed about the latest developments in the field of biodiversity throughout the whole year from the regularly published Bulletin in the *Bioměsíčník* (Organic Monthly) journal.

„We consider the first stage to be a success,” the project leader Karolína Dytrtová of Bioinstitut said. „However, if we fail to stimulate in the future efficient and state-supported implementation of environmentally and landscape-friendly measures, the project will be limited to a small number of enthusiasts,” she commented on the situation. The staff of Bioinstitut consider the existing setting of the grant system for agri-environmental titles in the Czech Republic, that fails to reflect sufficiently non-production agricultural land areas and doesn't reflect the quality of individual approach of farmers towards landscape cultivation, to be the key problem. Hence, another part of the project focuses on communication with the state administration and enforcement of changes in grant systems that would be geared towards more efficient support for biodiversity on agricultural land. The project is financed from the grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, under the EEA (European Economic Area) Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism through the Civil Society Development Foundation, with support from the Liechtenstein Sonnenwiese Stiftung Foundation through FiBL Frick.

10.1.1. Presentation of participating enterprises

Most Czech farmers consider their role to be only that of a food producer. Only very few people in this country, for the time being, accept the role of a farmer – a conscious „gardener” cultivating the landscape. The sole exception to this rule are farms participating in the Organic Farmers for Nature network, where



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an active approach towards landscape cultivation is an integral part of farming activities.

10.1.1.1. Organic farming on meadows and pastures of Přemyslovské sedlo

One of the nicest places of the Hrubý Jeseník Mountains, Přemyslovské sedlo (The Přemyslid Saddle) has been farmed since the half of the 17th century. A patchwork of small fields, meadows and pastures of individual farms has been replaced after collectivization by vast complexes of consolidated land. Ing. Ivan Pur, who has been farming this land organically since 1994, was instrumental in resuming more environmentally-friendly cultivation of this unique territory. The „Letní stráň” (Summer Hillside) farm specializes in husbandry of the old Scottish meat breed galloway. He endeavours to respect nature and farms on species-rich meadow communities using the methods that maintain diversity of grassland and create environment for various representatives of animals. In 2008, Přemyslovské sedlo was declared a temporarily protected land area „Letní



stráň“ (Summer Hillside). Organic farming in a sensitive way adapts its activities to soil and climatic conditions on one hand and the needs of endangered species on the other. However, the farmer facilitates the preservation and growth of populations of rare plants and animals, also by intentional creation of „the places for nature“, that also contribute to the shaping of the beauty of the farmed landscape. Maintaining groves in the field, solitaire plants, taken down stones, creating windbreak strips, as well as gradual harvesting of mowed areas represent places where small animals can hide and find feed. The postponement of mowing to the turn of July and August enables to ripen and drop seeds to orchids and other endangered species. The unique quality of Přemyslovské sedlo has been confirmed by botanical and zoological surveys. In the localities of „Letní stráň“ the incidence of many endangered plants and animals has been confirmed – among plants, e.g. the Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), the Western Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza majalis*), the Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia conopsea*), the Orange Lily/the Fire Lily (*Lilium bulbiferum*), among butterflies, e.g. The Purple Emperor (*Apatura iris*), the Mazarine Blue (*Cyaniris semiargus*) or the Purple-Shot Copper (*Lycaena alciphron*), among birds then the Corncrake (*Crex crex*) or the Red-Back Shrike (*Lanius collurio*).

10.1.1.2. Organic farming on the Janova hora hillside

The Hucul Mountain Farm is situated in the village of Vítkovice in the western part of the Krkonoše Mountains. The Karbusický family organically farms the land area of 300 hectares of sloping meadows and pastures that reach the altitude of 1,100 m above sea level and are located directly in the Krkonoše National Park or in its vicinity. In the 1980's this farm was one of two localities in then Czechoslovakia, where intense efforts aimed at preserving gene pool of Hucul horses were in progress. A herd consisting of eighty horses which is now grazing on the hillsides around the farm, ranks in terms of its quality and sized among the best Hucul breeds in



the Czech Republic. A typical mountain climate is a suitable environment also for the Scottish mountain cattle breed Highland. For horses and cattle, the all-year-round breeding on pastures, even in harsh winter months, is beneficial. The farm pursues agro-tourism with accommodation in its own boarding house. The meat of animals slaughtered in the nearby slaughterhouse can be tasted in a cosy restaurant. A small herd of goats serves to please visitors. The farm produces a compost from organic farming raw materials. The Hucul Farm is an example of an enterprise that fulfills the so-called multifunctional organic farming model. Theoretical principles of sustainable development are fulfilled here directly in practice. Benefits of the organic farm are reflected in a wide range of activities.

Economic benefits:

- all-year-round employment in the region in which otherwise only seasonal work is available
- agro-tourism (restaurants, boarding house, horse-riding) and promotion of rural tourism
- promotion of local products



Environmental benefits:

- environmentally-friendly farming without chemicals (without herbicides, use of hormones, preventive administration of antibiotics and chemotherapeutic substances to animals)
- animal welfare (grazing without barbed wire, all-year-round staying outside and individual approach towards animals go without saying)
- composting of organic substance (grass, manure)
- cultivation of landscape specifics
- preserving and promoting biodiversity

Social benefits:

- ecological education in practice (summer horse-riding camps, work of volunteers on the farm)
- strengthening direct links between a farmer and a consumer (study trips, doors open days)
- establishing new traditions (baptism of colts organized every year)
- background for recondition horse-riding for handicapped children.

The mountain culture landscape cultivated for centuries is gradually changing. Regular care for sloping meadows and pastures with typical taken down stones and walls requires much efforts that less and less people are nowadays willing to do. The Karbusický family is one of those few families that keep on farming in this region. Maintaining forest-free locations by extensive grazing and environmentally-friendly mowing is essential for preserving the landscape specifics and for preserving these specific locations that are of vital importance for many plant and animal species. The outcome of these activities is high biodiversity, with the presence of a number of protected types of plants, such as e.g. orchids from the Orchideaceae family, several tens of species of hawkweeds of the Hieracium genus, the Martagon Lily (*Lilium martagon*), the Willow Gentian (*Gentiana asclepiadea*), the Spring Snowflake (*Leucojum vernum*), the European Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*), Fragran Orchid (*Gymnadenia conopsea*). Streamlets and waterlogged land are lined with thistles (*Cirsium spp.*), marsh marigolds (*Caltha spp.*), the Wood Club Rush (*Scirpus sylvatica*), the Cow Parsley (*Chaerophyllum hirsutum*), the White Butterbur (*Petasites albus*) or the Large Bittercress (*Cardamine amara*). On meadows the endangered Corncrake bird (*Crex crex*) lives, due to whom the farmer postpones the date of mowing in order that the bird might successfully nest.

10.1.1.3. Organic pig breeding in Sasov u Jihlavy

The Sasov Organic Farm is one of few organic enterprises in the Czech Republic with the closed system of relationship between the plant and livestock production with the use of arable land. Even under the conditions of Českomoravská vrchovina (the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands) they are able to cultivate here quality feed and strains intended for sale (cereals, rape, potatoes and vegetables) without use of chemicals. The organic pig breeding, during which the nursing sow is covered, is unique here. This is a family breed with natural animal breeding, when mother is housed with its piglets till they

are 90 days old which has very favourable impact on health, vitality and welfare of all animals. This results, together with quality organic feed and animal welfare to an outstanding quality of organic pork from the Sasov Organic Farm. The diversity of species at all levels of agricultural and in particular organic farming contributes to the creation of a network of relationships. Such relationships are beneficial for soil, cultivated plants, bred animals, nature. Organic farmers promote such relationships – by elaborate crop rotation, used types and varieties of crops; establishing and cultivation of non-agricultural land areas that enable life of wild-growing plants and wild animals. Some relationships are directly a part of biological plant protection. Such protection consists in support for renewal of self-regulatory mechanisms where natural enemies are unable to keep pests below the threshold of detrimental effect, with no need to use pesticides. Josef Sklenář cultivates on the arable land, inter alia, also rape: on these growths a research project of the Czech Institute of Agriculture in Prague QG 50107 „Possibilities of reducing the consumption of pesticides in the cultivation of oilseed crops“ is in progress. Ichneumon wasps of the Ichneumonidae family regulate larvae of pollen eaters, *Chalcis biguttata* of the Pteromalidae and Eulophidae family regulates larvae of silique pests. Also major predators participate in the reduction – spiders, lady birds, predatory flies and ground beetles. Josef Sklenář is engaged in education of those interested in organic farming, on his farm practical courses of organic farming titled „Familiarize yourself with the entire business year on the organic farm together with us“ took place.

10.2. Agricultural tourism

Under the Rural Development Programme (RDP), rural tourism is not yet fully developed in the Czech Republic and the potential of agricultural farms in the area of agro-tourism is not yet fully utilized. At the same time the tourist industry shows the most dynamical growth, creating many jobs even for unskilled labour and boosting the sales of local specialities and crafts. Precisely this is the reason why establishment and operations of agro-tourist farms is promoted under the RDP through Axis III.1.3 a) and b) Encouragement of tourism activities. Support is intended for building a recreational infrastructure and recreational facilities, including the related services for hiking, water or ski sports in rural areas. Organic farmers who will apply for a grant under this measure will be given preferential point allowance.

Support and certification of agricultural tourism facilities is dealt with by the ECEAT, the European Centre for Ecological and Agricultural Tourism in whose register there are 20 agro-tourist farms in the Czech Republic, of which 10 are assigned to the organic farming scheme. Another organization that brings together enterprises focused on agricultural tourism is the Rural Tourism Association, which associates entrepreneurs engaged in rural tourism and other supporters. The Rural Tourism Association certifies accommodation facilities focused on the so-called private accommodation, in whose register there is a total of 193 certified accommodation places, thereof 46 farms that declare themselves as organic.

11. Publications and promotional materials

- A Guide for the Organic Farmer (AF USB, 2007) – advisory pages for organic farmers particularly focused on organic cultivation of cash crops – wheat, spelt, spring barley, potatoes, buckwheat, oats.
- 10 professional publications which take a cross-disciplinary approach and cover the entire field of organic farming (The Basic Principles of Organic Farming, Legal standards and grant titles in organic farming, the European Union and National Cultural Heritage, Control 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
- A Practical Handbook (Bioinstitut, 2007, 2008):
 - 90 Arguments for Organic Farming
 - Organic Potatoes – How to Cultivate Quality Potatoes Organically
 - List of registered plant protection preparations II.
 - Protection of grapevine
- Organic Farming Bulletin No. 28 „PRO-BIO and Organic Farming 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
- Practical Guide to Environmentally-friendly and Landscape-Friendly Farming (Daphne CR, 2007)
- Sowing Days 2008 (Marie Thonová, PRO-BIO, 2007)
- Bioacademy 2007 – Collection of abstracts (PRO-BIO)
- Bioacademy 2007 – Multimedia CD (PRO-BIO)
- The Current State of Organic Farming 2007 (Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic)
- Amendment to Act No. 242 on organic farming – Government Order No. 2092/91 (Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic)
- Instructional CDs „Organic Farming – presentation for instruction and practice“ a „Animal husbandry in organic farming“ (Bioinstitut 2007) intended for ecological education, organic farming instruction and education for organic farmers and information and educational centres.
- Organic farming of the Olomouc Region (Regional Authority of the Olomouc Region, PRO-BIO Association, 2007) – a Czech-Eng-

lish overview of organic farms in the Olomouc Region

- Find Czech Organics (PRO-BIO Association, 2007) – PRO-BIO Association member directory
- We cook from organic food in school catering establishments (EPOS ČR 2007)
- Organic Garden (Hradil, R., PRO-BIO LEAGUE, 2007) – how to manage garden without chemicals
- Fresh organic food near at hand: Form an Organic Club with your Friends (Rainbow Movement, 2008)
- Organic farming and Rural Development (EPOS ČR, 2008)
- Little foxes on a vineyard: Rural Development Programme and reasons for stagnating organic production (Galén, 2008)
- Marketing for organic farmers (EPOS ČR, 2008)
- Agriculture and landscape: ways towards their mutual harmony (Palacký University in Olomouc 2008)
- Methodology for practice: Non-forest wood vegetation (Bioinstitut, 2008)
- A collection of information leaflets (2007-2008, PRO-BIO Association, Bioinstitut, PRO-BIO LEAGUE):
 - Taste organic foods, Organic farming, nature and landscape
 - Arguments for Organic Farming
 - Organic Farming and Meadows, Organic Farming and Protection of Amphibians
 - How to Become an Organic Farmer, PRO-BIO Association (in English, Czech)
 - Organic farming, nature and landscape at Janova Hora in the Krkonoše Mountains
 - Organic farming, nature and landscape at Kateřinice u Příbora
 - Organic farming, nature and landscape under Králícký Sněžník
 - Organic farming, nature and landscape of the Přemyslovské sedlo
 - Organic farming, nature and landscape in the Mlýnc valley in Jistebnická vrchovina (Jistebnice Highlands)



- A collection of information leaflets for the project network of model farms (EPOS, 2007)
 - Sasov Organics Farm
 - Ratibořice yard
- 2008 Calendar of Organic Farming with colour photographs of organic farms (PRO-BIO Association, 2007)
- The Healthy Organic Pyramid (ÚZPI, 2007) – a promotional leaflet for children and youth
- Promotional materials
 - T-shirts „Organic Living“ (PRO-BIO LEAGUE)

Directory

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