

Is the Mediterranean well ranked in the markets of agriculture high quality products?

A rise in agriculture added value by the development, acknowledgement and marketing of top quality Mediterranean products is a real challenge for Mediterranean agriculture.

The agriculture quality product is not sufficiently referenced in the Mediterranean countries, but the proportion of agricultural land used by organic farming is at least an indicator of the development of high quality produce.

Organic farming is experiencing an unprecedented boom in the Mediterranean but in 2007 only a small percentage of agricultural land is concerned by this development.

Except in Italy and in Slovenia where organic farming represents 9.1 and 6.0%, respectively, of farmland, it concerns only between 3 and 5 % in Montenegro, Spain and Greece, less than 2 % in France, Tunisia and less than 1.5 % in the other countries.

There are few organic farms in most of the Mediterranean countries, but there are over 10 000 in five countries, including Italy with 45 000 and Turkey with more than 12 000.

Organic farming has become one of the most dynamic sectors in the European Union (EU27), with 6.8 million hectares in 2006, i.e. 4.1% of agricultural land and about 179 000 farms.

Italy, situated in first position in Europe for its organic farming, is ranked sixth worldwide in terms of the proportion of land used for organic farming and fourth for the number of organic farms.

Definition

This indicator measures :

1. The proportion of high quality product - identification, label and appellation of origin, home-grown, organic farming - in each Mediterranean country.
2. The share of agricultural land used by organic farming

Precautions / Notes

Organic systems and products are not always guaranteed and this is specified on the label « non-certified farm produce in conformity with organic farming »'.

The farming systems that do not use synthetic inputs by default, i.e. that do not use methods to maintain the quality of the soil, are excluded from organic farming.

The land area used by organic farming is not an indication of the quality of the produce, nor of the economic and social lifespan of this type of agriculture. The European countries have available data on high quality products because the European Community has set up systems to protect and valorise this farm produce.

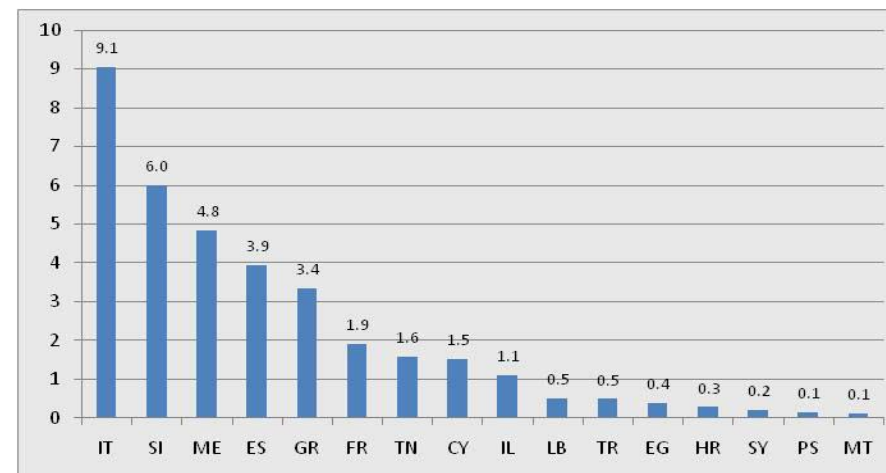
Sources / References

The World of Organic Agriculture - Statistics and Emerging Trends 2008. International Federation of Organic

Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL (2009): Global organic agriculture statistics. revision date: July 9, 2009

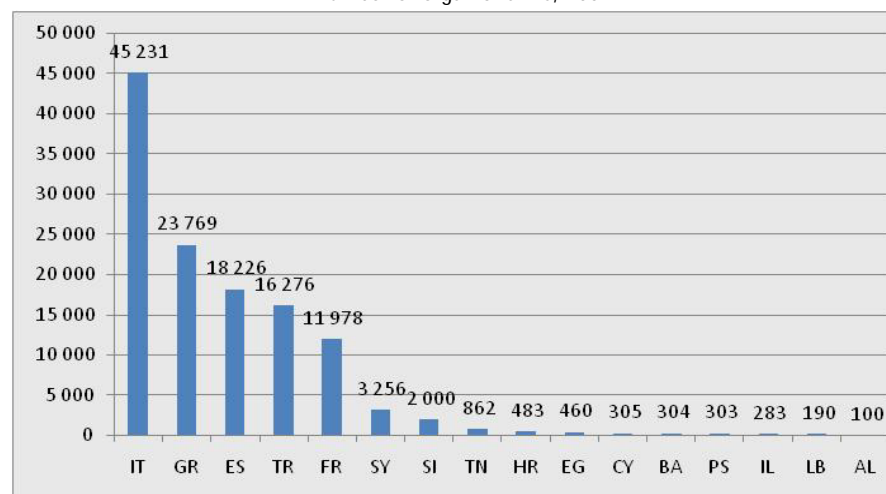
18. Proportion of agriculture quality products and Share of the agricultural land area used by organic farming

Share of the agricultural land area used by organic farming, 2007 (%)



Source: Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL (2009): Global organic agriculture statistics. Revision date: July 9, 2009.

Number of organic farms, 2007



Source: Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL (2009): Global organic agriculture statistics. Revision date: July 9, 2009.