

# ORGANIC FARMING AND MARKETING IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

## 1. Legislative Framework

The Slovak organic farming was established in year 1991 with 37 farmers. That time the production was ruled by IFOAM Standards, later by the 1st Slovak Organic Farming Act 224/1998 amended in year 2002. After accession of Slovakia to the EU in year 2004 the legislative framework for organic farming was entirely changed: the basic provisions for the organic production are stated in Commission and Council Regulations, mainly in the Council Regulation (ECC) 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs with its amendments and in the Slovak Act 421/2004 on Organic Farming. The Slovak Act 421/2004 is very compact, quite short and covers the special issues of the Slovak organic farming system such as: identification of the Slovak competent authority (it is the Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture) for organic farming, the duties of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic, the registration system, the inspection body's authorisation, the Slovak organic farming logo, the sample analyses expenses and the sanctions. In the Annex to the Act 421/2004 on Organic Farming is stated the Slovak national organic farming logo:



Organic farming in Slovakia is not divided into regions, the private inspection bodies so as the competent authority have a whole-Republic responsibility.

## 2. Slovak Inspection System

The Slovak organic farming is established on the base of private inspection system. The competent authority the Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture, namely its Department of Environmental Protection and Organic Farming authorizes private inspection

bodies upon fulfillment the prescribed criteria. One of these criteria is the obligatory accreditation for the quality system EN 45 011. The competent authority issues the codes to the authorised inspection bodies. In the present there is authorised the inspection body **Naturalis SK** with code number **SK – 02 - BIO**.

**Address: Bjornsonova 16, SK 811 05 Bratislava, Slovak Republic**

**Inspection body's Director: Dipl.Ing. Jaroslav Drobny**

**Tel/Fax: 00421 2 52626661-3**

**Mail: [naturalis@stonline.sk](mailto:naturalis@stonline.sk)**

**[www.naturalissk.sk](http://www.naturalissk.sk), [www.naturalis.sk](http://www.naturalis.sk)**

The inspection body Naturalis SK performs all types of inspection what means that covers all types of operators in organic farming system. In year 2006 when were registered 298 operators were performed 647 inspections.

As for certification is not obligatory only 64 operators required organic certificate for trade what represented 654 issued certificates for organic products ( including organic seeds) and organic foods.

In case of suspension there are taken samples of organic produce by the organic inspectors.

The inspection body Naturalis SK is authorised for inspection and for certification as well.

The competent authority the Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture, namely its Department of Environmental Protection and Organic Farming performs the supervision of the inspection bodies. There were 48 supervisions performed in year 2006 what is a quite high number in comparison e.g. to 7 supervisions in year 2000 or 36 supervisions in year 2003.

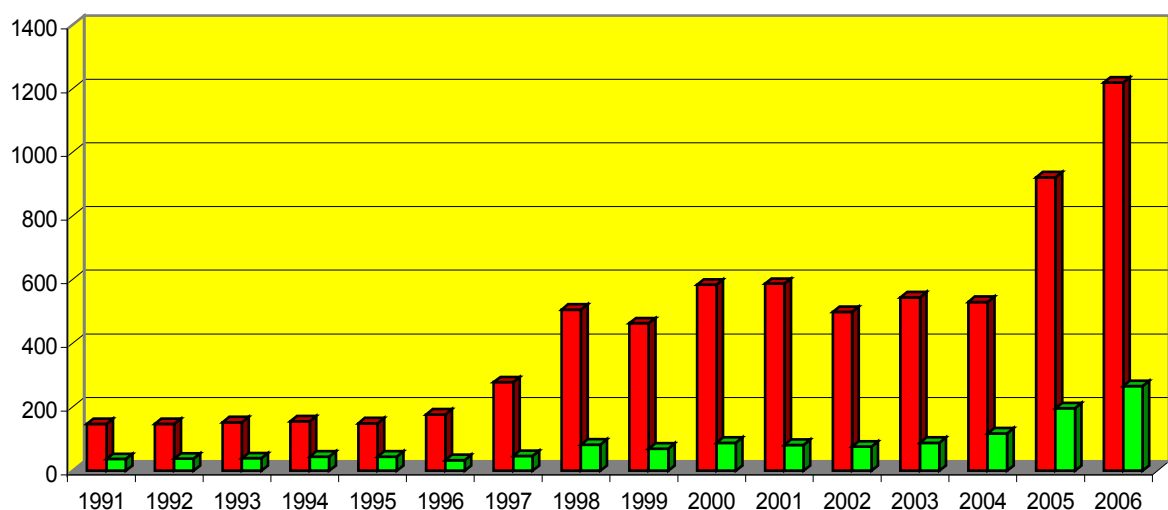
The competent authority the Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture, namely its Department of Environmental Protection and Organic Farming takes samples of organic produce along with performance of soil contamination monitoring. In year 2006 there were monitored 3 023 ha of organically farmed area what represented 133 soil samples.

### 3. Organic Farming Production Statistics

The competent authority the Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture, namely its Department of Environmental Protection and Organic Farming performs the basic registration in the organic farming system in Slovakia. So the statistical data on the organically farmed land and the operators are available at the competent authority. There is a close cooperation in information exchange and statistical data exchange between the

inspection body and competent authority. The registration process in organic farming is performed since year 2004 by the LPIS orthophotomape system. The competent authority cooperates with the Slovak Statistical Institute so as with the European EUROSTAT.

The Slovak organic farming is depicted on the following chart. The red bars represent the organically farmed land in hectares ( x 100) and the green ones are the numbers of the organic farmers:



By the end of the year 2006 there were registered in organic farming system 296 operators : 266 organic farmers and 22 processors and organic food producers.

Operators in Organic Farming in Slovakia 2003-2006										
	Farmers	%	Processors	%	Imports	%	Others	%	Total	%
2003	88	—	8	—	4	—	0	—	100	—
2004	117	32	9	13	0	0	0	0	126	26,00
2005	196	67	13	45	0	0	1	100	210	67,00
2006	266	36	22	69	0	0	10	1000	298	42,00

The organically farmed area in Slovakia covers 5.8 % of the total agricultural land of the country . The farms are quite large , the farm average is more than 450 ha per farm.

The organically cultivated land in Slovakia covers arable land, meadows and pastures, orchards and vineyards. The development is given in the following table:

<b>Organically farmed land (ha) and changes in development for years 2003-2006</b>								
	<b>Arable land</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Meadows + Pastures</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Orchards + Vineyards</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
2003	16706,64	–	37417,29	–	354,35	–	54478,28	–
2004	14960,92	-10,45	37800,54	1,02	329,91	-6,90	53091,37	-2,55
2005	26795,60	79,10	64749,84	71,29	645,11	95,54	92190,55	73,65
2006	36715,06	37,02	84455,53	30,43	784,89	21,67	121955,48	32,29

Meadows and pastures cover not more than 70 % of the organically farmed land . Slovakia is a hilly mountaineous country with fertile agricultural lowlands only in South and South –East Slovak regions.

The national financial support of organic farming was paid to the farmers in years 1998 – 2003. After accession of Slovakia the organic farmers are supported through the EU Rural Development Programmes.

The portion of inconversion and afterconversion ( so called certified) land is depicted in the following table:

	<b>Organic land ( ha)</b>				<b>Total</b>
	<b>In -Conversion</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Certified</b>	<b>%</b>	
2003	14716,31	–	39761,97	–	54478,28
2004	23057,35	56,68	30034,02	-24,47	53 091,37
2005	60767,81	163,55	31422,74	4,62	92 190,55
2006	79739,70	31,22	42215,78	34,35	121 955,48

A quite large portion of Slovak organic farmers are engaged in organic animal rearing. In Slovakia are mostly reared sheeps followed by cows.

<b>Organically reared animals in years 2003-2006</b>												
	<b>Sheeps</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Cows</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Goats</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Horses</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Bees</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>%</b>
2003	22179	–	8786	–	619	–	30	–	300	–	0	–
2004	27082	22,11	12761	45,24	660	6,62	62	106,67	300	0,00	80	–
2005	57830	113,54	20133	57,77	1006	52,42	258	316,13	390	30,00	292	265,00
2006	87607	51,49	28922	43,65	1408	39,96	440	70,54	390	0,00	379	29,79

The processing and organic food production is in stage of development. There are registered in present more than 40 processors what is a good base of intensive development of organic processing.

The organic market is developing through small bio-shops so as supermarket chains. There are around 200 different organic foods produced in Slovakia.

**Elaborated by:**

**Dr.Dipl.Ing.Juliana Schlosserova**

**Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture**

**Department of Environmental Protection and Organic Farming**

**Hanulova 9A, SK- 844 29 Bratislava**

**Slovak Republic**