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GAIN Report #NL9003

The Netherlands

Organic

Growing Dutch Interest in Organic Farming

1999

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Report Highlights:

Organic production is increasing in the Netherlands

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1], NL

The following article appeared in the Dec 18, 1998 edition of the Agra Europe;

The number of organic farms in the Netherlands totaled 962 in November this year, an increase of one third compared with last year. *Platform Biologica*, an organization for farmers, processors, traders and shops, expects that the 1,000 mark will be reached early next year.

The growth of organic farming is unprecedented. In 1996 and 1997 the increase was 90 farms per year, compared with only 55 in 1995.

The rise is mainly due to dairy farms. Current organic milk production amounts to 50,000 tonnes, or 0.5% of national production.

But there has been a significant rise in other sectors too. The number of poultry farms has doubled in two years to 59 (32 in 1996). The number of organic layers went up from 17,000 in 1991 to 61,195 in 1997, and the number of broilers went up from 11,200 last year to 21,665 this year.

In 1998 the number of processors and service companies in this sector went up by 60. There were five new farmers' markets, where farmers can sell their products directly to consumers, bringing the total to 22.

Sales through organic farm shops are also on the increase. Last year there were 87 farm shops and now there are 135. The number of supermarkets with organic products is rising, although the market share remains modest with only 1-2% of the total turnover.