



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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Italy

Organic

Organic Agriculture

1999

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Report Highlights: Estimates for 1998 organic agriculture are 830,000 hectares, or 47% more than in 1997. Italian organically cultivated area is now estimated to be 5.7% of total agricultural surface. Total organic farms are reported to be up to 44,000, or 41% more than in 1997. In the last 4 years, the land area considered in transition to organic farming has increased from an average of 70,674 hectares in 1994 to 830,000 hectares in 1999.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
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According to the most recent official data (part of which was presented last February at the AbioFach organic trade show in Berlin) the area accounted for by organic agriculture in Italy in 1997 was 564,913 hectares, or 3.8% of the total agricultural area. This amount included areas still in transition from traditional farming, which represents potential production. Organic farms number 29,390, or 1.2% of total Italian farms. About 70% of Italian organic agriculture at that time was found in southern Italy accounting for about 411,333 hectares. In particular, Sicily and Sardinia, with 261,699 hectares, account for about half of this type of agriculture investments carried out in this area. In Northern Italy there were only 83,292 hectares under organic production, or about 14.7% of total area. Central Italy had another 80,288 hectares, or 14.3% of the total investments. Of the total organic production, approximately 47 % of organic crops were forages, 23% cereals, 9 % olives, 8 % fruits and vegetables, 3 % grapes, and 10 % miscellaneous crops.

At Macfruit, International Fruit Show in Cesena Italy, , May 6-10, the AgSpecialist learned that estimates on organic agriculture as of 12/31/1998 had increased to a total of 830,000 hectares, or 47% more than in 1997. Italian organically cultivated area is now estimated to be 5.7% of total agricultural surface. Total organic farms are reported to be up to 44,000, or 41% more than in 1997. In the last 4 years, land area considered in transition to organic farming from traditional crops has increased from an average of 70,674 hectares in 1994 to 830,000 hectares in 1999. (NOTE: We expect to be able to access more precise data in the coming months as the situation continues to evolve.)

In Italy, there are 8 agencies approved through Regional Authorities for the Ministry of Agriculture to issue official certificates for organic production. There are no GOI programs supporting organic production, although some limited support programs are operated by some regional authorities.