



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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Greece

Organic Products

2000

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Report Highlights:

Organic agriculture in Greece is limited to 22,000 ha, but is growing rapidly. The main crops are olives, grapes and citrus.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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Executive Summary

According to the Ministry of Agriculture the total acreage devoted to organic crops in Greece, is estimated at 22,000 Ha, compared to only 1,200 Ha in 1994 (total arable area of Greece: 4,000,000 Ha). The organic crop acreage in Greece is the smallest in the EU, but is increasing significantly from year to year.

Presently, production of organic apples, pears and cherries is of negligible importance, but, there is interest from farmers to develop these crops. The few apple organic orchards in production are located in the prefecture of Magnisia -Thessaly, while cherries are grown in the prefecture of Pella-west Macedonia. Reportedly, pears are not yet grown organically in Greece.

Grapes, olive trees and citrus are the main organic crops. Salad vegetables are also growing in suburban small fields.

Prices for organically produced fruits and vegetables fluctuate at levels 25-35% higher than prices of similar non-organic products.

Ministry of Agriculture officials reported that although Greece started late with organic production, (compared to other EU member states) it has the largest potential for organic agriculture, due to its geographical & topographical structure which allows for crops to be grown in isolation and away from conventional "high chemical input" fields. This includes islands and isolated land pockets at varying altitudes, from sea level up to almost 5,000 ft.

Under the 3rd EU Development Support Plan, organic agriculture will be a priority, among other environment friendly activities in agriculture ("diversified models for agricultural development").

Organic crops in Greece are: Year 2000, estimates, subject to revision	
Olive Trees	10,000 Ha
Grapes	2,000 Ha
Citrus	1,500 Ha
Grains	600 Ha
Vegetables	500 Ha
Almonds	700 Ha
Cotton	200 Ha
Forage Plants	440 Ha
Herbs	40 Ha
Pulses	100 Ha
Raisins	185 Ha
Apples	5 Ha (Conventional crop area: 15,500 Ha)
Cherries	4 Ha (Conventional crop area: 9,500 Ha)
Pears	N.A. (Conventional crop area: 11,600 Ha)
Potatoes	10 Ha
In Crop Rotation	60 Ha
Other	50 Ha
TOTAL	16,394 Ha
In conversion from conventional to organic crops:	5.606 Ha (mainly olives and grapes) 1/
GRAND TOTAL	22.000 Ha 2/

1/ Conversion period for tree crops is set for 3 years and 2 years for arable crops, according to EU Reg. No.2092/91, Appendix: 1.

2/ Additionally, there are another 1,400 Ha of pasture lands under control, called organic, to be used for animal grazing.