

ORGANIC FARMING DEVELOPMENT IN LITHUANIA AFTER ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

Juozas Pekarskas¹, Anželika Raškauskienė¹, Algirdas Gavenauskas¹, Ona Kazlienė²
Aleksandras Stulginskis University¹, Certification body PB Ekoagros²

Anotation

There is a worldwide growing interest in organic farming and organic food produced products. They are natural and healthier than those grown in intensive production farms, applying synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Organic farming in the EU and Lithuania has a special place, which is based on modern environment friendly technologies in order to provide people with safe and high quality food products. Organic production in Lithuania started in 1993 when it was certified nine farms that have been granted a conversional period to organic farming status. The article presents the summarized data on organic farms number, land area, average farm size, summarizes the data of organic farms distribution in different regions of Lithuania, analysis of compensatory payments for organic production and to discuss arrangements for payment of compensatory payments, changes in crop structure analysis of organic livestock, beekeeping and fishery development in Lithuania as well as future prospects. After Lithuania's accession to the European Union and significantly increasing compensation payments accelerated development of organic farming. Number of organic farms increased in Lithuania until 2007, then 2855 organic farms has been certified. Then noticed a downward trend in the organic farms number. This was influenced by the change in compensation payments for organic farming, the payment order and the payments decrease. Area of organic land has continued to increase, unlike the number of farms. Organic farming in Lithuania looks very promising. Compensatory payments and their size had a significant impact on organic farming development in Lithuania. The mostly grown crops were cereals and legumes for grain, as well as legumes and cereal mixtures; perennial grasses. This shows that Lithuania's organic farm is not developing organic livestock farming, practiced mostly in organic cereals production. There is a clear need for change in Lithuanian organic farms crop structure for further development of organic production; it is necessary to make radical changes developing organic livestock, increasing the area of berry and orchards and at the same time reducing the cereal area. There are reduces the organic beekeeping farms in Lithuania, since without the organic bee-keeping compensation payments many of the former organic bee-keeping farm moved from farming to the exceptional quality products. Significant opportunities to expand organic fishery Lithuania is not because the total pond area is limited. We can only expect increase the organic share of gross fisheries of aquaculture production. KEYWORDS: organic farming, Lithuania, Europe Union, development, compensatory payments.

Introduction

Changes in agricultural policy: from agriculture to alternative activities and environmental protection and agricultural support transformation of price regulation in the market to direct payments to producers themselves; increased political and public interest in organic foods. Organic production is an overall farm management and food production that combines best environmental practices, a high biodiversity level, natural resources conservation, high animal welfare standards and production methods, according to specific consumer preferences for products made using natural materials and processes. The organic production method plays a dual role: it provides for a specific market responding to consumer demand for organic products, as well as benefits to society, contributing to environmental protection, animal welfare and rural development. Organic farming is one of the most rapidly developing farming practices not only in Lithuania but also throughout the EU. With each year, the number of new organic farmers grows, as well as grows the number of organic farms and organic area. Organic agriculture cannot be developed in a contaminated environment or pollute the environment. Organic farming produces high nutritional value agricultural products, which has a very strong demand among consumers (Liivaauk, 1999; Eidukevičienė, Bučienė, 2005; Pekarskas et al., 2006, Council Regulation (EC). of organic farming in a long traditions having Germany. Some countries have a reduction of certified organic land

834/2007, 2007, Commission Regulation (EC). 889/2008, 2008).

Recently, growing environmental pollution, world-wide interest in organic farming and organic foods that are natural and healthier than conventionally grown and environmentally friendly is observed. Various performed market researches and consumers surveys show the increased interest in organic products and their use. Although organic farming has been the fastest pace of development in Latin America and Africa, these products use is concentrated in Europe and North America, other regions of the world are important for organic producers and exporters (Rutkovienė, Garliauskienė, 2007; Ramanauskienė, Gargasas, 2008; Skulskis, Girgždienė, 2009; Bučienė, Rindokienė, 2010).

Since 1990 almost in all European countries has grown organic farming movement. Europe currently has about 167 thousands certified farms and more than 6.5 million hectares of organic land. European Union countries have 140,000 farm households and the certified area covers 5.8 million hectares. This represents 3.4 percent of all agricultural land. Organic farms will be most noticeable in the new EU members such as: Lithuania grew by 100 percent; Poland – 60 percent. Organic land in Czech Republic takes over 6 percent of all agricultural land, which is higher than the percentage area. Differences between countries occur due to the specifics of each country's farming (Pekarskas et al, 2007).

The ideas of organic agriculture have reached Lithuania only in 1991, together with independence and possibility to cooperate with foreign countries. Organic farming started in Lithuania in 1993. Nine farms were certified in that year, they have been granted a transitional period to organic farming status. The first organic farm certificate awarded to farmers in the Varèna district Rasa and Edmundas Samauskai, the second - Elena and Stanislovas Grajauskai, farmers in Molètai district (Pekarskas et al, 2008).

Certification authority public body Ekoagros in Lithuania certifies organic farms and issues the supporting documentation (certificates before), which issued a supporting document that refers to farming in accordance with Regulation (EC) 889/2008 and the provisions of Nr.834/2007 and organic farm status. Public body Ekoagros was founded in 1997, 14 of March and the founders were the Ministries of Agriculture and Health care of Republic of Lithuania. The establishment of a similar certification organization has become a necessity for the further development of organic production in Lithuania. Currently Ekoagros is the only organization in Lithuania which is engaged in organic production certification works and issues the supporting documents.

The aim of research - to analyze the development of organic farming and its causes in Lithuania after accession to the European Union and examine the future prospects of organic farming.

Research methods: scientific literature analysis, the actual statistical data and analysis.

Results

The analysis of organic farming development in Lithuania in 2003-2010 has shown that Lithuanian accession to EU on 1st of May, 2004 and the much increased compensation payments for organic farming accelerated development of organic farming. 1178 organic farms were certified in 2004 in Lithuania (compared with 2003 increased by - 478 or 68.3 percent). Growth of organic farms number in Lithuania took

place until 2007 when 2855 farms were certified as organic. Then the downward trend is observed. The situation has been influenced by the change in compensation payments for organic farming in accordance with the payment of benefits and size. 2668 farms were certified in 2010, compared to 2007 number of farms decreased by 187 units or 7.01 percent. A whole other trend was assessing development of certified land area. In 2004 compared to 2003 area increased by 19,666 hectares or 84.4 percent. Organic land area, unlike the number of farms continues to grow. In 2010 a total of 149,096 hectares have been certified or 21,734 hectares more than in 2008 and 14,141 hectares more than in 2009 (Figure 1).

Evaluating average organic farm size changes can be seen that before Lithuania's accession to the European Union, the average organic farm size in different years was very different and it is difficult to determine the overall size of an organic change in the trend.

There is a clearly visible organic farm average size growth trend after Lithuania's accession to the European Union. Organic farm agricultural area from 36.5 hectares (in 2004) rose to 55.8 ha in 2010 or by 52.9 percent. Meanwhile, the average size of the of organic farm in Lithuania during 2003-2010 declined steadily from 15.1 ha in 2003 to 9.7 ha in 2010.

An average farm size in 2003, compared to the organic farm size was 18.2 ha smaller, in 2010 this difference has even reached 46.1 hectares. Organic farms become larger after Lithuania's accession to the European Union, while the overall average farm size decreased. (Figure 2).

There different amounts of compensation were paid for organic farming in different years. Their size had an impact on organic farming development in Lithuania. In 2001, for organically grown cereal per hectare was paid 120 LTL, in 2002 – 200, 2003 – 300, and in 2004-2006 even 1436 LTL (416 EU). The comparison of the benefits received in 2001 with the 2004-2006 its value was as high as in 11.97 times.

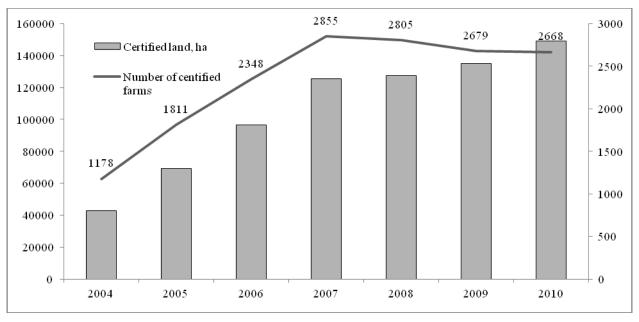


Figure 1. Organic farms and the number of certified area of change 2004 -2010 in Lithuania

Payments for cereals and legumes crop production varied from 150 to 230 LTL in 2001-2002, from 2003 it is uniformed. The payments for organic buckwheat cultivation and reared ponds (respectively 300 and 100 LTL per hectare) were paid in 2003, while in 2001-2003 were paid for fallow land, which ended together with ascension to the EU. Always the highest payments were made for gardens and berries. According to the Lithuanian Rural Development for 2007-2013 measures of the program "Organic Farming Program" provisions, the compensation payment procedure, compared with Rural development plan for 2004-2006 measure "Agrienvironment" have changed substantially. compensatory allowance is paid in two instalments: 50 percent applicant estimated amount of assistance paid after the assessment of the application, while the remaining 50 percent for each crop group separately paid after the applicant provides production realization documents. Newly planted orchards and berry fields during the first year of participation in the program, regardless of the realization of production volume is 100 percent amount of support.

There is necessary to realise organic production in order to get full compensation for the amount of:

- Favoured for farming areas: cereals – for 500, vegetable, potato, herbs for 1500; garden products for 4000; berry production for 2000 LTL per ha.

- Less-favoured areas: cereals – for 300, vegetable, potato, herbs for 1200; garden products for 3000; berry production for 1500 LTL per ha.

The requirement to provide production realization documents does not apply to the farms with livestock and exclusively declaring forage. Animals are calculated into contractual animals, according to the Lithuanian Minister of Agriculture orders. Production realization documents are not claimed for the part of the farm, where cereals are grown using the ratio with a 1 certified animal unit for 3 ha of cereals. As well as the same certified animal unit is equivalent: 3 hectares of corn and 3 hectares of perennial grasses.

Compensatory payment arrangements and their values had and continue to have an essential impact on the development of organic farming in Lithuania. Development of organic farming in Lithuania may be affected by changing the payment process and their size (Table 1). Assessing the intensity of farming in different regions of Lithuania, we can say that before Lithuania's accession to the European Union, more organic farmers were situated in the southeastern part of the country, the less-favored areas, and karst region, which includes part of Biržai and Pasvalys municipalities. Such a distribution of organic farms was partly based on a more environmental than economic motives for organic farming.

Table 1. Compensatory payments for organic farming in Lithuania

Crops	Financing order for Ecological Agriculture Development (Lithuanian Republic Ministry of Agriculture 2001 03 30 order No.88)	Support order for Ecological Agriculture Development (Lithuanian Republic Ministry of Agriculture 2002 03 8 order No.80)	Organic agriculture development support rules in 2003 (Lithuanian Republic Ministry of Agriculture 2003 03 25 order No. 3D–125)	Rural development plan for 2004- 2006, measure "Agri- environment"	Rural Development Program for 2007- 2013 measure "Organic Farming Program"
Cereal LTL (EUR) ha ⁻¹	_	-	-	1436 LTL (416 EU)	742 LTL (215 EU)
Cereal LTL (EUR) ha ⁻¹	120 Lt (35 EU)	200 LTL (58 EU)	300 LTL (87 EU)	_	_
Legumes LTL (EUR) ha ⁻¹	270 LTL (78 EU)	430 LTL (124 EU)	300 LTL (87 EU)	ı	_
Buckwheat LTL (EUR) ha ⁻¹	_	I	300 LTL (87 EU)	ı	_
Perennial grasses LTL (EUR) ha ⁻¹	_	85 LTL (25 EU)	90 LTL (26 EU)	407 LTL (118 EU)	438 LTL (127 EU)
Vegetables LTL (EUR) ha ⁻¹	270 LTL (78 EU)	430 LTL (124 EU)	500 LTL (145 EU)	1902 LTL (551 EU)	1519 LTL (440 EU)
Potatoes LTL (EUR) ha ⁻¹	270 LTL (78 EU)	430 LTL (124 EU)	500 LTL (145 EU)	1902 LTL (551 EU)	1519 LTL (440 EU)
Medical herbs LTL (EUR) ha ⁻¹	_	_	_	1574 LTL (456 EU)	1688 LTL (489 EU)
Berries LTL (EUR) ha ⁻¹	450 LTL (130 EU)	500 LTL (145 EU)	600 LTL (174 EU)	2534 LTL (734 EU)	1782 LTL (516 EU)
Orchards LTL (EUR) ha ⁻¹	450 LTL (130 EU)	700 LTL (203 EU)	600 LTL (174 EU)	2596 LTL (752 EU)	1782 LTL (516 EU)
Fallow LTL (EUR) ha ⁻¹	80 LTL (23 EU)	80 LTL (23 EU)	300 LTL (87 EU)	_	_
Reared ponds LTL (EUR) ha ⁻¹	_	_	100 LTL (29 EU)	-	-

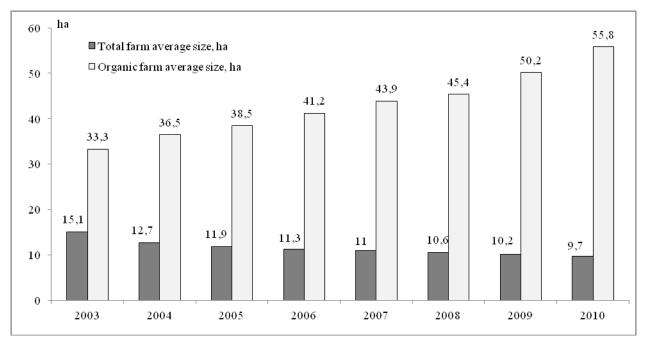


Figure 2. The average size of total and organic farm in Lithuania in 2003–2010 m., ha

In recent years the trend has changed. In 2007, compared with 2004, organic land area increased in favored areas, it increased 5.5 times, and in the less-favored - only 1.9 times. Distribution of organic farms by size and use of land areas is different. The largest number of the certified farms in 2007 was in Biržai district (178), slightly less in Ukmergė (153), Raseiniai (140), Trakai (125) and Šalčininkai districts (121) (Figure 3).

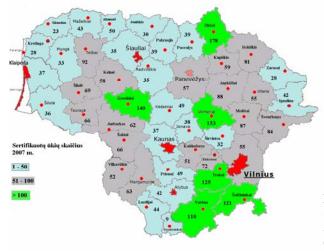


Figure 3. Distribution of the number of certified organic farms in different regions of Lithuania, 2007

The similar trends were observed in 2010: in Biržai district -164, in Raseiniai - 127, and in Šalčininkai district - 120 (Figure 4). In some regions of Lithuania the number of organic farms declined, in others - increased. Meanwhile, according to the organic land area in 2010 led Biržai district, where the organic land covered 13920.47 ha, followed by Ukmergė - 9168.17 ha and Šalčininkai districts - 8308.89 ha.

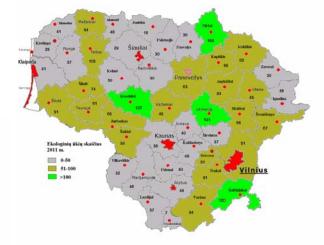


Figure 4. Distribution of the number of certified organic farms in different regions of Lithuania, 2010

Crop structure changed with increasing organic production volumes. In 2002-2003 organic farm crop structure was dominated by forage (37-49 percent), and in 2004-2005 already started to prevail cereals and legume crops. In 2004 they accounted 48 percent from all crops, in 2005 as much as 60 percent. This structure does not fully meet the requirements for organic farming. Such changes in crop structure caused the EU payments for organic farming. Farm, crops are not grown animals, the benefits of Grass grown free of charge. Therefore, part of the grasslands were inoculated išartos and other plants for the production subsidies are taught. The paymants for forage are not paid if there are no animals on the farm. Thus, part of the forage were plowed and sown with other, subsided, crops (Pekarskas et all., 2006; Pekarskas et all., 2008).

Structure of the crop says a lot about a country's organic farming status and trends. Evaluation of

Lithuania's organic farms crop structure changes for 2005-2010 was found that substantial changes in the structure of the crop during this period did not happened. Crop structure is dominated by cereals (45.2 and 45.72 percent), perennial grasses (26.9 and 20.98 percent) legumes (7.6 and 12.64 percent) and legumes and cereal mixtures (7.7 and 19.6 percent) both the 2005 and 2010 (Figure 5). Compared to 2005, the 2010 area of orchards dropped from 1.0 to 0.96 percent, berry - from 3.2 to 2.68 percent, areas of herbs and spice plants increased from 0.6 percent to 5.01 and potatoes, vegetables and fodder beet plots changed very little from 0.30 to 0.32 percent. This shows that there is a small amount of organic animals and undeveloped organic animal husbandry. Very little amount is grown of marketable organic potatoes, vegetables and fruits, which could be exported, and at the moment are currently unsatisfactory for the local market (Figure 5 and 6).

In order to provide further successful development of organic farming in Lithuania, it is necessary to make radical changes in organic farms crop structure. legumes and perennial grasses should take the biggest part in the crop structure, at the same time organic livestock production should be developed more intensive, as well as the areas of berries and orshards – expanded.

Animal husbandry is very important part of organic agriculture. The analysis of changes dynamics in 2005-2010 of dairy, suckler cows and breeding bulls in organic farms found that mainly are grown dairy cows (Figure 7).

Cattle number increased by 4.410 units from 2005 to 2008, but then number of cows on organic farms began to decline and in 2010 it was grown 8891 dairy cows. In 2005 in organic farms were certified in only 14 suckler cows, but in later years number increased steadily and in 2010 it was certified 2863 units. Particular increase in the number of was in 2005 – 2010 period - by 204.5 times even. In 2005 were certified 29 breeding bulls and in 2010 they already reached 117 units.

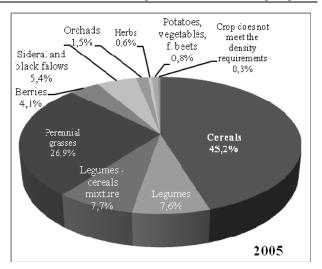


Figure 5. Certified organic farms crop structure (including fallow and ponds) in 2005.

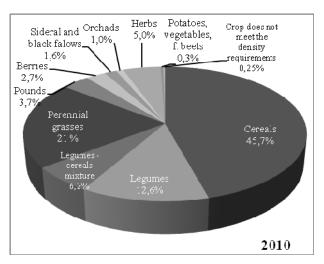


Figure 6. Certified organic farms crop structure (including fallow and ponds) in 2010.

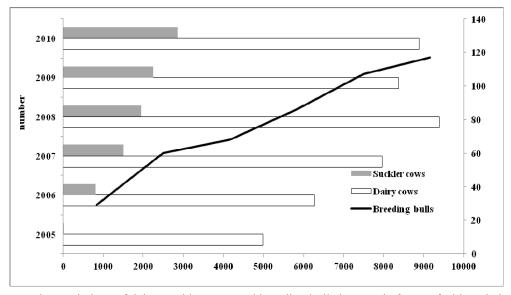


Figure 7. Number variations of dairy, suckler cows and breeding bulls in organic farms of Lithuania in 2005-2010.

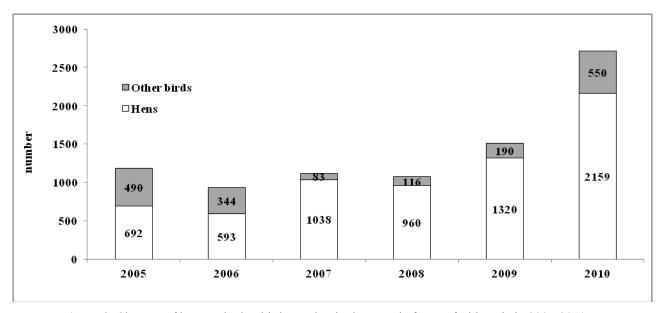


Figure 8. Changes of hens and other birds number in the organic farms of Lithuania in 2005-2010

Number of hen comparing 2005 and 2010 increased by 1467 or 3.12 times, while other birds in different years have been certified by a wide range, but small amounts - 83 to 550 units (Figure 8).

There in Lithuania was 770.9 thousand animals (including 394.7 thousand dairy cows), 897.1 thousand pigs, 9107.5 thousand birds, and 47.5 thousand sheep in 2008 (Lietuvos žemės ūkio apžvalga 2009–2010, 2011).

Lithuanian organic farming system is dominated by crop production, the most cultivated are cereal, and organic production of livestock developed weakly.

The compensation payment order should be reviewed, paying greater attention to the development of organic animal husbandry in Lithuania in order to promote the development of organic livestock production. This could significantly accelerate the development of organic livestock farming in Lithuania, particularly in less-favoured areas, where currently a number of farmers engaged in organic farming.

Lithuanian organic farming system is dominated by crop production, the most cultivated are cereal, and organic production of livestock developed weakly. The compensation payment order should be reviewed, paying greater attention to the development of organic animal husbandry in Lithuania in order to promote the development of organic livestock production. This could significantly accelerate the development of organic livestock farming in Lithuania, particularly in less-favoured areas, where currently a number of farmers engaged in organic farming.

This territory of Lithuania is very favourable for the development organic animal husbandry. Another possible solution could be development of organic dairy and meat products market in Lithuania, which is poorly developed right now. Increased demand for organic milk and meat products can accelerate their production. Recently is planned to promote the market. Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture focuses more on organic animal husbandry development in Lithuania. Recently the projects for supply of kindergartens, schools and other institutions with organic milk and its products are developed.

A similar situation exists in Finland. Meanwhile, organic livestock is developed in the most EU countries and crop structure is widely dominated by the majority of grasslands and fodder crops (Heinonen, 2007; Bučienė, Šlažas, 2008).

Analyses of organic bee farms number in Lithuania changes dynamics in 2005-2010 showed that it is decreasing. Farms declined from 49 to 26 units and number of certified bee families decreased from 1597 to 910 units (Figure 9). There is no compensatory payment for the organic bees. A large part of the former organic bee farms moved to the production of exceptional quality products, where bee-keeping requirements for significantly lower than in organic farming. In the future, without changing the organic beekeeping support procedures it is difficult to expect that organic bee farm in Lithuania will grow.

Organic fishery, compared with organic farming in Lithuania began to engage recently, as the relevant rules have been approved. Part of the conventional pound fish farms decided to start to grow organically. Organic fishery was developed in 13 organic fishery farms in 2006, covering whole of 5029.40 ha (4858.50 ha of which were reared). The number of organic fishery farms did not increase in 2006-2008 period, the area of ponds was 5161.52 ha, including 5086.94 ha of reared ponds. Area of organic ponds increased by 132.12 hectares during this period, while reared area - by 44.12 ha only. The largest area of fish farms ponds and reared ponds was certified in 2009 (5967.09 ha and 5856.34 ha) and in 2010 the area decreased by 490.49 ha and 580.71 ha.

Some fish farms refused to grow organically, while others began to farm in organic way: JSC "Išlaužo žuvis"and CJSC "Čivylių žuvys" refused to grow organic fish in 2010, but the CJSC "Šalčininkų žuvininkystės ūkis" began organic fishery farming in 225.63 ha (219.16 ha reared) as well as CJSC Bartžuvė (177.98 and 175.42 ha). In 2009 – 2010 16 organic fishery farms have been certified.

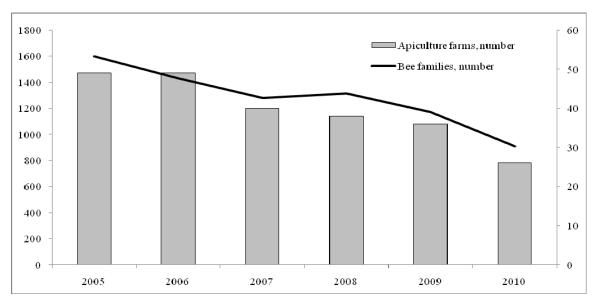


Figure 9. Changes of bee farms and bee families number in the organic farms of Lithuania in 2005-2010

The largest certified organic ponds and reared ponds area in 2006 has CJSC "Raseinių žuvininkystė" – (898.8 ha and 873.4 ha), CJSC "Čivylių žuvys" (659.4 ha and 654.4 ha) and CJSC "Akvilegija"614.25 and 608.3 ha. CJSC "Raseinių žuvininkystė" (898.8 and 876.7 hectares) and CJSC (619.25 and 618.3 hectares) in 2010 remained with the highest certified pond area.

Conclusions

After Lithuania's accession to the European Union and significantly increasing compensation payments accelerated development of organic farming. Number of organic farms increased in Lithuania until 2007, then 2855 organic farms has been certified. Then noticed a downward trend in the organic farms number. This was influenced by the change in compensation payments for organic farming, the payment order and the payments decrease.

In 2010 certified 2668 farms, while compared with 2007 the number of farms decreased by 187 units or in 7.01 percent. Area of organic land has continued to increase, unlike the number of farms. Organic farming in Lithuania looks very promising.

Distribution of organic farms by size and use of land areas is different. The largest number of the certified farms in 2010, the same, like in 2007, was in Biržai, Raseiniai and Šalčininkai districts. In some regions of Lithuania the number of organic farms declined, in others - increased.

Compensatory payments and their size and methods of payment had a significant impact on organic farming development in Lithuania. Change in the compensation payment policy for 2007-2013 period, small organic farms began to shrink from organic farming, and from conventional to organic production began to shift large-scale conventional farms. Changing the size and manner of payment we can affect the development of organic farming in Lithuania.

No significant changes occurred in Lithuania organic farms crop structure for 2005-2010. In 2010 as in 2005 the most commonly cultivated cereals (45.2 and 45.72 percent), perennial grasses (26.9 and 20.98 percent), legumes (7.6 and

12.64 percent), and legumes and cereal mixtures (7.7 and 6.19 percent). Crop structure in Lithuanian organic farms does not fully comply with the principles of organic farming; because having the domination of cereals in crop structure is difficult to preserve and maintain soil fertility, which is one of the key requirements for organic farming.

Organic animal husbandry in organic farming system in Lithuania developed weakly, there is necessary to review the compensation payment procedure, aiming to promote organic livestock development in Lithuania. There is a noticeable decrease in the number of organic bee farms in 2005-2010; number of farms decreased from 49 to 26 and certified bee families from 1597 to 910 units. There is no compensatory payment for organic apiculture, so a large part of the former organic bee farms moved to the production of exceptional quality products. Lithuania does not have great potential to develop eco-fishing; where as the total pond area is limited and remaining unchanged. We can expect that the share of organic fishery production in total aquaculture production can start to increase because of the demand for organic fish.

References

Bučienė, A., Rindokienė, L. (2010). The supply, demand and consumption of ecological food products in Lithuania'sea-shore region. Ekonomika ir vadyba: aktualijos ir perspektyvos 3 (19), pp.254–261.

Bučienė, A., Šlažas, M. (2010). Ekologinio ūkininkavimo plėtros Suomijoje ir Lietuvoje palyginimas. Ekonomika ir vadyba: aktualijos ir perspektyvos 2 (11), pp.162–176.

Eidukevičienė, M., Bučienė, A. (2005). Ekologiškų maisto produktų rinkos susidarymas Vakarų Lietuvoje. Tiltai 2, pp.45–54.

Heinonen S. (2007). Organic Farming in Finland. Available at http://www.organic-europe.net/country reports/finland/default.asp.

Skulskis, V., Girgždienė, V. (2009). Ekologiškų maisto produktų vartojimas ir jį skatinantys informaciniai šaltiniai Lietuvoje. Žemės ūkio mokslai 16 (3–4), pp.154–161

- Lietuvos žemės ūkio apžvalga 2009–2010 (2011). Lietuvos Respublikos žemės ūkio ministerija.
- Liivaauk, P. (1999). Market and marketing of organic food products in Europe. Proceedings of the international seminar "Organic agriculture: theoretical and practical approach", pp.6-18., Lithuanian University of Agriculture.
- Pekarskas, J., Kazlienė, O., Gavenauskas, A. (2006). Ekologinio ūkininkavimo plėtra ir perspektyvos Lietuvoje. Vadyba 2 (9), pp.169–173.
- Pekarskas, J., Kazlienė, O., Gavenauskas, A. (2007). Ekologinis ūkininkavimas Lietuvoje. Vadyba 2 (11), pp.197–200.
- Pekarskas, J., Kazlienė, O., Gavenauskas, A. (2008). Ekologinio ūkininkavimo problemos ir perspektyvos Lietuvoje. Vadyba 2 (13), pp.135–138.
- Ramanauskienė, J., Gargasas, A. (2008). Ekologiškos produkcijos tiekimo rinkai bei realizavimo galimybės ir perspektyvos. Vadybos mokslas ir studijos kaimo verslu ir ju infrastruktūros plėtrai 12 (1), pp.142–151.
- Rutkovienė, V., Garliauskienė, G. (2007). Ekologiškų maisto produktų paklausą lemiantys veiksniai. Žemės ūkio mokslai 14 (2), pp.66–71.
- Tarybos reglamentas (EB) Nr. 834/2007 dėl ekologinės gamybos ir ekologiškų produktų ženklinimo ir panaikinantis Reglamentą (EEB) Nr. 2092/91 (OL L 189, 2007 7 20, p. 1) http://eur-lex.europa [accessed 27 01 2011]
- Komisijos reglamentas (EB) Nr. 889/2008 kuriuo nustatomos išsamios Tarybos reglamento (EB) Nr. 834/2007 dėl ekologinės gamybos ir ekologiškų produktų ženklinimo įgyvendinimo taisyklės dėl ekologinės gamybos, ženklinimo ir kontrolės (OL L 250, 2008 9 18, p. 1) http://eur-lex.europa [accessed 27 01 2011]

EKOLOGINIO ŪKININKAVIMO PLĖTRA LIETUVOJE PO ĮSTOJIMO Į EUROPOS SĄJUNGĄ IR ATEITIES PERSPEKYVOS

Santrauka

Pastaruoju metu didėjant aplinkos taršai, visame pasaulyje labai domimasi ekologine žemdirbyste ir išaugintais ekologiškais maisto produktais, kurie yra natūralūs ir sveikesni, nei įprastiniu būdu užauginti, nekenkia aplinkai. Ekologinis žemės ūkis tiek ES tiek ir Lietuvoje užima ypatinga vieta, kuris pagrįstas moderniomis aplinkai palankiomis technologijomis, siekiant žmones aprūpinti saugiais ir aukštos kokybės maisto produktais. Ekologiškų produktų gamyba Lietuvoje pradėta 1993 m. kai buvo sertifikuoti devyni ūkiai, kuriems buvo suteiktas pereinamojo laikotarpio į ekologinį ūkį statusas. Lietuvai įstojus į Europos Sąjungą bei gerokai padidėjus mokamoms kompensacinėms išmokoms paspartėjo ir ekologinio ūkininkavimo plėtra. Ekologinės gamybos ūkių skaičius Lietuvoje didėjo iki 2007 m. kaip buvo sertifikuoti 2855 ekologinės gamybos ūkiai. Po to pastebima ekologinės gamybos ūkių skaičiaus mažėjimo tendencija. 2010 m. sertifikuota 2668 ūkis, palyginti su 2007 m. ūkių skaičius sumažėjo 187 vnt. arba 7,01 proc. Visai kitos tendencijos vyko vertinant sertifikuoto ploto pokyčius. 2004 m. palyginti su 2003 m.

plotas padidėjo 19666 ha arba 84,4 proc. Ekologinės gamybos ūkiu plotas, skirtingai nuo ūkių skaičiaus ir toliau didėjo. 2010 m. iš viso buvo sertifikuota 149096 ha arba 21734 ha daugiau nei 2008 m. bei 14141 ha daugiau nei 2009 m. Tam įtakos turėjo pasikeitusi kompensacinių išmokų už ekologinį ūkininkavimą mokėjimo tvarka ir išmokų dydžio sumažėjimas. Ekologinių ūkių pasiskirstymas pagal jų dydi ir naudojamos žemės plota rajonuose yra skirtingas. 2010 m. didžiausias ūkių skaičius kaip ir 2007 m. buvo Biržų, Raseinių bei Šalčininkų rajonuose. Vienuose Lietuvos rajonuose ekologinės gamybos ūkių mažėjo, kituose didėjo. Ekologinė gamyba Lietuvoje turi dideles perspektyvas. Mokamos kompensacinės išmokos, jų dydis ir mokėjimo tvarka turėjo ir turi esminės įtakos ekologinės gamybos plėtrai Lietuvoje. Pasikeitus kompensacinių išmokų mokėjimo tvarkai 2007–2013 m. laikotarpiu iš ekologinės gamybos pradėjo trauktis smulkūs ekologinės gamybos ūkiai, o į iš intensyvios ekologinę gamybą pradėjo pereiti stambūs chemizuoti ūkiai. Keičiant kompensacinių išmokų dydi bei mokėjimo tvarka galima įtakoti ekologinio ūkininkavimo plėtrą Lietuvoje. Lietuvos ekologinės gamybos ūkių pasėlių struktūroje 2005–2010 m. esminių pokyčių nejvyko. 2010 m. kaip ir 2005 m. daugiausiai auginami varpiniai javai (45,2 ir 45,72 proc.), daugiametės žolės (26,9 ir 20,98 proc.), ankštiniai javai (7,6 ir 12,64 proc.) bei ankštinių ir varpinių javų mišiniai (7,7 ir 6,19 proc.). Lietuvos ekologinės gamybos ūkiuose esama pasėlių struktūrą nevišiškai atitinka ekologinio ūkininkavimo principus, nes pasėlių struktūroje dominuojant varpiniams javams bus sunku išsaugoti ir palaikyti dirvožemio derlingumą, o tai yra vienas iš pagrindinių reikalavimų, keliamų ekologiniam ūkininkavimui. Lietuvos ekologinės gamybos sistemoje vyrauja augalininkystės kryptis, daugiausiai auginama varpinių javų, o ekologinė gyvulininkystė išvystyta silpnai. Norint Lietuvoje skatinti ekologinės gyvulininkystės plėtrą būtina peržiūrėti kompensacinių išmokų mokėjimo tvarką, skiriant didesnį dėmesį ekologinės gyvulininkystės vystymui, o tai ženkliai paspartintų ekologinės gyvulininkystės plėtra Lietuvoje, ypatingai mažiau palankiose ūkininkauti vietovėse, kur šiuo metu nemažai ūkininkų užsiima ekologiniu ūkininkavimu. Ši Lietuvos teritorija labai palanki ekologinės gyvulininkystės vystymui. Lietuvoje ekologinės bitininkystės ūkių 2005–2010 m. sumažėjo nuo 49 iki 26 vnt., o sertifikuotų bičių šeimų nuo 1597 iki 910 vnt. Kompensacinės išmokos už ekologiškas bites nemokamos. Dėl to nemaža dalis buvusių ekologinės bitininkystės ūkių perėjo iš ekologinio ūkininkavimo į išskirtinės kokybės produktų gamybą, kur bitinkavimui keliami žymiai mažesni reikalavimai nei ūkinkaujant ekologiškai. Ekologiniu žuvų auginimu, palyginti su ekologine žemdirbyste, Lietuvoje pradėta verstis palyginti neseniai, kaip buvo patvirtintos atitinkamos taisyklės. Dalis įprastinės tvenkininės žuvininkystės ūkių nutarė žuvis pradėti auginti ekologiškai. 2006 m. ekologinę žuvininkystę vystė 13 ekologinės žuvininkystės ūkių 5029,40 ha plote (tame tarpe 4858,50 ha buvo ižuvinti). 2006–2008 m. laikotarpyje ekologinės žuvininkystės ūkių nepadaugėjo ir ekologiškai žuvis augino 13 ekologinės žuvininkystės ūkių, kurie 2008 m. turėjo 5161,52 ha tvenkinių, tame tarpe 5086,94 ha įžuvintų. Šiuo laikotarpiu ekologiškų tvenkinių padidėjo 132,12 ha, o įžuvintų tik 44,12 ha. Didžiausias sertifikuotas ekologinės žuvininkystės ūkiuose tvenkinių ir įžuvintų tvenkinių plotas (5967,09 ir 5856,34 ha) buvo 2009 metais, o 2010 m. jų plotas sumažėjo atitinkamai 490,49 ir 580,71 hektarais. Lietuvoje didelių galimybių plėstis ekologinei žuvinikystei nėra, nes bendras tvenkinių plotas yra ribotas ir tai yra pagrindinė to priežastis. Galima tik tikėtis jog ekologinės žuvininkystės dalis bendroje akvakultūros produkcijoje gali didėti. Čia labai svarbią reikšmę turi ekologiškos žuvies paklausa rinkoje ir ar ja ekonomiškai apsimoka auginti.

PAGRINDINIAI ŽODŽIAI: ekologinis ūkininkavimas, Lietuva, Europos Sąjunga, plėtra, kompensacinės išmokos.

Juozas Pekarskas, doctor of Biomedicine science, assoc. professor, Aleksandras Stulginskis University, head of Agroecological centre Adress: Universiteto street 6-210, LT-53361 Academy, Kaunas district. Tel +37067103671, e-mail: juozas.pekarskas@asu.lt.

Anželika Raškauskienė, doctor of Biomedical Sciences, Aleksandras Stulginskis University assoc. prof. of the department of Ecology; scientific co-worker of Agroecological centret. Address: Studentu 11, LT-53361 Akademija, Kaunas r. Tel. / fax: 8 37 752224, e-mail: Anzelika.Raskauskiene@asu.lt.

Algirdas Gavenauskas, doctor of Biomedical Sciences, Aleksandras Stulginskis University assoc. prof. of the department of Ecology. Address: Studentu 11, LT-53361 Akademija, Kaunas r. Tel. / fax: 8 37 752224, e-mail: Algirdas.Gavenauskas@asu.lt.

Ona Kazlienė, director of certification body PB "Ekoagros". Address: K.Donelaičio g. 33/A.Mickevičiaus g. 48, LT-44240, Kaunas. Tel. 8 37 203181, e-mail: ekoagros@ekoagros.lt