

All Organic

February 2008 - free press

NEWSPAPER FOR THE NATURAL & ORGANIC GREECE



Support and promotion for organic agriculture

- article by Dr. Dionisis Hionis, President of AGOCERT *page 6*
- article by Mr. Christos Avgoulas, General Secretary of international relations *page 8*



Unions of organic agriculture in Greece

From Attica to Thraki we meet Unions of biological cultivators. "All Organic" presents you the most of them and travels you at the famous place that has long history for its products. *page 9*



Represent the modern image of Greece

"Alternative forms of tourism must and can play a decisive role by attracting Greek and foreign visitors" said the minister of Tourism Mr. Aris Spiliotopoulos at his message. *page 27*

Greece: a paradise for organic agriculture

There are many reasons why one should consider investing in organic agriculture in Greece. The primary advantages Greece has over other European countries include the low cost of labor, the fact that there are large areas of land that have not been used for years, meaning that they are suitable for immediate use by organic farms, the composition of the soil, the continued application of traditional cultivation methods, and the temperate climate.



Over the last years the market has recorded a tremendous growth, with respect to both the number of hectares used for organic cultivation and to the quantities of organic products produced and exported.

The History

Organic farming was introduced in Greece in 1982, in the area of Aigialeia, where a small group of local farmers began the production of organic Corinthian grapes with a view to exporting them to Holland. Though

the odds were against them and it was certainly not easy in the beginning, the efforts of this small group of farmers proved successful. The organic farming project of the Agricultural Cooperative of Aigialeia continues until today, with over 500 producers involved in the cultivation of grapes, olives, and citrus fruits. The first organic olive production began in Mani in the mid-1990s. By 1992, there were

about 150 organic farms on 2,000 hectares of land.

A significant increase in organic production was recorded after 1996 due to the application of Community Regulation 2078/92. Among other things, the Regulation calls for the provision of subsidies in order to support organic agriculture. Thanks to that incentive the area of organically cultivated land doubled in less than a year.

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Organic agriculture in numbers

ORGANIC agriculture and organic livestock production in Greece continuously thrive. The facts of certifications regarding the year 2006 are truly impressive. Recent data show that, during 2007, 20.792 producers were certified in vegetable production and 1.759 in animal production. The certified mixed units (of



vegetable and livestock production) amount to 957, while certified processors of organic products amount to 1.054. In that way, a branch is formed which consists of 24.560 businessmen - producers - enterprises.

Nowadays in Greece 1.801.983 acres are being cultivated with organic farming methods and 941.652 animals are being raised organic livestock production methods: 22.546 heads of cattle, 212.294 heads of pigs, 564.971 heads of sheep and goats, 134.552 heads of poultry, 93 heads of buffalos and 7.196 bee hives.

Greece is the third olive oil producing country in the world

More than 750 million olive trees are cultivated world wide, the majority of which (c. 95%) are planted in the regions of the Mediterranean. About 3/4 of the global olive oil production come from the European Union, while around 97% of European production comes from Spain, Italy and Greece: More than 140 million olive trees, which produce around 400,000 tons of olive oil per year, 75%-80% of which is extra virgin olive oil.

This figure makes Greece the world leader in terms of production of extra virgin olive oil (Italy comes second with 40-45% of its annual production being extra virgin olive oil and Spain comes third with 25-30%).

Olive trees are primarily cultivated in mainland Greece, with the Peloponnese accounting for around 65% of annual production, as well as in Crete, the Aegean Islands and the Ionian Islands.



About one half of the annual olive oil production in Greece is exported

Advantage: its fine quality

The history of olive oil in our country goes back into the centuries and even today thousands of families deal in its production. Greece is the third largest olive oil producing country in the world (after Spain and Italy), while the competitive advantage of Greek olive oil in relation to that of other countries is its fine quality.



Organic Greece
in a 200-pages market guide



PASTA INDUSTRY

Request for organic pasta?
"HELIOS" quality is the answer!

"HELIOS" Pasta Industry enriches its wide variety
of special pasta.

After our whole wheat pasta products,
we now supply the market with organic products
from 100% organic farming durum wheat semolina.

These new certified pasta products are available in a
wide variety of shapes, making your everyday meals
not only tasteful but also nutritious.



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