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More organic!

Government Programme to 2020

- Three levels:
 - Political commitment at the Government level
 - Measures of the different ministries to promote organic production and products
 - Work on organic production and products in the private sector



Political commitment

- At the beginning of 2013 the Government adopted the objectives of the programme
- Government Resolution given on 16 May 2013
- Steering group composed of seven ministries: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Environment, Finance, the Interior, Employment and the Economy, Education and Culture, and Foreign Affairs)
- The objective is to increase the organic production area to 20 % by 2020



Objectives of the Government Programme

- To increase organic production to meet the demand
- To diversify the range of organic products available
- To improve the supply of and access to organic food in retail stores and professional kitchens

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1. More organic production

- Funding necessary to support organic production has been allocated up until the year 2020
- Funding increased by 50% from the earlier level
- National legislation has been updated
- EU legislation is being reformed
- The Rural Development Programme for Mainland Finland 2014-2020 has a key role in promoting the organic production sector



Rural Development Programme for Mainland Finland 2014-2020

- Includes support for organic production, with special focus on horticulture
- Organic production sector also benefits from farm advisory services
- Regional development projects to promote organic farming, processing and marketing
- Organic production sector interested in the innovative projects of EIP



2. Diverse range of products

- Special focus on horticultural production
- Rules concerning the investment aid changed for broiler production
- Updating the national databank on the nutrition content of different foodstuffs
- Education on food legislation and good practises for small and medium-sized enterprises



3. Better supply of and access to organic products

- Government Resolution of 3 June 2013 on sustainable environmental and energy solutions
- The objective: 10 % of the food served in public kitchens is organic by 2015 and 20 % by 2020
- National public procurement and competition legislation is being revised



Growth in organic production

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
% Production area	7,2%	7,5%	8,1%	8,7%	9,0%
Livestock farms	548	574	643	759	814
Food processors	418	437	487	624	

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Current production

- 4 284 organic farms, average size 48,9 ha
- Organic area 206 000 ha, 9%
- Livestock farms produce beef and milk
- Number of pig farms and egg producing farms quite small
- Investments in the pipeline on broiler farms



Organic products in public kitchens

Purchases of organic raw material:

Day care 10 %

Services for the elderly 2 %

On average 5 %



Organic products in retail stores

- Sales increased by 24 % in 2012
- 2013 the increase was 6 %
- 3 000 organic products in the largest stores
- About 60 % are of domestic origin



Achievements so far

- Political commitment to promote the organic production and product sector
- All Government ministries involved
- Good collaboration with the private sector
- A general positive attitude towards organic production and products
- Organic farming is profitable



Still work to be done

- Increased knowledge about organic food
- Organic products in public procurement
- Better cooperation among all actors
- CAP decisions turned into action
- Rural Development Programme
- EU legislation needs simplification



Farmers and food processors hesitant

- CAP reform was delayed
- Uncertainty about the detailed rules
- Farmers not keen to invest right now
- Food processors not sure to get enough raw material



EU legislation the key issue

- Securing the growth of the organic production and product sector
- The Commission proposal goes too far
- Threat that organic production may decrease, while the demand by consumers and professional kitchens is growing



Changes needed in the Commission proposal

- Delegation of powers too broad
- Conversion of the whole farm into organic production not reasonable
- Conventional breeding animals needed
- Organic seeds not available yet
- Controls of retailers an unnecessary burden
- Growing in beds and pots in greenhouses is essential in the north



Finnish Government development programme for the organic product sector and objectives to 2020 (in Finnish, Swedish and English) at

mmm.fi/luomu

