

DEVELOPMENT & STATE OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE WORLD-WIDE

ORGANIC FARMING UP TO 2004

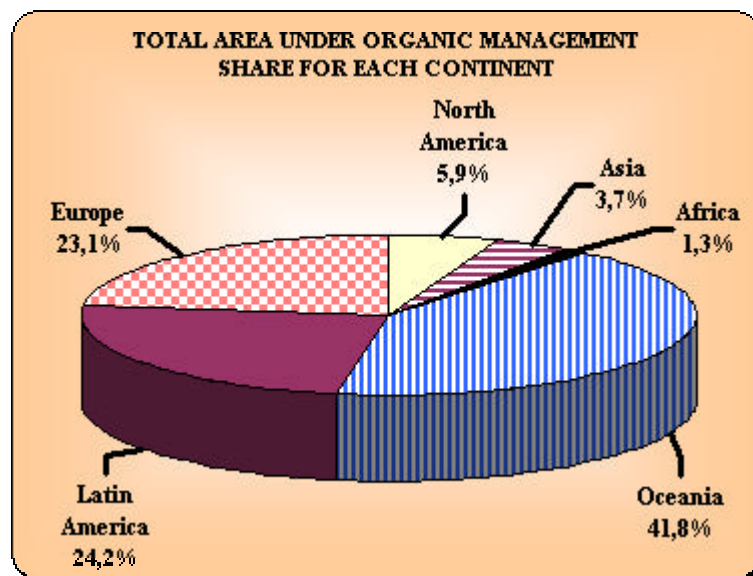
Organic farming was developed in the first part of the 20th century in Germany, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. Along with the consumer interest in its products when the production method continued to develop, it was in the 1980s that organic farming really takes off. There was a major increase in the number of producers, and new initiatives got under way for processing and marketing organic products. This situation conducive to the development of organic farming was very largely due to consumers' keen concern to be supplied with wholesome, environment-friendly products.

As organic agriculture has become more widespread, many countries have defined their own organic standards. Since the early 1990s, EC countries have endorsed a common organic standard, which is spelled out in Regulation EEC 2092/91. After that Canada, the United States and Japan have adopted organic standards and regulations. In general, the use of methods that contribute to maintaining or enhancing soil fertility is mandatory. Another common feature is that generally natural inputs are approved and synthetic inputs are prohibited.

Organic farming is practiced in more than 130 countries of the world and the area under organic management is continually growing. Also for some countries, where no statistical material was available, it may be assumed that organic agriculture methods are practiced.

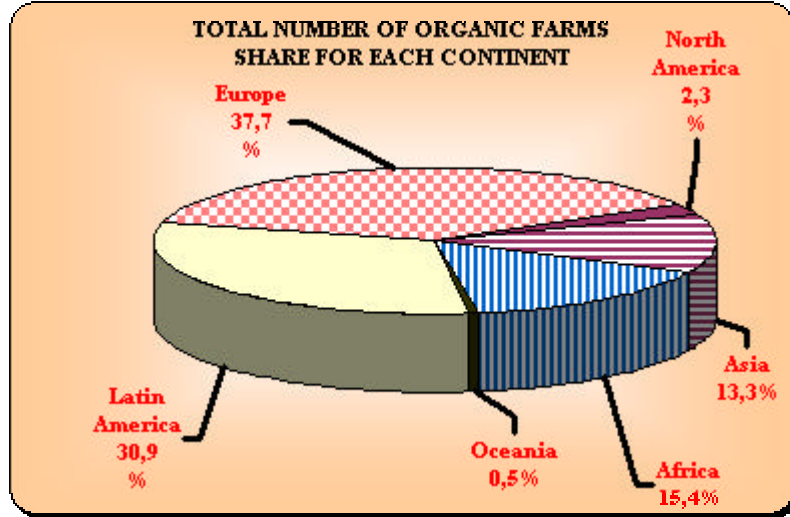
According to the SOEL-Survey (February 2004), more than 24 million hectares are managed organically worldwide. Currently, the major part of this area is located in Australia (about 10 million hectares), Argentina (almost 3 million hectares) and Italy (almost 1.2 million hectares). When we compare the shares of regions inorganically managed lands as seen from Figure 1 Australia/Oceania holds 42 percent of the world's organic land, followed by Latin America (24.2 percent) and Europe (23 percent).

Figure 1:



When we compare these statistics with the last years', we can clearly see that; in the total there is an increase of 1 million hectares of organically managed lands within the increasing interest in organic farming in all over the world.

Figure 2:



In Turkey is in the 30th place in world according to land area under organic management. The percentage of land area under organic management in the total agricultural area is only 0,14. In Japan this area is about 5.083 hectares and is in the 67th place. The percentage of it in the total is 0,10.

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