Organic farming in Poland

Marcin Król
Faculty of Management, Czestochowa University of Technology,
69 Dabrowskiego Str., 42-200 Czestochowa, Poland
E-mail address: marcinkrol.87@wp.pl

ABSTRACT

In Poland, its origin, organic farming is the pre-war period. The beginning of the development of organic farming in Western Europe is the end of the 80s of the twentieth century. It was necessary to implement the relevant legal norms, practices and agricultural subsidies. The provisions relating to changes in agricultural management practices were adopted due to the limitations of excess production and to protect the environment.

Keywords: organic farming; the advantages and disadvantages of organic agriculture; organic food; organic production

1. INTRODUCTION

Organic farming is defined as a system of farming sedate animal and crop production. [1] The natural production should support large degree of biological diversity, merge favorable environment farming methods, to guarantee proper animal welfare and the use of natural processes. [2]

Quite often it emphasizes the dual nature of organic farming methods. It is a system that benefits the environment. Certainly it affects the achievement of wider field of agri-environmental benefits. Organic farming is also a response to transforming the structure of demand in the market. More and more consumers opting for organic products. Customers want to purchase them and are willing to pay a higher price for it than for products that are not
produced in a natural way. According to this principle it can be safely stated that the system of organic farming is a market method. [3]

2. SOME ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Organic farming is a system of agricultural production. It involves the use of natural processes that occur in the farm. [4]

In the production of plant material is adequate fertilization. Use organic fertilizers which include fertilizers, green manure, compost and manure. On the other hand, livestock farming is based on their own feed. [5] The natural production system eliminates the use of substances generalizing such as growth hormones, chemical pesticides and fertilizers. It is also forbidden the use of genetically modified organisms and their derivatives. [6]

The concentration of agricultural land in the lowlands Middle Poland decided to vertical surface design in Poland. There are at least in the mountains and the lake districts. Pastures and meadows are spread more or less equally, although the larger their share is Podkarpacie, Mazury and Polesie. In the vicinity of large cities and in Mazowsze are mainly orchards. [7]

Taking into account the suitability of soils in Poland, it can be said that the quality is not high. Poland is a country where the predominant soil medium and low quality. More than half of the country occupied soil fawn and brown. Usually they formed on clays and boulder clay. This type of soil are usually classified into class III and IV valuation. [8]

Podsols in Poland are the second most common species of soil. They occupy nearly ¼ of the country. These soils typical of outwash areas of field conditions characterized by low fertility. They are mostly classified as V, VI class. [9]

Chart 1. The grading structure of soils in Poland

Source: Own elaboration based on Central Statistical Office of Poland
The chart above shows the structure of soils in Poland in terms of quality classes. The most fertile soil in Poland occupy only 3.5% of the area. While the weakest soil falling in class V and VI occupy 1/3 of Poland.

The most well chernozems are fertile soils in Poland. They occupy only 1% of the country. Due to the very concise strengthening loess rocks are exposed to destruction. [10]

Like the black earth - black soils occupy only 1% of the area in Poland. Moor soils represent less than 7% of the surfaced Polish. They are acidic, very fertile and difficult to cultivate. Alluvial soils are a type of soil whose fertility depends on the type of alluvium. In Poland they occupy less than 4% of the area. They require drainage and are therefore difficult to cultivate. In addition, they are vulnerable to flooding. To fertile soils include rendzina. They occupy about 1% of the surfaced in Poland. They formed on the rocks such as gypsum, chalk or limestone. Due to the large amount of weathering in the soil and because of the shallowness are very difficult to grow. The remaining part of the area in occupied Poland anthropogenic soils and soil poorly educated.

Very important is the time of the growing season. It lasts longer than 220 days. This is the time in which the thermal conditions allow for plant growth. The most difficult conditions for crops are in the Suwalki region and in the mountains. In these places the plants can not grow by more than 200 days a year. The best situation is to the west and south of Polish.

Since 1989, it takes in Poland process of thorough reorganization. They were liquidated state-owned farms. Real, who remained after them went into private hands, and some belong to the Agricultural Property Agency. Liquidation has caused a rise in unemployment in the village and contributed to the decline in employment in agriculture [21].

3. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ORGANIC FOOD

Organic food is produced using organic farming methods. It is derived from animal or vegetable products which are produced on organic farms without the use of pesticides and fertilizers. [11]

By opting for organic food we should be familiar with this, what are its not only the advantages but also disadvantages. [12]

Certainly the disadvantages of organic food included in their price. [13] They are more expensive than conventional products. Often encountered problems with their purchase. Organic products are only available in specialty stores. Production of organic food requires the resignation of harmful, unhealthy ingredients so that it does not always look appetizing. [14] Organic food has a lot of minerals and vitamins, which are categorically more than products from conventional cultivation. It contains far less phosphates, heavy metals and pesticide residues. [15] It is easier to store it and the methods used in the production of organic food does not adversely affect the environment. Those who opted for the food appreciate its taste. [16]

When you buy organic products should pay attention to its designation. Their guarantee gives your system a forced inspection and verification. [17] This system is based on the annual monitoring of crops, starting from their sowing the growing season harvesting. At the end of the treatment process shall be screened. [18]
4. ORGANIC FARMS IN POLAND – AREA OF HOLDINGS

Chart 2. Total farms in Poland

Source: Own elaboration based on Central Statistical Office of Poland

Chart 3. The area of arable land in Poland [ha]

Source: Own elaboration based on Central Statistical Office of Poland
Chart 4. Certified farms in Poland

Source: Own elaboration based on Central Statistical Office of Poland

Chart 5. The area of certified farmland in Poland [ha]

Source: Own elaboration based on Central Statistical Office of Poland
In 2008, Poland registered 14,896 organic farms. Two years later, the number has risen to 20,582. In 2013, there were many 26,598, and a year later the number of organic farms dropped to 24,829.

The area of organic farms in Poland increased each year. In 2008 it amounted to 314,848 ha, in 2011, 605,520 ha and three years later was 657,902 ha. Chart 4 shows the number of the total number of certified organic farms in Poland in the years 2008 - 2014. In 2008 their number was 8,685 in 2011 increased by 6,549. In 2014 registered 21,020 certified farms. The area of certified farms in Poland in 2008 amounted to 178,731.5 ha. From year to year their surface that was growing and in 2014 reached a size of 555,898 hectares.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Organic farming is currently one of the fastest growing agricultural sectors in the world, mainly in the European Union. The past years in Poland is characterized by the constant development of the areas used and the increasing number of organic farms. The development of the organic farming sector is reflected in both achievable on the market range of organic products as well as in the number of processing plants. [19]

Organic farming is a significant opportunity for rural areas in Poland. It is a modern, allows residents of the village continuous development, the use of the achievements of civilization, decent and comfortable life. [20, 22]

References


( Received 06 May 2016; accepted 30 May 2016 )