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# Bulgaria

**Post:** Sofia

# Organic Sector Update

**Report Categories:**
Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal
Agricultural Situation
Trade Policy Monitoring

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**Report Highlights:**
Since Bulgaria's accession to the EU in 2007, the interest towards organic farming has grown considerably. The driver behind this interest is improved export demand, mainly to the EU market, as well as good production subsidies, and favorable governmental policy. However, as of today, the land under organic farming is 0.8 percent of all utilized agricultural land and organic food sales are below 1.0 percent of total food sales due to lower purchasing power of local consumers. Over 90 percent of local organic products are exported while over 80 percent of local organic market comes from imports. Despite the numerous challenges, the prospects for organic farming are good, especially if the local market for organic foods develops and stimulates sustainable consumer demand.

**General Information:**
Since Bulgaria's accession to the EU in 2007, the interest towards organic farming has grown considerably. The driver behind this interest is improved export demand, mainly to the EU market, as well as good production subsidies, and favorable governmental policy. In addition, many NGOs, usually funded by EU projects, undertook active development, educational and promotional activities related to encouragement of the organic sector.

However, the local demand for organic foods is still hindered by low purchasing power and still does not stimulate sufficiently local organic supply, with 90-95 percent of Bulgarian organic products exported to the EU and the U.S. The land under organic farming is 0.8 percent of all utilized agricultural land and organic food sales are below 1.0 percent of total food sales.

Several governments to date, most if not all political parties as well as various green/organic organizations and NGOs believe that organic farming is one of the most efficient solution to save depopulated rural areas by keeping local population at organic farms which create more jobs compared to more mechanized agriculture (for example, grain and oilseeds farming). Migration from villages to urban areas has sharply accelerated in recent years and this became an important and popular concern for the society. Politically, organic farming is viewed is an excellent way to address social issues in marginal regions; additionally the green concept resonates very well in urban population, and among younger and medium age people.

This report focuses on organic farming sector, local supply, local legislation, and government policies. Attachment 1 contains 9 graphs illustrating organic sector growth over the last several years. Attachment 2 contains a detailed list of certification bodies and Attachment 3 contains useful links to institutions and to organic sources of additional information.

*Disclaimer:* Official data about the organic sector is scarce and not publicly available. Information in this report is based on a wide range of sources such as Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture and Food Annul Agrarian Report for 2013 published at the end of January 2014 which covers 2012 data and has a forecast for 2013; Eurostat; industry and trade interviews, industry/NGO/research publications, and specialized agricultural and daily media. FAS Sofia made its best effort to use reliable and verified information; however, in absence of official statistics, some data in the report is based on trade estimates.

**Organic Farm Production**

Bulgaria has favorable climate and soil conditions for development of organic production. It has diverse climate and terrain which allows for a high biodiversity and good biological control.
For almost 10-15 years following the democratic changes in 1990, agriculture sector was in serious finical need and the overall use of plant protection chemicals and fertilizers was limited, therefore, many think that this makes the Bulgarian soils more suitable for organic farming.

Bulgaria followed a National Plan for Organic Sector (2007-2013) which aimed to achieve 8 percent of agricultural land under organic farming by 2013 growing from 0.3 percent in 2005; and 3 percent of

food sold on the market to be organic http://cap.europe.bg/upload/docs/2012-06/BIO_NationalPlan_2007_2013.pdf.

Although official data for 2013 is not available yet, current estimates show both indexes are below/around 1.0 percent despite the fact that area under organic farming and the number of operators in the organic sector has enjoyed a steady growth over the above period.

Challenges today for organic farmers relate to:

- lack of well-functioning, transparent and predictable land market which can secure land ownership for organic farmers for at least 5 or more years;
- lack of well-developed irrigation infrastructure. This is a challenge for all farmers regardless of their production method;
- lack of supply chain infrastructure for fresh horticulture products (cold chain) as well as lack of processing facilities for value-added organic products (reportedly about 50-60);
- lack of availability and choice for inputs (almost all are imported), especially planting seeds (reportedly all organic vegetable seeds are imported from the Netherlands) and planting material for orchards;
- complicated rules for access to subsidies and/or late payments of various domestic support funds;
- still underdeveloped local organic market due to low purchasing power of consumers.
- full dependence on contracts for exports;
- lack of sufficient and reliable sources for education/training and research. Most training is carried out by the NGOs and one high school (Agricultural University in Plovdiv) has a specially designed program for organic farming since 2011.

Despite the numerous challenges, the prospects for organic farming are good, especially if the local market for organic foods will develop and stimulate sustainable local demand. Farmers will access larger subsidies in the next 6 years and this is expected to lead to higher supply of organic products, and probably to establishment of processing facilities which can produce value-added products necessary for more efficient and stable market structure. Availability, choice, and affordability will remain key factors motivating organic purchases.

*Organic Farming History*

Bulgarian organic sector is very young. The first organic pilot farm (8 HA) was established at the Agricultural University Plovdiv land in 1993. In 200-2004 period, the first national organic legislation (Ordinance 22 and Ordinance 35) was approved; the first national organic farming festival was held and the first farm certification was carried out. In 2003, Bulgaria participated for the first time at the BioFach Organic Trade Fair. In 2004, the first specialized organic shop in Sofia was opened. In 2008, the best economic/consumer income year since 2007, organic foods began to be supplied at more than 1,500 shops; the first TV commercial for organic food appeared during that time. Since 2009, economic crisis led to consolidation in the sector. Organic farmers began receiving government subsidy payments. Organic farmers established their own organization, in 2010; the traders also founded their Association of Organic Traders.

*Organic Farms Today*

Organic farms are generally small and below one hectare. In 2012 (the latest official data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Foods), the number of organic producers, processors, and traders (all operators) was 2,016 which is almost double than in 2011 and 4 times more than in 2009 (476). The number of sub-contractors in the control system also has grown by 40 percent compared to 2011 to reach 867. In 2012, the largest is the number of organic farmers – 1,918 with 865 sub-contractors. According to the latest industry estimates, the number of organic operators in 2013 grew further and is estimated at over 3,500. See Graph 1.

**Number of organic operators (producers, processors, traders) and areas under organic production, 2007-2012**

| | **2007** | **2008** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2012** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. operators in the organic sector | 339 | 311 | 476 | 820 | 1,054 | 2,016 | |
| Total cultivated area (HA) | 13,646 | 12,738 | 8,163 | 20,320 | 20,618 | 30,106 | |
| Perm. meadows and pastures (HA) | - | 2,486 | 1,843 | 3,611 | 4,491 | 7,957 | |
| Free/fallow land (HA) | 1,578 | 1,438 | 1,783 | 1,716 | 1,513 | 2,315 | |
| Total land under oversight, converted and in transition) (HA) | 15,224 | 16,662 | 11,789 | 25,647 | 26,622 | 40,376 | |
| Wild plants* (HA) | 397,354 | 489,083 | 401,425 | 546,195 | 543,655 | 472,700 | |

*****Wild plants such as wild mushrooms, herbs, forest fruits, which are collected from certified ecologically clean areas, however, since areas are not cultivated they are not included in total organic area.

**Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Foods 2013 Annual Report (published in January 2014 and covering 2012 and a forecast for 2013)

*Major Production Regions:*

Most organic producers are concentrated in Southern Bulgaria. This region has favorable climate conditions, better infrastructure, more labor, and more appropriate land market structure for organic production compared to Northern Bulgaria which is increasingly specialized in grain and oilseeds farming. Essential oil crops such as roses and lavender are produced mainly in so –called Rose Valley on the foot of Balkan mountain as well as in the Thracian Valley which is considered to best for horticulture farming.

*Organic Areas and Crops:*

In 2012, total cultivated area under organic production reached 40,378 HA or 50 percent more than a year earlier. Cultivated organic area grew by 46 percent to 30,106 HA. See Graph 2.
It is interesting to note the fast growth in area under conversion into organic production, as well as the higher growth in this category compared to fully converted area. This can be explained by the larger number of start-up organic farms over the last two years. Please, see Graph 3.

There are some doubts expressed by the organic industry that the opportunity to receive subsidies during the conversion period of 3 years may stimulate some abuse of domestic support, another words the farms aim subsidies but do not make real efforts to finalize the conversion. However, at this point there is no official analysis or data supporting these statements.

Another doubt expressed by the some organic players is that there is no correlation between the growth in organically certified areas and farms and the production of organic products. Since subsidies are provided per area, there is no obligation or oversight about actually produced products. Reportedly, there are organic farms which sell their products as not organic due to underdeveloped local market, however, there is also suspicion that some certification is executed only because of the domestic support, and loopholes in applied practices are addressed by red tape, which results in production of non-organic product if inspected. Sources from certification bodies also say that many of their clients are more motivated by subsidies rather than by the organic concept and/or market demand. However, again, there is no official analysis or data supporting these statements.

**Areas Under Organic Crops (HA), 2011 and 2012**

| Crops | Area under conversion into organic, HA | | Converted organic areas, HA | | Total organic areas, HA | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2011** | **2012** | **2011** | **2012** | **2011** | **2012** |
| Grains, including rice | 4,980 | 4,771 | 1,541 | 2,761 | 6,521 | 7,532 |
| Tech. crops including oil bearing rose | 3,350 | 5,231 | 2,495 | 2,678 | 5,845 | 7,909 |
| (Rosa damascene) | 516 | 769 | 329 | 375 | 845 | 1,144 |
| Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries, mushrooms | 467 | 654 | 203 | 767 | 670 | 1,421 |
| Orchards | 5,087 | 8,733 | 1,356 | 2,226 | 6,443 | 10,959 |
| Permanent meadow and pasture | 1,519 | 4,903 | 2,972 | 3,054 | 4,491 | 7,957 |
| Feed crops | 771 | 1,593 | 225 | 451 | 996 | 2,044 |
| Fallow land | 1,057 | 1,958 | 456 | 357 | 1,513 | 2,315 |

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Foods 2013 Annual Report (published in January 2014 and covering 2012 and a forecast for 2013)

Traditionally, the interest is the highest toward organics orchards - stone fruit orchards and most recently and tree nuts orchards.

Orchards (Graph 6): Growth in areas under various fruit species is uneven during the years, for example in 2011 there were more orchards under apples, plums, and apricots, and while in 2012 there were more cherry orchards. Organic orchards reached 10,959 HA in 2012 or almost doubled than in 2011. The highest was the growth with organic cherries (to 615 HA) after a decline of 314 HA in 2011.

Tree Nuts (Graph 7): Tree nuts (walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts and chestnuts) areas had a stable growth in 2012 to 5,981 HA or 97 percent more than in 2011. Walnut orchard increased to 3,896 HA or by 150 percent (1,544 HA in 2011). Almond and hazelnuts orchard grew by 300 HA for both species to 1,466

HA and 616 HA (double area for almonds), respectively. Walnut orchards are attractive for farmers due to lower cost of plantings compared to the subsidies per hectare (up to 700 Euro/HA, the highest compared to other nuts), easier and not so costly farming, and good market demand and outlets (mainly to the EU). It is expected that this trend will be sustained in the future.

Cereals (Graph 4): Organic grains include wheat, barley, corn, rye, oats, and triticale. Organic wheat area was reduced in 2012 (4,300 HA) while those with oats have increased 300 percent (600 HA), followed by rye (800 HA). Corn is the second most common organic grain with about 1,000 HA but with a small growth in 2012.

Technical crops (Graph 5): Area under organic so-called by the MinAg technical crops (sunflower, rapeseeds, soybeans, roses, medicine plants, and herbs) were 7,909 HA in 2012 or 2,000 HA more than in 2011 mainly due to growth under organic sunflower (37 percent to 2,300 HA) and rapeseeds (43 percent to 1,000 HA).

The area under organic oil-bearing roses increased by 300 HA to 1,144 HA in 2012 compared to 845 HA in 2011. Areas under aromatic and medicine plants and herbs reached 3,378 HA or 1,030 HA more compared to 2011.

Areas under fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries and mushrooms were 1,421 HA (2012) or double than in 2011. This is due mainly to growth in organic tomato and cucumber production – to 195 HA and 434 HA, respectively, with a notable growth for cucumbers of 600 percent. In 2012, the areas under organic potatoes increased sharply from 0.56 HA to 90.1 HA.

There are some attempts to grow non-typical for Bulgaria crops such olives, artichoke (the area increased by 13 percent to 334 HA in 2012), and kiwi.

**Area Under Organic Vegetables, HA, 2012 and 2011**

| **Types of vegetable crops, HA** | **2011** | **2012** |
|---|---|---|
| Cauliflower | 0.05 | 3.05 |
| Cabbage | 2.77 | 1.13 |
| Leak onion | 0.02 | 0.0004 |
| Green salads | 4.21 | 5.15 |
| Spinach | 2.65 | 2.04 |
| Chicory | 2.69 | 2.68 |
| Artichoke | 291.7 | 333.5 |
| Tomatoes | 20.48 | 195 |
| Cucumbers | 65.9 | 434 |
| Gherkins | 0 | 9.3 |
| Melons | 0.33 | 7.6 |
| Water melons | 6.59 | 11.65 |
| Carrots | 0.71 | 6.67 |
| Garlic | 1.87 | 0.28 |
| Onion | 0.39 | 1.17 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Peas | 101.47 | 46.32 |
| Dry beans | 13.34 | 11 |
| Strawberries | 84 | 111 |
| Mushrooms | 0.54 | 1.25 |

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Foods 2013 Annual Report (published in January 2014 and covering 2012 and a forecast for 2013)

Vineyards (Graph 8): Vineyards accounted for 2,058 HA in 2012 or 603 HA more than in 2011, and the interest to organic table grapes also grows. The major driver behind growing interest is the implementation of EU regulation EC 203/2012 of March 8, 2012 setting up the implementation rules of EC 834/2007 regarding organic wines. The new regulation began to be implemented for 2012 crop and this will be the first year when the producers will be able to use the label of organic wine. In 2012, production is organic wine was 489 MT (per EC Regulations #2013/2012).

In 2012, areas under fee crops, specifically alfalfa, grew by 1,000 HA from 996 HA (2011) to 2,044 HA (2012), similarly, there was a growth in areas under meadows and pastures by 3,400 HA to 7,957 HA in 2012 or almost double, which is related to the higher number of livestock at organic farms.

Certified ecologically clean area for collection of wild plants decreased in 2012 by 13 percent to 472,700 HA.

*Organic Livestock*

The number of organically raised animals has grown although this sector remains far behind organic crop growing.

There were about 200 buffalos registered in 2012 which supported the growth of livestock. The highest is the increase in beehives by 45 percent. The reason is good export opportunities for organic honey. Organic honey output increased from 1,263 MT in 2011 to 2,448 MT in 2012. Please, see Graph 9.

**Number of Animals Raised at Organic Farms, 2007-2012**

| | **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cattle | 395 | 470 | 272 | 364 | 976 | 1,173 |
| Sheep | 1,690 | 2,471 | 5,831 | 6,698 | 6,648 | 9,175 |
| Goats | 1,058 | 1,624 | 2,732 | 2,773 | 3,397 | 2,831 |
| Beehives | 35,747 | 44,861 | 41,089 | 46,429 | 58,855 | 85,346 |

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Foods 2013 Annual Report (published in January 2014 and covering 2012 and a forecast for 2013)

**Organic Products of Animal Origin, Metric Tons, 2006-2011**

| | **2006** | **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| White cheese | - | 8 | 217 | 207 | 118 | 144 |
| Yogurt | - | 62 | 101 | 82 | 74 | 194 |
| Honey | 680 | 998 | 1,679 | 1,579 | 1,108 | 1,263 |

*Source: MinAg based on data submitted by control bodies*

**Development of Bulgarian Organic Sector 2005-2013**

| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Farms, number | 214 | 339 | 311 | 476 | 820 | 1,054 | 2,016 |
| Fully converted organic area HA | 2728 | 8,387 | 4,236 | 4,955 | 12,691 | 8,902 | 11,974 |
| Area under conversion, HA | 1,964 | 5,260 | 12,427 | 7,365 | 12,956 | 16,120 | 27,164 |
| Total organic area HA | 4,692 | 13,646 | 16,663 | 12,321 | 25,648 | 25,022 | 39,138 |
| Share of organic area out of total Utilized Agricultural Area (%) | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.8 |
| FiBL estimate | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.3 |
| Area for collection of wild plants, HA (per FiBL) | 110,143 | 397,835 | 397,835 | 401,426 | 546,195 | 543,655 | 472,000 |
| Total crops of fully converted area, MT | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 20,073 | NA |
| Organic bovine lvst | 329 | 395 | 470 | 272 | 364 | 976 | 1,173 |
| Dairy cows | 72 | 0 | 0 | 172 | 0 | 0 | 328 |
| Live swine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 104 | 117 |
| Live sheep | 1,054 | 1,690 | 2,471 | 5,831 | 6,698 | 6,648 | 9,175 |
| Live goats | 127 | 1,058 | 1,624 | 2,732 | 2,773 | 3,397 | 2,831 |
| Bees | 33,981 | 35,747 | 44,861 | 41,089 | 46,429 | 58,855 | 85,346 |
| Honey, MT | 680 | 998 | 1,679 | 1,579 | 1,003 | 1,263 | 2,448 |
| Raw milk, 1000 Ltrs | 259 | 681 | 800 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Cheese MT | NA | NA | 217 | 207 | 118 | 144 | 330 |
| Other dairy prod MT | NA | 62 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 237 | 63 |

Source: Eurostat. January 2014

**Number of processors of organic products 2008-2012**

| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Certified processors of fruits and vegetables | 16 | 29 | 21 | 22 | 29 |
| …Of grains | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| --of dairy products | 3 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 7 |
| ….bakery products | | | | 1 | 8 |
| …other foods | 10 | 13 | 16 | 9 | 26 |
| …wine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | | | |

Source: Eurostat, January 2014

**Domestic Support for Organic Farming**

Domestic support for organic farming is carried out under the EU–Rural Development Program Funds/RDP under so-called Measure 214 Agro-ecology which includes subsidies for organic crops,

animals, and beehives (435 million Euro total allocations).

While in the period until 2010, these funds had little absorption (2-3 percent); in 2011-2013 the use was accelerated. Certain regulatory changes dated late 2012 made easier to use the same fund allocation by other non-organic farmers who apply green practices. This created some tension since organic producers had to compete for the same funds with non-organic farmers. Therefore, the organic industry strongly insists on a completely separate and reserved budget under RDP 2014-2020 for organic farmers only.

Eligibility criteria for organic farmers are to have minimum 0.5 HA land at their farm and to have a commitment to keep this land for 5 years. The subsidies vary from for 30 to 729 Euro/HA, and when several farm activates are combined, the size of financial support can be limited within ceilings. Such maximum limits for one-year crops are 600 Euro/HA, and for perennial crops up to 900 Euro/HA, and for endangered animal species up to 200 Euro/head. Farmers are eligible for subsidies during the conversion period of their farm from conventional into organic, usually up to 3 years.

Organic farmers also are eligible for funds under several other RDP measures (Number 121, 142,111) along with conventional farmers.

The MinAg reported that in 2012 campaign, there were 2,630 applicants (2,464 authorized beneficiaries) under Agro-ecology measure 214 for 59 million leva (30 million Euros). This represented 33 percent more applicants compared to 2011 and 80 more than the first campaign in 2008. The highest was the share of subsidies for organic crop producers and bee keepers, 39 percent of all subsidies, at 37 million leva (19 million Euros) which was 7 % less than in 2011.
In general, the absorption of RDP funds under this measure as of December 31, 2012 was at 18.3 percent and the total amount of funds for the period 2008-2012 were at 94 million leva (48 million Euro), however, no data is publicly available about the amount of subsidies targeted exclusively at organic farmers.
For 2013 campaign, the applicants under 214 measures were 4,229 for 817 000 HA; 843 applicants for 62,000 animals; and 371 applicants for 52,000 beehives (source: Agrarian Report 2013). The MinAg Paying Agency managed to fully pay all available funds to beneficiaries by the end of 2013; however subsequent audits and revisions in 2014/2015 will find out if the absorption of the program was at full 100 percent or less.

*Rural Development Program 2014- 20120*

The new RDP for the next 6 years is likely to offer greater stimulus for organic farmers. Although there is still no official information released by the MinAg, it is expected that 30 percent of all funds will be targeted at green measures and organic production. Reportedly, organic producers may rely on subsidies varying from 160/HA to 514 Euro/HA depending on the crops with higher payments for orchards and vineyards.

**Policy**

The MinAg has supported organic farming in many directions. In 2010, the MinAg established a

special unit to deal with organic farming with sub-divisions for crops, animals, and beehives. The MinAg also sponsored and organized a number of public events with mass media participation to promote organic farming. The Ministry of Agriculture and Foods traditionally supports Bulgarian pavilions at the Green Week in Berlin and at BioFach, Germany. The participants are about 10-15 companies. The major local show is the international exposition Bio & Eco Expo which usually features about 50-60 companies**.**

**Government Regulations**

Major regulations implemented in Bulgarian organic sector are as follows:
- Regulation (EO) № 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 about organic production and labeling;
- Law for Common Organizations of Agricultural Markets in the EU;
- Regulation № 1 of February 7, 2013 about implementation of rules for organic production of plants, animals, aquaculture, animal products and foods and their labeling, control on production and labeling.

The regulations transposes into local legislation and is harmonized with Regulation (EC) № 834/2007 and Regulation (EC) № 889/2008 regarding detailed rules about implementation of Regulation (EC) № 834/2007.

The regulation is also harmonized with Regulation (EC) № 1235/2008 regarding imports of organic products from third countries and setting up rules for implementation of Regulation (EC) № 834/2007 about these imports.

The Bulgarian law on genetically modified organisms (GMO) is extremely restrictive and places priority on organic farming and helps to avoid conflicts between organic and non-organic farming. The law prohibits any growing of GM crops including such for research experiments.

Details about legislative framework and regulations about organic farming and marketing can be found here:
http://www.ecojob-ap.org/products_doc/Status%20of%20organic%20agriculture_BG.pdf

**Key Institutions and Organizations**

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Organic Farming Unit of the Directorate Plant Production. The role of the directorate is supervision of the control bodies and implementation of organic legislation.
- Commission on Organic Farming to the Minister of Agriculture and Foods – it consists of representatives of farmers, manufacturers, traders in organic products, research and consulting organizations. The scope of activity of the commission is to approve the control authorities in the country as well as to take decisions regarding the duration of the transition/conversion period.
- State Fund Agriculture/Paying Agency accepts and processes applications to support organic farmers, carries out spot checks of the farms and is in charge of the subsidy payments.
- Bulgarian Organic Association is the national organic association with members consisting

mainly of producers/farmers and processors. It was established in 2010.

- The Association of Organic Traders has twenty-two businesses as members (mainly traders and importers).
- The NGO Foundation for Organic Farming "Bioselena." It offers professional consulting and training for producers and processors, publishes study guides and manuals, and promotes organic agriculture among farmers and policy-makers, as well as organic foods among consumers.
- Agricultural University of Plovdiv offers master degree courses in organic farming. It also has an organic farm on 9 HA.

**Certification and Control**

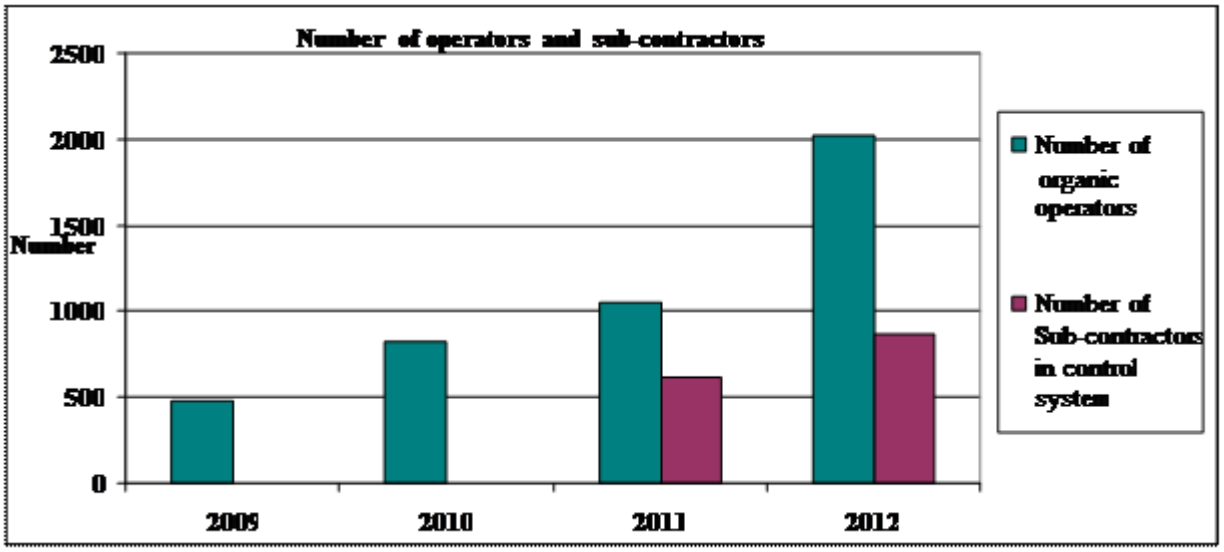
Per the legislation, the control and oversight of organic production is carried out by control bodies (art.18 of the Law for Common Organizations of Agricultural Markets in the EU), which are issued permits by the Minister of Agriculture and Foods in Bulgaria.

In 2012, the following 3 new permits were issued (renewed): Permit №BG-BIO-12 of 15.05.2012 „EKOGRUPO Italy" Ltd, with a subsidiary „EKOGRUPO Italy - Bulgaria", Ordinance №РД09-769/15.05.2012 of the MinAg; Permit №BG-BIO-11 на „SGS Bulgaria" Ltd, Ordinance РД09-1245 of 17.10.2012 of the MinAg; Permit №BG-BIO-13 of „Bio Agri Cert Italy Bulgaria" Ltd., Ordinance РД09-1289 of the MinAg

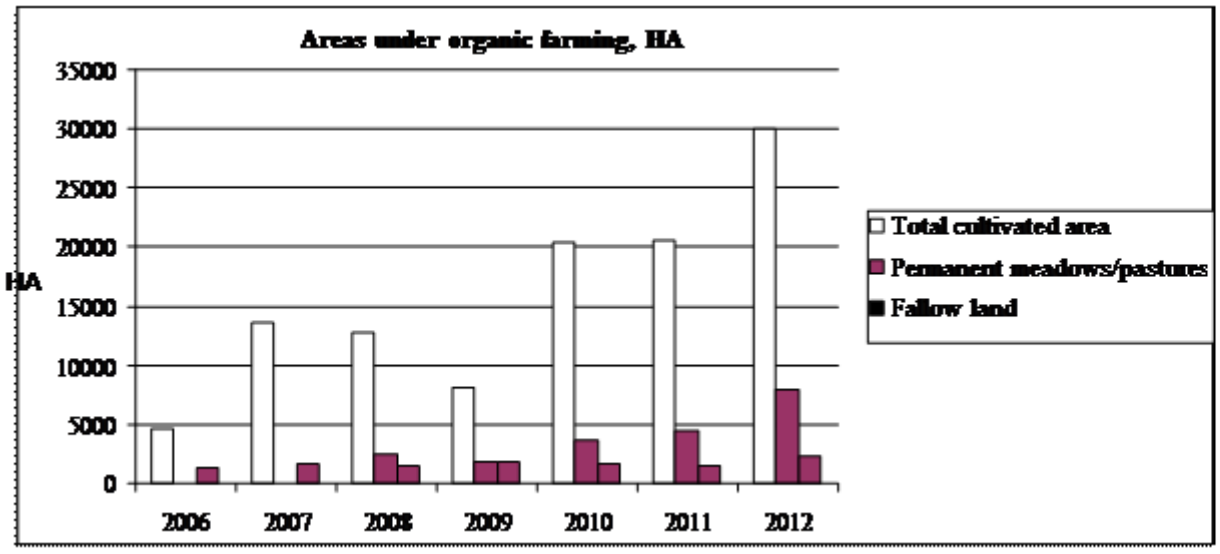
In 2012, certification of organic production was carried out by 11 certification bodies of which one local Balkan Biocert, and the rest are from the EU (please, see the full list of certification entities in Attachment 2). According to industry sources, if farmers apply to use RDP funds, they need certification which can account for 12-17 percent of the subsidies as the percentage decreases for bigger farms.

**Attachment – Graphs 1-9**

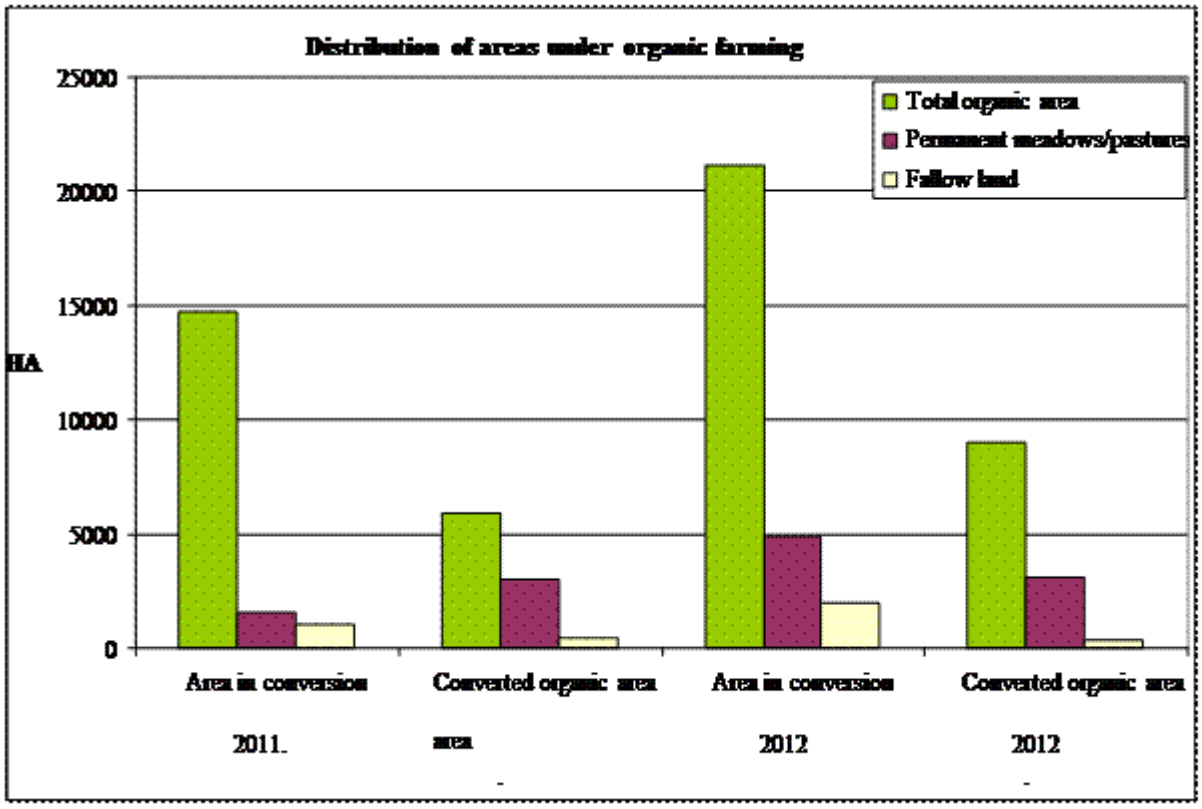
Graph 1. Number of operators and sub-contracts in the organic sector 2008-2012




Graph 2. Areas under organic farming, 2006-2012, HA




Graph 3. Distribution of area in conversion and fully converted organic area, HA, 2011-2012

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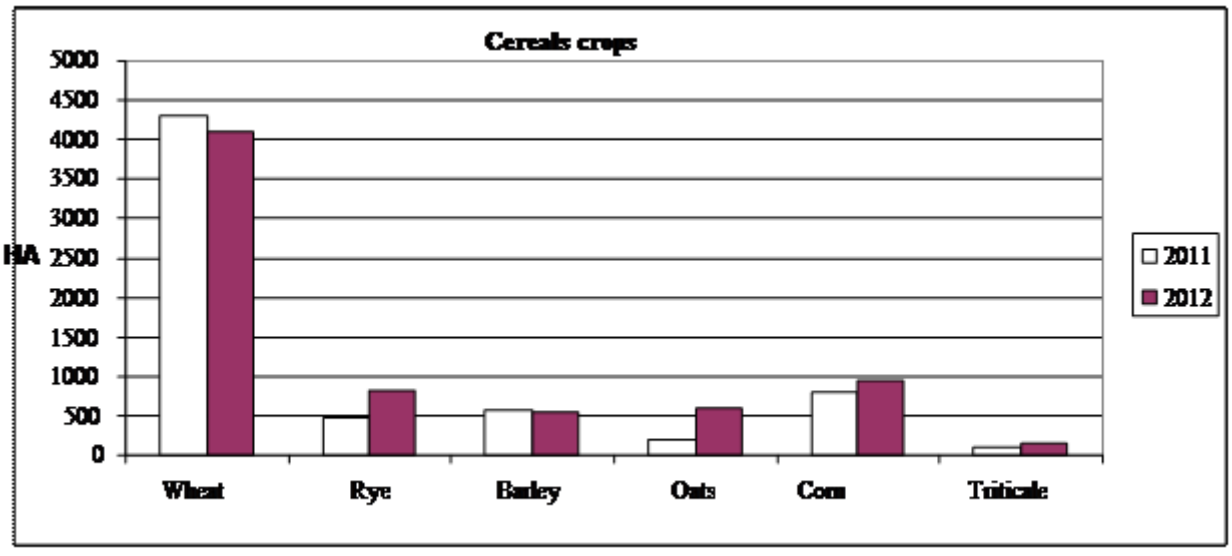
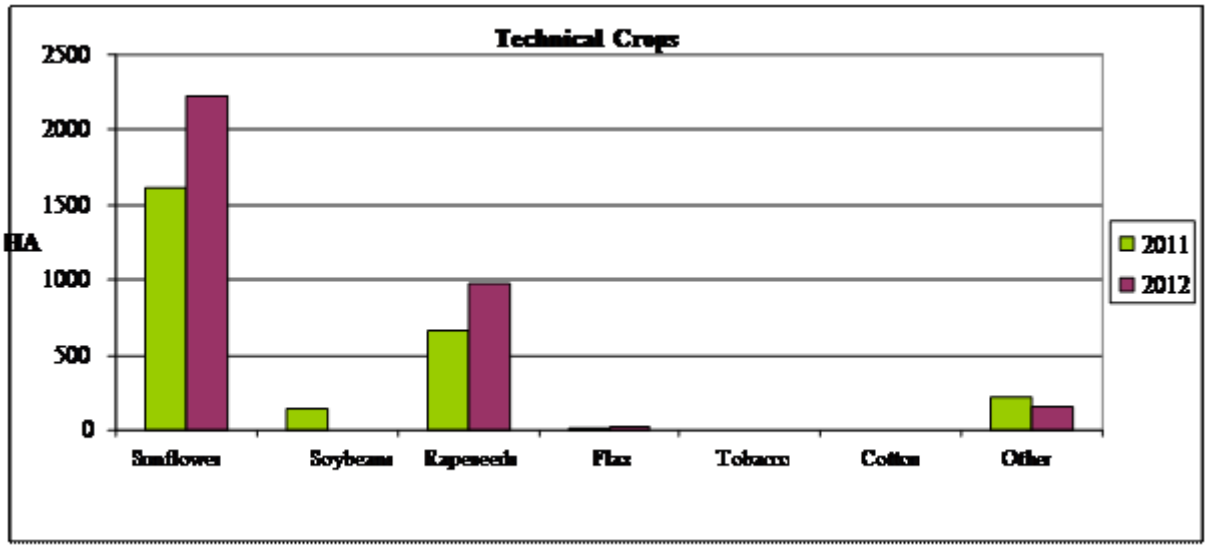
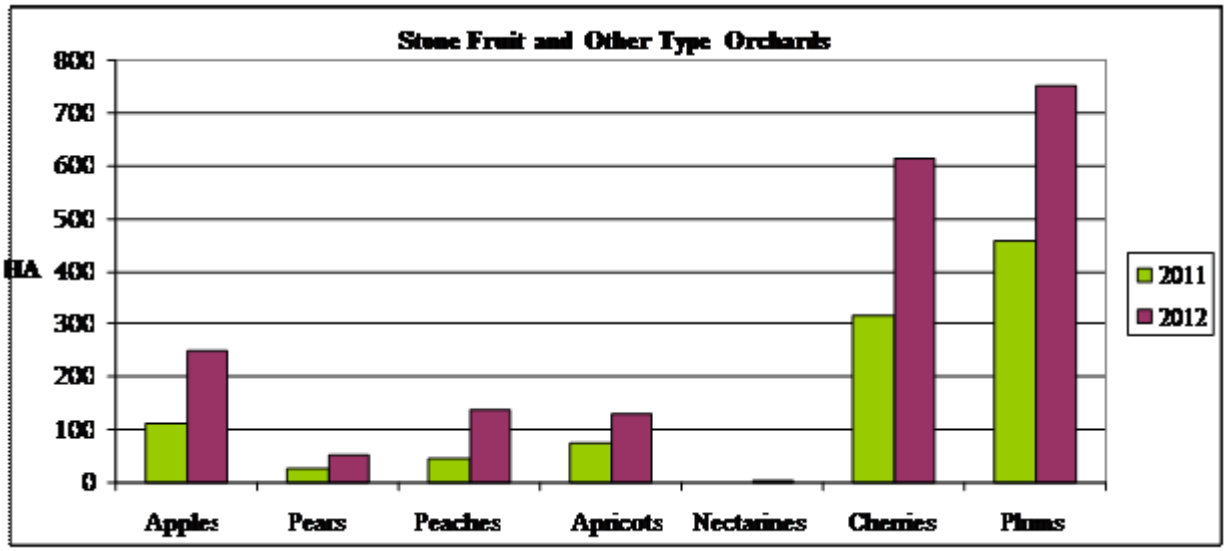
Graph 4. Organic cereal crops area, HA, 2011 – 2012



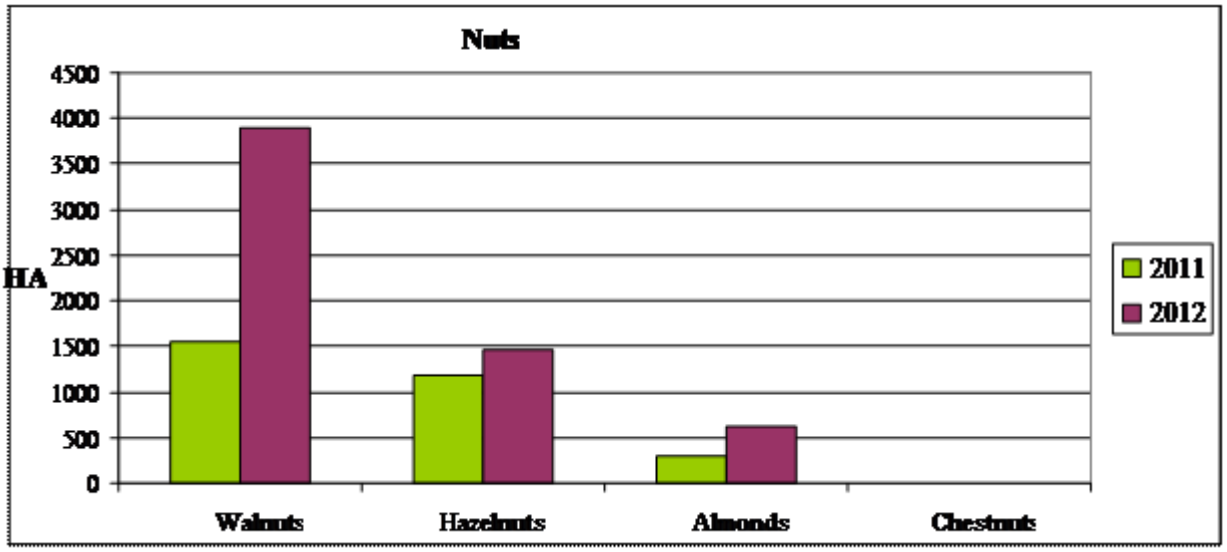

Graph 5. Organic technical crops area, HA, 2011-2012



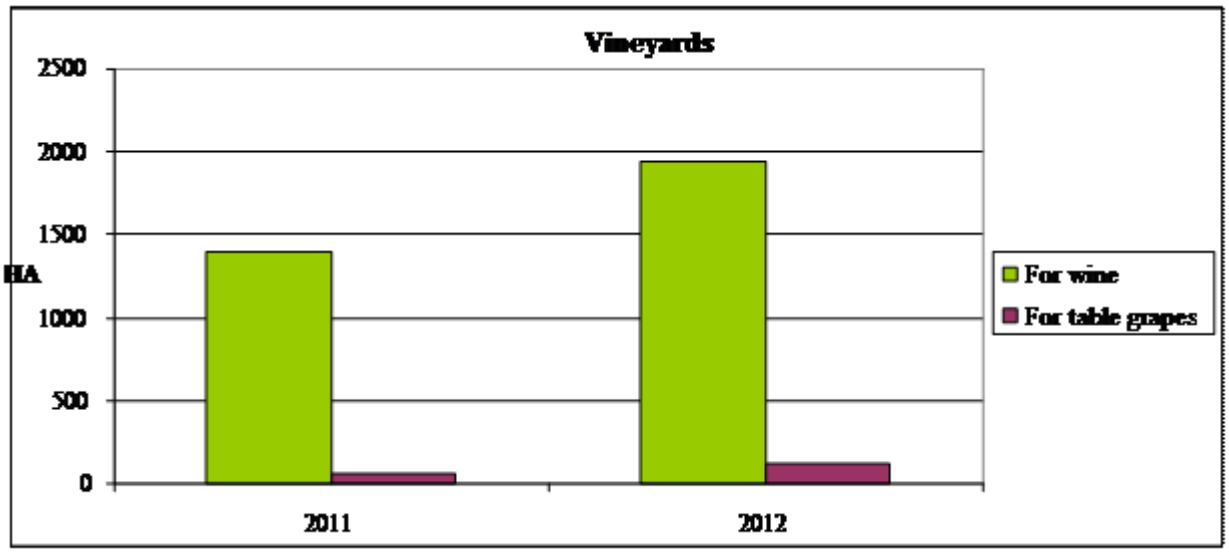

Graph 6. Organic orchard area, HA, 2011-2012



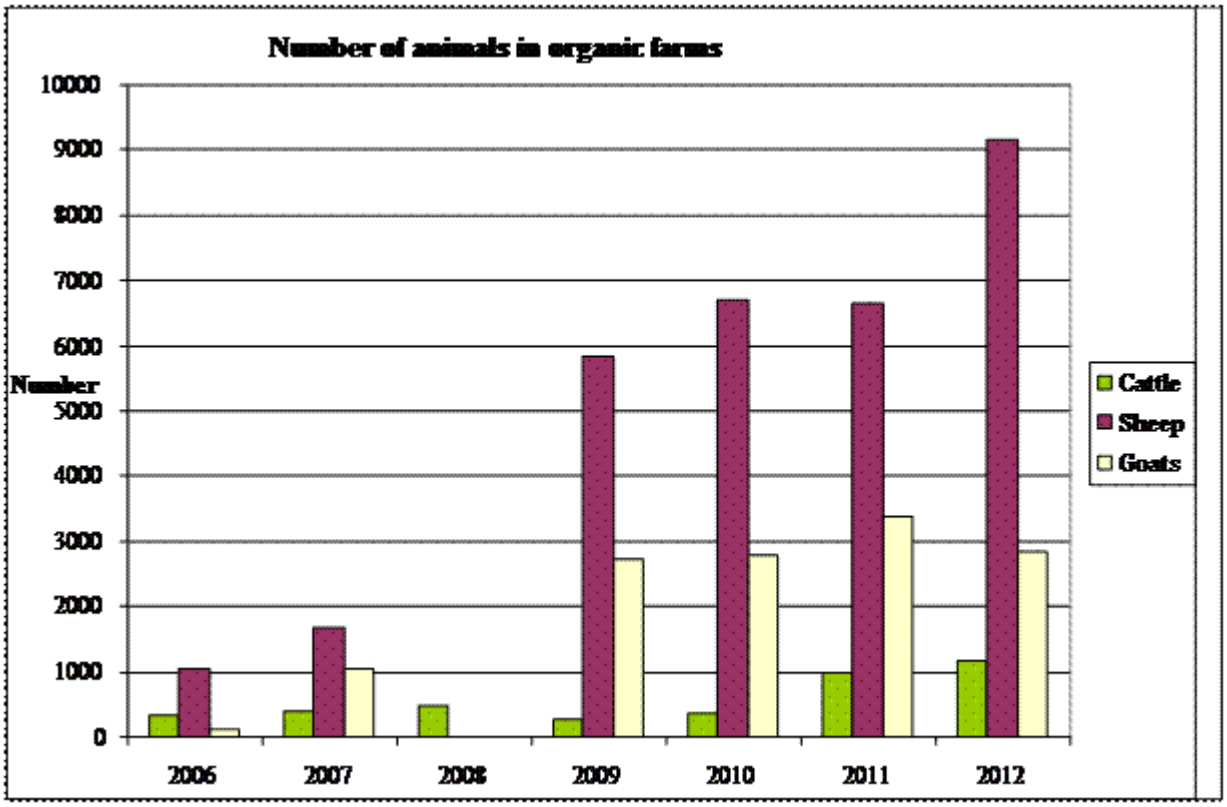

Graph 7. Organic nuts orchard area, HA, 2011-2012




Graph 8. Organic vineyards area, HA, 2011-2012




Graph 9. Number of animals raised in organic way at organic farms, 2011-2012




**Attachment 2:**

| Code | Control entity | *Logo of the Control Entry* |
|---|---|---|
| *BG-BIO-02* | **„Balkan Biocert" Ltd**<br><br>**E-mail: office@balkanbiocert.com**<br>**Website: www.balkanbiocert.com** | |
| *BG-BIO-03* | **"Q Certification" Ltd.**<br><br>**E-mail: info@qcertification.bg**<br>**Website: www.qcertification.bg** | |
| *BG-BIO-04* | **"CERES – Certification of Environmental Standards" Ltd.**<br><br>**E-mail: ceres@ceres-cert.com**<br><br>**E-mail: bioxm_bg@yahoo.com**<br>**ceres-bulgaria@ceres-cert.com**<br>**Website: www.ceres-cert.com** | |
| *BG-BIO-05* | **"LACON" GmbH**<br><br>**E-mail: office@lacon-bg.com**<br>**laconbg@gmail.com**<br>**Websites: www.lacon-institut.com**<br>**www.lacon-bg.com** | |
| *BG-BIO-06* | **"BCS Öko-Garantie" GmbH**<br><br>**E-mail: info@bcs-oeko.de**<br><br>**E-mail: bulgaria@bcs-oeko.com**<br>**mariana.miltenova.bg@bcs-oeko.com**<br>**marianamiltenova@abv.bg**<br>**Website : www.bcs-oeko.com** | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *BG-BIO-08* | **"A CERT European organization for certification" S.A.**<br><br>**E-mail: info@a-cert.org**<br>**Website: www.a-cert.org** | |
| *BG-BIO-10* | **“Inspection Institute for Organic products” S.A. (BIO HELLAS)**<br>**Седалище:**<br>**E-mail: info@bio-hellas.gr**<br><br>**E-mail bulgaria@bio-hellas.gr**<br>**Website: www.bio-hellas.gr** | |
| *BG-BIO-12* | **“ “Ecogruppo Italia” S.R.L. with branch office in Bulgaria – “Ecogruppo Italia –Bulgaria Branch Unit”**<br><br>**E-mail: info@ecogruppoitalia.it**<br>**E-mail: info@ecogruppo.bg**<br>**E-mail: snejkad@yahoo.com**<br>**Website: www.ecogruppoitalia.it** | |
| *BG-BIO-13* | **„Bio Agri Cert” Ltd**<br><br>**E-mail: abaneva@gmail.com;**<br>**bioagricert@abv.bg**<br>**Website: www.bioagricert.org** | |
| *BG-BIO-14* | **“SGS Bulgaria” Ltd**<br><br>**E-mail: maria.aleksieva@sgs.com**<br>**sgs_bulgaria@sgs.com**<br>**Website: www.sgs.com**<br>**www.sgs.bg** | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | |   |

**Attachment 3:**

**Useful sources of information about organic sector development:**

www.mzh.government.bg/mzh/en/Home.aspx : Ministry of Agriculture and Food
www.prsr.government.bg/index.php/en : Rural Development Program 2007-2013
www.dfz.bg/en : State Fund Agriculture
www.bgbio.org : Bulgarian Organic Products Association
www.abt-bulgaria.org : Association of Organic Traders
www.au-plovdiv.bg/en : Agricultural University of Plovdiv

Bioselena NGO (funded by the Swiss government through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
http://www.bioselena.com/bg/
http://www.bioselena.com/public/files/news/86/files/26.pdf
http://first.gorichka.bg/index.php?p=2&l=1

Organic industry websites and players:
http://bio.bg/

http://bio.bg/index.php?p=131

Other sources and consultancies:
http://www.yambiz.com/agro/news/biolog_zemedelie_predstavqne.pdf
http://www.trayanabio.com/en
http://www.scp-bg.com/?p=362

Certifying bodies
http://bioferma.bg/index.php?p=52&l=1