

IRISH ORGANIC ASSOCIATION

Tel: [REDACTED] Fax: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]
Web Address: [REDACTED]



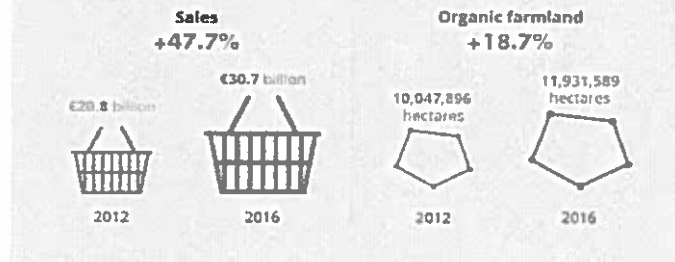
THE ORGANIC FOOD MARKET

WHO CONSUMES THE MOST ORGANIC FOOD?

Retail sales (€) in 2016

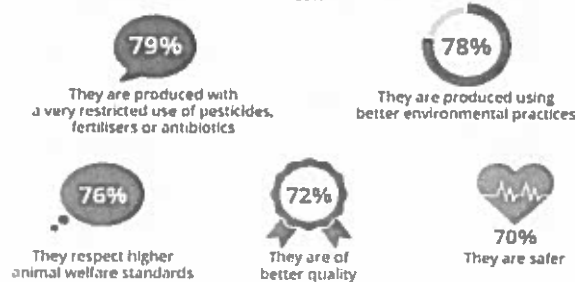


DEVELOPMENT OF THE EU'S ORGANIC MARKET



WHAT DO EUROPEANS THINK ABOUT ORGANIC FOOD?

2017



Sources: EPRS, Eurostat, Eurobarometer, FiBL

Figure 1: (Above) Organic Food Market, source; Europarl, 2018.
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/resources/library/images/20180830PHT11326/20180830PHT11326_original.jpg

Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association CLG, trading as Irish Organic Association
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SWOT analysis for the CAP Strategic Plan post 2020 13th Sep 2019

The Irish Organic Association welcomes the opportunity to respond to the public consultation of the SWOT analysis for the CAP Strategic Plan post 2020. Overall, we are in agreement the content, however we have made recommendations for some of the objectives.

We would also point out that low-input farming is not organic farming as referred to in Objective 5 and 6, therefore we recommend organic farming has a separate heading in both objectives.

Objective 1: Support viable farm income and resilience across the Union to enhance food security.

Recommendation - Weakness: Intermittent opening of the organic farming scheme.

Justification:

The Organic Scheme (OFS) opened in 2015, with another tranche opened for a couple of weeks in Dec 2018. The scheme needs to be opened annually, on the same date and for a standard duration to ensure continuity of supply so business can react to market demand. To ensure viable farm income, farmers need to be able to plan ahead, the irregular opening of the OFS is a weakness to supporting viable farm income.

Objective 2: Enhance market orientation and increase competitiveness, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation.

Recommendation - Opportunities: Increase consumer demand for organic food.

Justification:

In 2016, EU retail sales increased by 11.4% and nearly reached 33.5 billion euros. Almost all of the major markets enjoyed double-digit growth rates in 2016 (Europarl, 2018). This trend continues and the most recent data shows EU retail sales in organic food grew to €34.3 billion in 2017 (FiBL, 2018).

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Objective 4: Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaption, as well as sustainable energy

Recommendation - Opportunities: Encourage uptake of organic farming.

Justification

1] Enteric Fermentation

Based on the rules of organic production, agricultural land can only sustain a limited number of animals (max 170kg/ha), since there are clear rules on how many head of livestock are allowed per hectare. If more agricultural land was converted to organic, then consequently the number of animals would be reduced.

2] Fertilisation

The management of nutrients and pests in organic agriculture can play a valuable role in climate mitigation (Scialabba & Müller-Lindenlauf, 2010). Under organic regulations, synthetic inputs such as mineral and chemical pesticides, which require vast amounts of fossil fuels are prohibited. This means significant amounts of carbon dioxide emissions are spared (Khanal, 2009).

In 2010, researchers estimated the synthesis of nitrogen fertilizers to consume energy of up to 0.4 – 0.6 gigatons of carbon dioxide. This equals as much as 10% of the direct global agricultural emissions and 1% of total human induced greenhouse gas emissions (Scialabba & Müller-Lindenlauf, 2010). These emissions are largely averted by organic agriculture. The development of organic farming therefore offers good potential for reducing overall nitrogen levels in agriculture.

3] Manure Management

Better storage and treatment of manure can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions of both nitrous oxide and methane by 50% and 70%, respectively (Pardo et al., 2015). Manure composting is a best practice requirement in organic agriculture. This technique alone can reduce nitrous oxide by 50% and methane emissions by 70%, although it does have the potential to increase ammonia emissions and thus may result in 50-120% higher indirect nitrous oxide emissions (Pardo et al., 2015). Yet, the indirect emissions from the application of manure compost can be much lower than those from normal manure. Given the trade-offs over the entire lifecycle from production to application, manure compost has the potential to reduce emissions from manure management. A reduction in animal numbers would of course also result in correspondingly reduced manure volumes and emissions from their storage and management.

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Organic Food Market:

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