

Present Situation and Future Perspective of Low Input/Organic Agriculture (in Serbia)

Janos Berenji

Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia



Republic of Serbia



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In 2009, according to *official data*, there are 224 organic farms in Serbia.

The total organic land area 598 ha.

In the animal husbandry sector: bee keeping (610 hives), cattle production (145 heads of cattle), poultry production, and swine production (88 animals).



Consumer awareness/public opinion about the role and importance of organic products:

2. organic products are more "healthy" having a positive effect on one's health
3. Organic products are more expensive than conventional
4. protection of the environment
5. protection of biodiversity
6. diversification of activities in rural areas and development of agrotourism

On the domestic market, there are many products prefixed by terms such as eco, bio, organic, etc. that do not meet the legally prescribed requirements for organic products



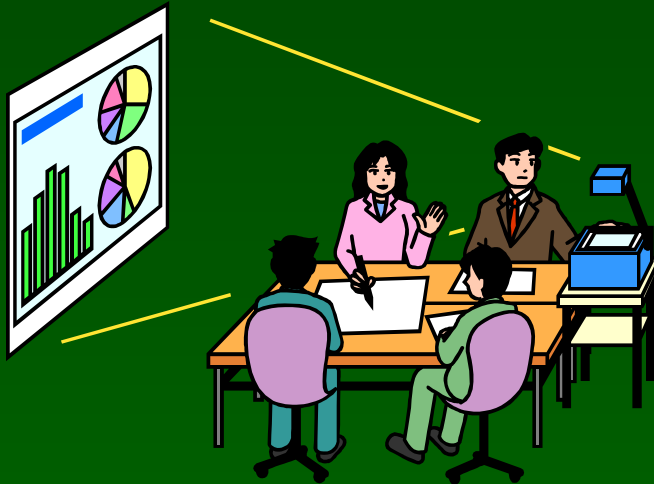
Producers awareness and knowledge about the role and importance
of organic production

2. organic production \neq extensive agriculture
3. organic production \neq low input agriculture



EDUCATION:

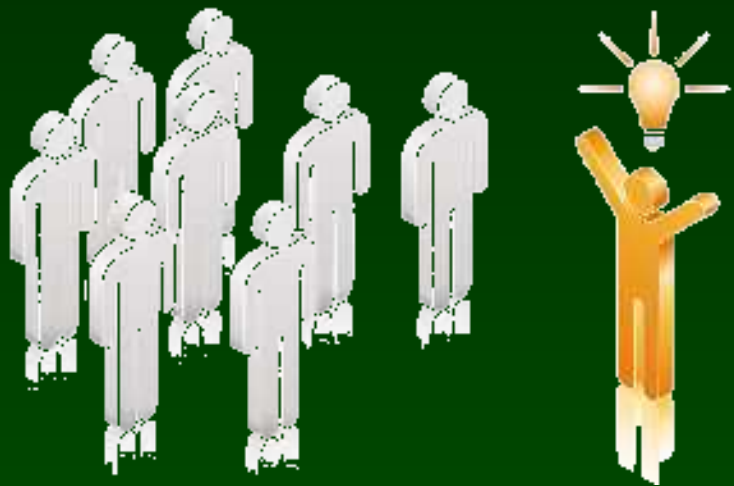
- of the public/consumers
- farmers and processors
- elementary, secondary, high school and university level



Lack of available (certified) inputs permitted in organic agriculture:

- plant nutrition
- plant protection
- certified (organic) seed and planting material
- choice of varieties





KNOWLEDGE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INPUT IN ORGANIC
AGRICULTURE



RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION:

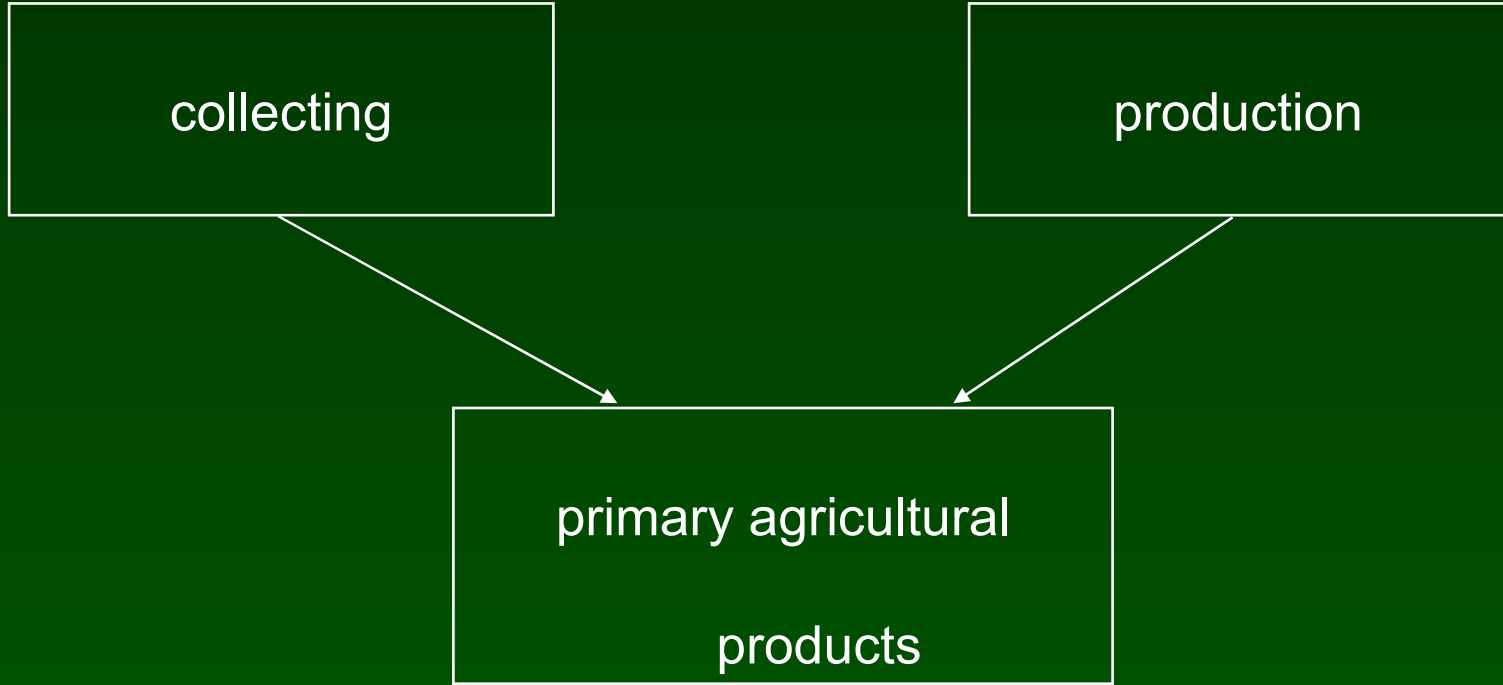
Research in techniques and know-how on the organic production practices with special reference to plant nutrition, plant protection and mechanization of the production process

Research in area of organic plant breeding, variety choice, and production of organic seed and planting material

collecting

production

primary agricultural
products

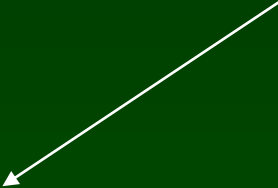
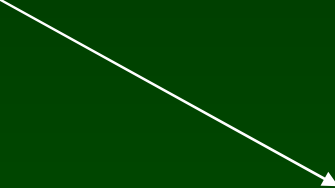


collecting

production

primary agricultural
products

processed products



INFORMATION:

Insufficiently developed marketing structure and organic product market:

- Domestic organic product market
- Export opportunities

ORGANIZATION:

There is a resistance among the growers towards forming growers' associations (NGO)



LEGISLATION

To recognize the specific requirements of organic agriculture as compared to conventional agriculture (→ the principle of exception)

Harmonization of national legislation of Serbia with EU regulations by adopting the EU solutions to Serbian conditions



MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES FOR THE FUTURE:

1. EDUCATION

2. RESEARCH → DEVELOPMENT → EXTENSION

- techniques and know-how on the organic production practices
- plant nutrition
- plant protection
- mechanization of the production process
- plant breeding
- Variety choice
- seed production
- processing

Is There a Need for a European Research Network?

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