

The quality of agri-food products in the Mediterranean area: policy, regulation and economy for the organic and the typical products

TIBIO-MED

Setting up a joint and multidisciplinary Working Table between experts and researchers delegated by Ministry of agriculture aimed at developing strategies and tools for the recognition, and valorisation of typical and organic products



CIHEAM Bari (Valenzano-Italy) - 15-16 January 2018

Organic Agriculture in Lebanon and the role of the Ministry of Agriculture

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Outline

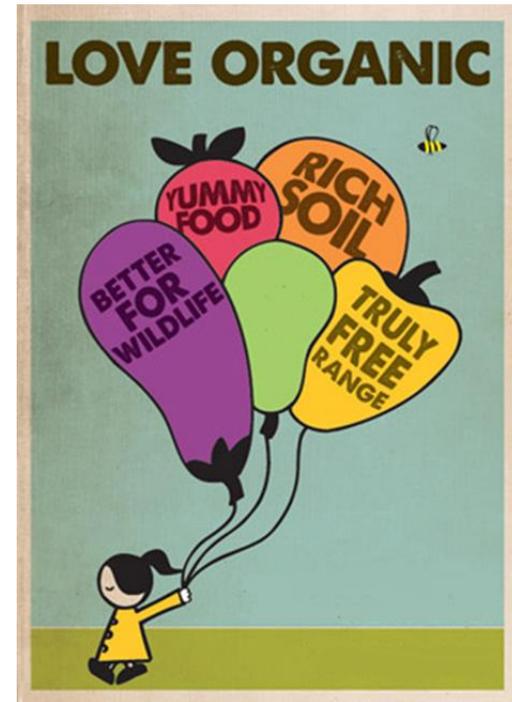
- History
- Legislations
- Certification Bodies operating in Lebanon
- Technical Capacities
- Figures for 2016
- Main Lebanese organic products
- Marketing channels of organic products in Lebanon
- Import / Export
- Profile of the Lebanese Urban Consumer
- The role of the Ministry of Agriculture
- Main Challenges



History / Major Milestones

Throughout the years, the Lebanese organic sector grew slowly but steadily.

It started initially by the efforts of private initiatives in the early nineties (1993) motivated by health and environmental concerns.



History / Major Milestones

1997: Greenline

2000: Project in collaboration between MoA and AUB

2001: First group of graduate students from CIHEAM-BARI

2003: Lebanese Organic Norms were developed by LIBNOR

2002-2008: WVU implemented two USAID funded projects

2004 - 2005: Project implemented by AUB funded by Mercy
Corps



History / Major Milestones

2005: Establishment of IMC Lebanon

2007: Start of the introduction of Organic Agriculture courses in Lebanese Universities

2008: First Lebanese CB LibanCert



Legislations

✓ **Lebanese Organic Law:**

A national organic law was prepared and submitted to the parliament in **2005**, and is still waiting for approval.

✓ **Lebanese Norms:**

Voluntary norms for organic agriculture were developed by LIBNOR in **2003** (Outdated!).



Legislations



✓ **Ministerial Decisions:**
Organization of the organic sector in Lebanon (Decision # 1033/1, 21/11/2011)



Creation of the National Organic Register (Decision # 542/1, 15/6/2012)



Certification Bodies

One out of the two certification bodies in Lebanon (LibanCert) stopped operating in Lebanon by the end of 2013.



Technical Capacities

- Yearly one to two Lebanese students graduate with a Masters Degree in Organic Agriculture from CIHEAM – BARI (Full Scholarship)
- Free Online courses are provided by CIHEAM – BARI
- Organic agriculture courses are included in most Faculties of Agriculture
- Lack of trained Labor!!!



Technical Capacities

MoA staff are trained on Organic principles and inspection



Figures - 2016

- Total Area: 1275 Ha
- Number of operators: 125

- ✓ 96 Plant Production
- ✓ 15 Animal Production
- ✓ 52 Processing
- ✓ 11 Traders



Plant Production - 2016

- Grapes for processing: 4136.6 du
- Olives: 2189.941 du
- Apple: 262.003 du
- Avocado: 235.6238 du
- Citrus: 161.37 du
- Leafy vegetables: 153.702 du
- Vegetables for fruits: 201.72 du
- Root tuber and bulb vegetables: 42.31 du
- Apricots: 51.24 du
- Cereals: 48.5 du
- Potatoes: 45.5 du



Plant Production - 2016

- Pears: 39.686 du
- Table Grapes: 35.616 du
- Plums: 19.0762 du
- Pulses: 14.824 du
- Figs: 16.1 du
- Peaches: 15.5482 du
- Almonds: 10.18 du
- *Other fruit trees: 248.086 du*
- Strawberry: 9.185 du
- Bananas: 1.346 du
- Mushroom: 0.292 du



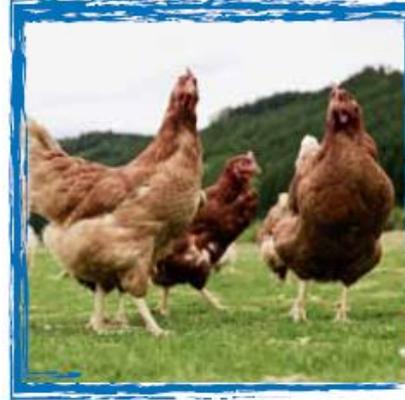
Processing - 2016

- Olive oil: 161000 L.
- Pickles: 2530 Kg.
- Juices: 2592 L.
- Wine: 88500 L
- Jams: 1000 L.



Animal Production - 2016

- Sheep: One operator (180 sheep)
- Goat: One operator (760 goats)
- Poultry: Six operators (Around 18000 heads – mainly for eggs)
- Cows: Negligible



Honey Production - 2016

- Only Three operators
- 446 Bee Hives
- Mainly sold in Pharmacies, Health shops, exhibitions.



Marketing Channels in Lebanon

- Direct sales at the farm
- Supermarkets
- Health shops
- Delivered as baskets
- Farmers markets
- Online shopping



Main Organic Imports

Chicken Feed	Grains	Cooking Cream	Seeds for Planting
Poultry Meat	Rice	Peppers/Spices	Dairy Products
Beverages	Pastas	Sugar & Sweeteners	Spreads and Condiments
Wine	Flour & Mixes	Ice cream	Sauces, Gravy & Yeast
Oils & Vinegar	Jams, Honey & Syrups	Candy & Sweets	Flakes & Cereals
Milk	Canned Vegetables	Salty Snacks	



Main Organic Exports

- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Eggs
- Seedlings of aromatic plants
- Olive oil
- Thyme



Retail prices

Item	Average Price (LBP/kg)		
	Delivered at home in a basket or box (without packaging)	Supermarkets and organic shops (Packed fresh products)	Farmers markets (bulk)
Cucumbers	3680	5800	3400
Tomatoes	2800	5800	3000
Carrots	4400	5800	3200
Potatoes	2200	3800	2400
Apples	2000	5600	2800



Profile of Lebanese Urban Consumer (Study in 2014)

- Mainly Females
- Older than 35 years
- High Education Level
- Mostly care about the health benefit of consuming organic products
- A small minority cares about the environmental side
- Buy organic products mainly from supermarkets
- Main consumed products: Fresh fruits and vegetables



Main reasons for not buying organic (Study in 2014)

- Confusion with traditional / baladi.
- Prices (willingness to pay only 5% more)
- Do not trust organic certification.
- Low product availability.



Organic Agriculture Structure at MoA

✓ OTC

✓ ONC

✓ Roster of Experts



MoA :Competent Authority



MoA

*Review of
dossier and
registration*

Accredited CBs

*Inspection
& Certification*

Organic operators

Auditing

MoA



Double checking



National Organic Database

- Compilation started in 2010.
- Excel sheet.



Capacity building for farmers about organic agriculture



Development of Technical Booklets in Arabic



Yearly meeting with organic operators



LARI Kleiaat Organic demonstration plot



Collaboration with International Organizations

- Lebanon is part of the Mediterranean Organic Agriculture Network (MOAN)



- Technical support is provided by FiBL
- Mailing list of IFOAM



Direct Support / In Kind Support

- Copper Oxychloride
- Colored Sticky Traps (Yellow and Blue)
- Mc Phail traps, Delta traps, Water traps
- Pheromones (*Tuta absoluta*, *Lobesia botrana*, *Cydia pomonella*, *Ceratitis capitata*, etc...)
- *Bacillus thuringiensis*
- Neem Azal



Participation in Local and International Exhibitions



Role of MoA

- Following up on fraud cases
- Conflict resolution
- Extension
- Auditing of the system



Main Challenges

- No subsidies (At least during the conversion period)
- Currently only one Certification Body
- Lack of accredited Labs for MRL testing
- Lack of availability of organic inputs
- Organic agriculture department still not created at MoA
- Lack of extension for organic farmers



Main Challenges

- Lack of skilled labor
- Lack of organic farmers markets



THANK YOU

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