

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



TIBIO-MED EGYPT

- Country Profile
- Regulatory Framework
- Productive and commercial aspects



EGYPT

Country Profile

- COUNTRY AREA : 100145 (1000 ha)
- LAND AREA: 99545 (1000 ha)
- AGRICULTURAL AREA: 3745 (1000 ha) + 620 (1000 ha) Newly reclaimed areas project.
- Organic Agriculture area: 109 (1000 ha)
- FOREST : 72.4 (1000 ha)

(FAO 2016)

Legal Framework

- Egyptian Organic Law Draft
- Organic Ministerial Decrees Related Regulations



[illegible]

Organic Agriculture Role Players in Egypt

1. Ministry of Agriculture – Central Lab of Organic agriculture (CLOA)
2. Control and Inspection Bodies.
3. Private Sector (Processors/ Producers/ Exporters and Traders)
4. National NGOs.



Steps of Egyptian Organic Law Development

**Ministry of Agriculture
Drafting and Legal
reviewing**

**The Legislative Drafting
Committee**

**House of ministers then
Council of state to be
reviewed and ratified**

**State Ministry of Legal affairs,
House of ministers then Council
of state to be reviewed and
ratified.**

**The Egyptian
Parliament**

**Agriculture committee for final
review**



Egyptian organic law situation

- ❑ Several workshops were held during the period (2016-2017) in cooperation with European Union and supported by the Egyptian government (Ministry of Agriculture and Land reclamation) in order to enact the Egyptian Organic Agriculture Law by 2018.
- ❑ As a result of these efforts, the law was submitted to the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and was sent to The Legislative Drafting Committee of the Ministry of state for Legal Affairs.
- ❑ Then it has been discussed by The Egyptian Cabinet and approved.
- ❑ After that it was sent to the Council of state to be reviewed and ratified.
- ❑ Finally it was sent to the House of Representatives And the steps towards the adoption of this law is currently under way.
- ❑ Stakeholders has to be involved and thus, CLOA is planning for a National workshop of the Organic sector role players in Egypt.



Ministerial Decrees of Organic Legal framework

- The Ministry of Agriculture issued the ministerial decrees No. 1411 – 1412 / 2008 to control and organize organic agriculture in Egypt.
- The Ministry of Agriculture issued the ministerial decree No 627/ 2014 for **High Committee of Bio control and Organic Agriculture.**



Facts and Figures

- Organic agriculture area in Egypt 250,000 fed.
- This area has 0.2% of the world's organic farming area.
- Egypt globally ranked 47th in terms of area among 172 countries.
- Egypt shares with 2.3% of the total world organic agriculture land.



Facts and Figures

1 .Organic Agriculture area (ha)

- *There are about 970 organic farms in area of about (105.900 ha.) Most of the organic farms are small and medium size (5 – 10 ha.).*
- *Few farm enterprises are larger than 200-500 ha . (about 25 % of total organic farmland).*
- 27,000 ha Root crops.
- 90,000 ha Industrial crops including oilseeds, cotton and Aromatic plants, medicinal and culinary plants
- 15,000 ha Plants harvested green including fodder, green maize and alfa alfa.
- 32,000 ha Fresh vegetables including melons, strawberries All brassicas (excl. roots) Cabbage (white), Celery, Leeks, Spinach, Asparagus, Chicory, Artichokes, Lettuces, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, peas, beans and Root tuber and bulb vegetables .
- 7,000 ha Cereals for the production of grain (incl. Seeds), rice
- 5,000 ha Permanent crops including Citrus fruit , Vineyards, olives.
- 410.3 ha palm dates.
- Egypt has 100,000 ha agricultural lands and 60,000 ha wild collection to give a total of 160,000 ha.

Share of total agriculture area (%) :

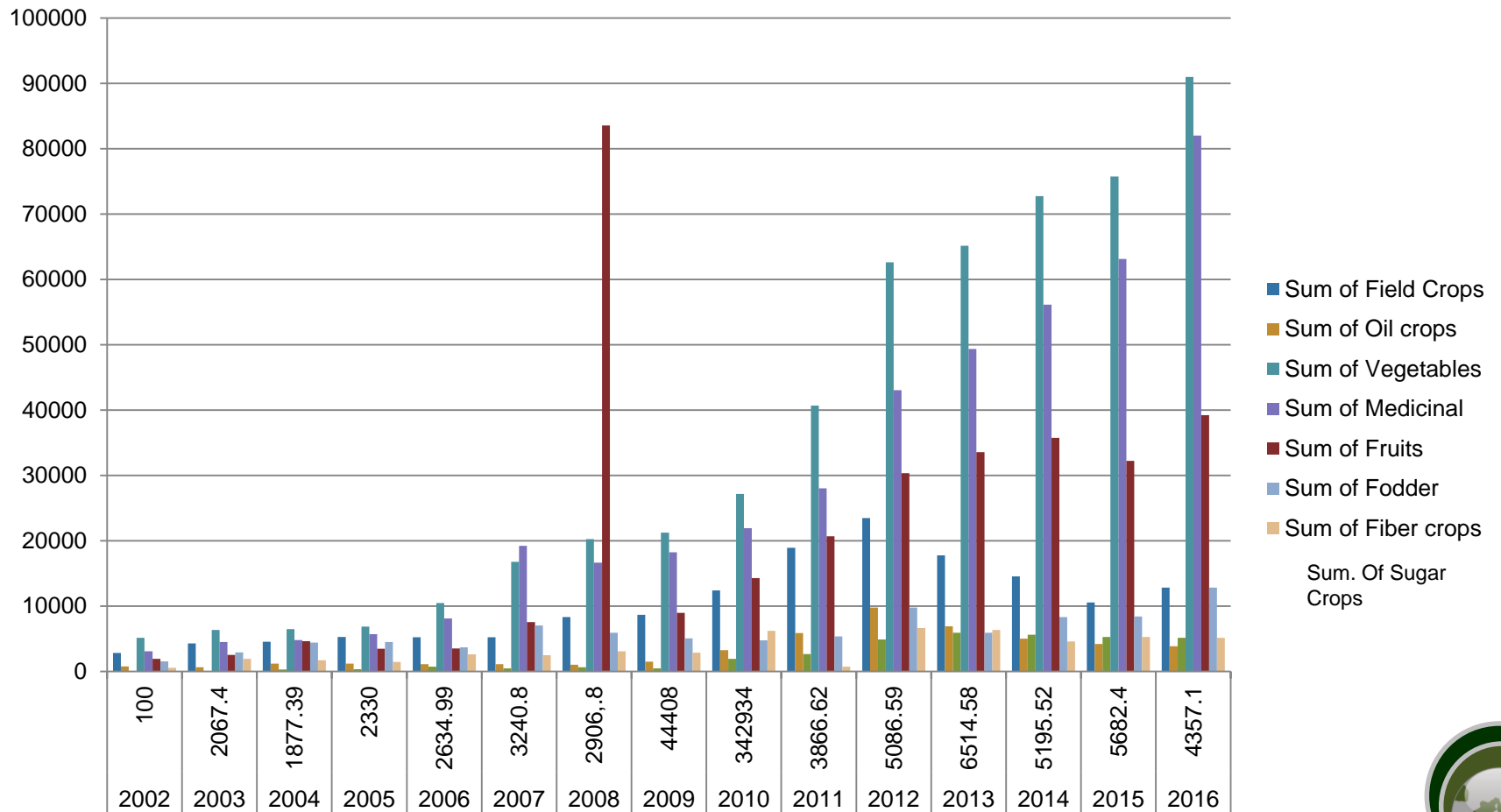
- The Organic Agriculture area *represents about 2.4% of total cultivated area.*



Organic agriculture area distribution among the Egyptian governorate

Governorate	Area per hectare	Governorates share with organic areas%
Behira	28906.98	27.3
Fayoum	24041.36	22.7
AlWadi Al Gadid	9743.678	9.2
Ismailia	9.780992	9.0
Qina	5295.455	5.0
Minia	4765.909	4.5
Beni Suief	4236.364	4.0
Sharqeya	3495	3.3
Suhag	2859.545	2.7
Alexandria	2859.545	2.7
Giza	2647.727	2.7
Kafr El Shiekh	317.7273	0.3
Gharbeya	529.5455	0.5
Daqahleya	635.4545	0.6
Munifiya	1376.818	1.3
Qalubeya	529.5455	0.5
Asiut	1800.455	1.7
Osswan	423.6364	0.4
Luxor	423.6364	0.4
Cairo	6.198347	0.0
Sinai	317.7273	0.3
Suez	105.9091	0.1
Port Saied	105.9091	0.6
Al Bahr Al Ahmar	105.9091	0.1
Damietta	105.9091	0.1
Marssa Matrouh	741.3636	0.7
Total	.96387.08	

Organic production



2. Operators

- **Organic producers:**

There are about 970 organic farms registered and producing organic products.

- **Organic processors:**

There are about 242 companies registered currently.

- **Organic exporters**

All the registered companies are exporters.

- **Organic importers**

No sufficient and available information on the organic import sector in Egypt.



Current Flow of Organic products quality control in Egypt

- Based on the EU organic regulations (834/2007, 889/2008, 1235/2008), each producer, processor and subcontractor has a prescheduled visit at least once annually. Controlled and monitored by Certification and inspection bodies according to ISO 17065, ISO 17021.
- Routine annual or season sampling is done to each processing and production unit and analysis is done to check any residues. Reference against the EU regulations and the international (minimum residues (MRL) list.
- The local authority of agriculture quarantine inspects all imported or exported products from agriculture source.



Current Flow of Organic products quality control in Egypt

- General Organization for Import and Export Control (GOEIC) is an authority directly affiliated to the Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade authorized to:
 - I. First: Specific Import and Export Control
 - II. Second: Register Keeping: (Importers register, Exporters register, Commercial agents register,
 - III. Third: Issuing the certificates of origin for goods of Egyptian origin and of acquired Egyptian origin.
 - IV. Fourth: Sorting agriculture crops in order to categorize them.
- The national Egyptian organic law will cover the points of following up on the non-compliances and residue findings together with the database filing all in one source which in turn help in lining up the process for more guarantees.



Markets

- ❑ Certified organic products are currently recognized in only few domestic markets, including Egypt.
- ❑ There is a growing middle class – most notably in Egypt and South Africa – who share some similar values to European organic consumers. As a result, there are growing domestic market opportunities for diverse organic products in these locations



The main Egyptian organic production market

- Exports to Europe drive organic production in Egypt.
- The major exported crops are:
 - **Herbs** (chamomile, coriander, dill, lemongrass, hibiscus, marjoram, parsley, peppermint and spearmint).
 - **vegetables** (potatoes, onions, garlic, green beans, peppers and peas, tomatoes, Strawberries, ----).
 - **Fruit** (citrus, grapes and olives,-----).



The domestic market for organic products in Egypt

- ❑ Domestic sales of organic products are concentrated around the urban areas of Cairo and Alexandria.
- ❑ 60 to 70 percent of the consumers are foreigners.
- ❑ Many pharmacies in Egypt sell organic medicinal and aromatic plants .
- ❑ Many of supermarkets chain have organic food section.



What Organic Agriculture Needs in Egypt?

- Public and private sector support.
- Moving Egyptian organic law from drafting into force.
- Availability of fund for the sake of organic data collection
- Accurate information will be available for organic road map and decision making.



THANK YOU

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