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## **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION CONTEXT**

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From the natural environment point of view organic production is an extremely important for support of the safe food and maintenance of a life quality in general of the current and future generations. Development of the organic production sector is closely linked with a quantitative assessment of the impact of possible newly installed agricultural environment protection measures on the structural, environmental, economic and social changes of the agricultural sector (2, 3, 4).

Ecological production – a general system of farm management and food production, balancing the best environmental and climate factors practise, a high level of biodiversity, conservation of the natural resources, high animal welfare standards and high production standards, according to the demand. It is aimed at sustainability of the agricultural products and their harmony with economical and ecological functions (5).

Ecological production is intended to contribute to protection of the climate and environment, also to ensure sustainable fertility of soil, protection of biodiversity, significantly contribute in non-toxic environment maintenance, also high standards of animal welfare (prioritizing conduct needs, typical for the different species), and to promote conservation of endangered, rare and/or local species (1).

Development of organic agricultural production in terms of a country promotes environment protection (synthetic pesticides, mineral – synthetic fertilizers, drugs and other chemical substances are not allowed; organic waste is treated and used appropriately; weeds, diseases and pests are controlled by agro technical and other natural methods).

Genetically modified organisms (GMO) and its containing products are also not allowed. To protect and increase soil fertility (to apply as different bio diversified agricultural plants, enriching soil organically). To apply alternation of crops as an agro technical and to use organic fertilizers).

To use material and energy resources in a sustainable manner (to cultivate the *Fabaceae*, as a source of N, to minimize land processing, etc.). To develop farming in a clean environment and not to pollute it.

The legal system, implementing the policy that meet the EU organic production goals, should be aimed at: fair competence and appropriate functioning of a domestic market for the organic production; to protect and justify consumers' reliance on products, labelled as organic; to impose conditions for the policy to be executed, meeting the production and market changes. In order to gain the status of an organic farm, traditional farms have to be certified (5).

The main legal acts, regulating organic agriculture in the EU:

Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91, and Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control, and Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007. A new regulation will come into it legal effect on the third day since announcement in *the EU Official Journal* and will apply from 1 January 2021.

Ecological production is to be certified and labelled accordingly.

Ecological farming is becoming more and more popular throughout the EU, especially as regards values that promote environmental protection, animal welfare and the conservation of natural resources.

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