

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN ROMANIA: STATUS AND PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract

Romania's organic agriculture expanded steadily between 2021 and 2024. According to MADR (2023), the Romanian Rural Network (2024), and international reports, organic farmland reached 644,520 ha in 2022, approx. 693,000 ha in 2023, and continued to grow modestly in 2024, approaching 710,000 ha (approx. 4.6% of Utilized Agricultural Area - UAA). Certified operators increased to nearly 14,000 in 2023. The production mix remains dominated by cereals, oilseeds, and pastures, while horticulture and medicinal plants hold smaller but high-value shares. The operator structure shows over 95% producers and less than 2% processors, highlighting a structural bottleneck. Romania remains a net exporter of raw organic materials with a domestic market below €100 million. At EU level, organic farmland reached 17.7 million ha in 2023, with global organic retail sales estimated at €136.4 billion. These trends illustrate Romania's opportunities and gaps compared to European and global benchmarks.

Keywords: organic farming; Romania; MADR; operators; EU; Biofach 2025