

STUDY REGARDING THE FARMERS ATTITUDE TOWARDS ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

STUDIU PRIVIND ATITUDINEA PRODUCĂTORILOR FAȚĂ DE AGRICULTURA ECOLOGICĂ

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Abstract. Organic farming is an unconventional system, which aims, getting healthy food in harmony with the space and time where they are obtained. Although lately, the term "eco" has become increasingly present in the vocabulary of each individual, the real importance of this trend is not yet well known, the difference between organic and conventional products still many people unknown. The purpose of this study is to assess attitude of farmers towards organic system, through a sampling questionnaire to their views. To achieve the purpose, were surveyed 80 persons from different social and professional categories. The data presented in this paper can be seen that 47% of farmers have knowledge about organic farming from media, and 37% of the school. In the motivation to obtain certified organic products, 35% mentioned natural and organizational opportunities, and 21.67% said opportunities subsidies provided by government.

Key words: farmer, attitude, organic agriculture

Rezumat. Agricultura ecologică este un sistem neconvențional care are ca scop obținerea de produse alimentare sănătoase, în armonie cu spațiul și timpul, unde acestea se obțin. Cu toate că în ultima vreme noțiunea de „eco”, a devenit din ce în ce mai prezentă în vocabularul fiecărui individ, importanța reală a acestui curent nu este încă bine cunoscută, diferența dintre produsele ecologice și cele convenționale rămâne încă pentru multe persoane o necunoscută. Scopul acestei lucrări este de a evalua atitudinea producătorilor față de agricultura ecologică, prin intermediul unui chestionar de sondare a opiniei acestora. Pentru atingerea scopului propus, au fost chestionate 80 de persoane din categorii sociale și profesionale diferite. Din datele prezentate în lucrare se poate observa că 47% dintre fermieri au informații despre agricultura ecologică din media, iar 37% din școală. În ce privește motivația obținerii de produse certificate ecologic, 35% au menționat oportunitățile de cadru natural și organizatoric, iar 21,67% au menționat oportunitățile cu subvențiile primite de la stat.

Cuvinte cheie: fermier, atitudine, agricultura ecologica

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INTRODUCTION

Since 1991, organic production in the European Union (EU) has been regulated by the Council Regulation EEC 2092/91, which established the requirements for agricultural products and foodstuffs bearing a reference to the production methods used in organic farming (Teliban et al., 2011; WOA, 2012; MADR, 2013). Due to substantial progress in the field, and permanent additions to this act, it was necessary to change the legislation.

On June 28, 2007, EC Regulation no. 834 on the organic production and labelling of organic products was adopted, and the repealing EEC Regulation no. 2092/91. The rules for implementing this act are specified in Regulation 889/8 December 2008 (MADR, 2013, Janssen and Hamm, 2011).

At the end of 2013, certified organic agricultural area in Romania was 288,261 ha (less than wild collection) that was distributed to the in 15,194 farms (MADR, 2013; Stoleru et al., 2012; Stoleru et al., 2013)

The aim of this paper is to assess the attitude of the producers toward organic farming, by means of an opinion survey questionnaire. Another aspect studied in this paper was the respondents trust in organic farming.

In order to achieve its intended purpose, research focused on the following major objectives:

Objective 1. Profile establishment producers in organic farming;

Objective 2. Knowledge attitude towards organic agriculture producers.

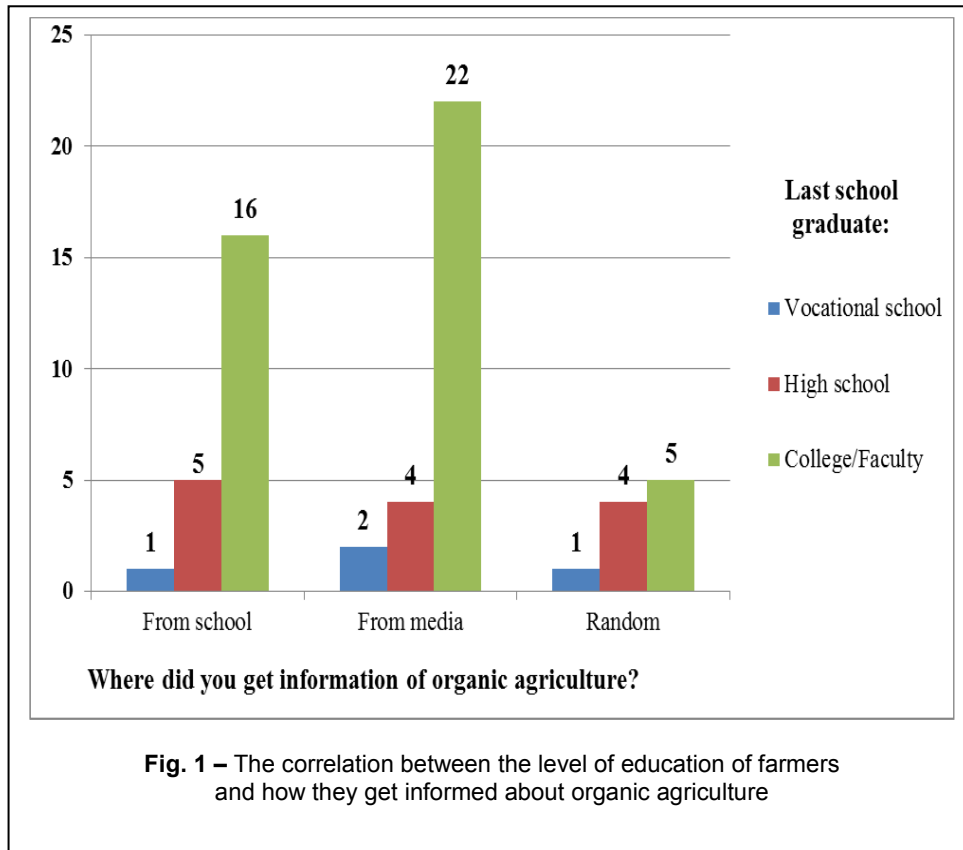
MATERIAL AND METHOD

The surveys carried out in Iasi county area, with the following main places: Nicolina market, Pacurari market, Carrefour ERA (super market) and other locations with narrower area. The interviewing has been made only on producers, resulting in the end a number of 60 valid questionnaires, according to the scientific literature (Buia et al., 2003).

Pilot phase of verification of the questionnaire, was carried out on 10 individuals (sample consisting of persons with different levels of training). Questionnaires tests have been carried out using statistical program for social - SPSS, version 20.

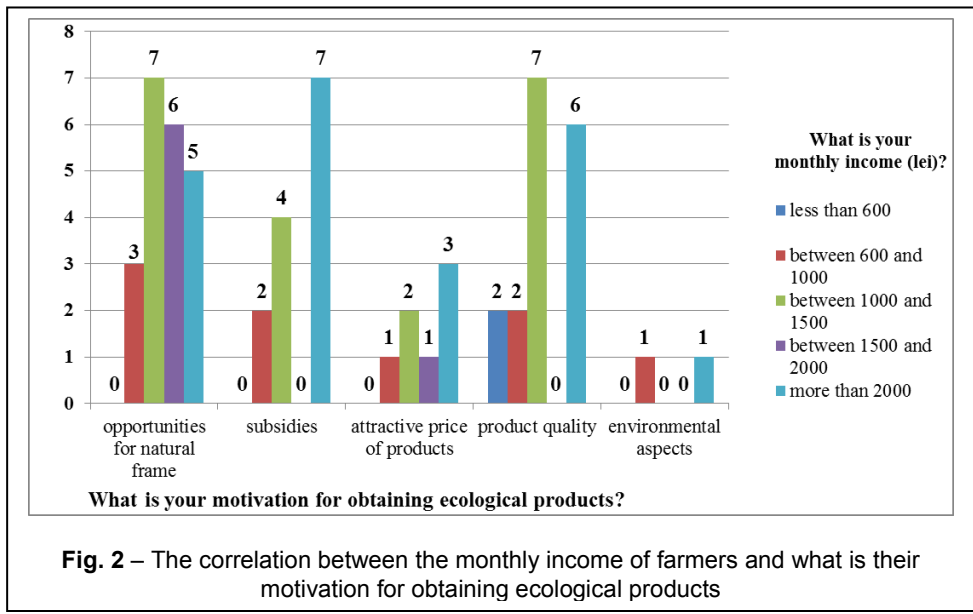
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The level of training of respondents and the manner in which they shall be informed of organic agriculture denotes important media as the main channel for the provision of the information, the school occupying second place. Thus, a percentage of 36.67 % of respondents with a higher education level, 6.67 % with medium studies and 3.34 % with vocational school have indicated mass media as the main channel for the provision of information (figure 1).

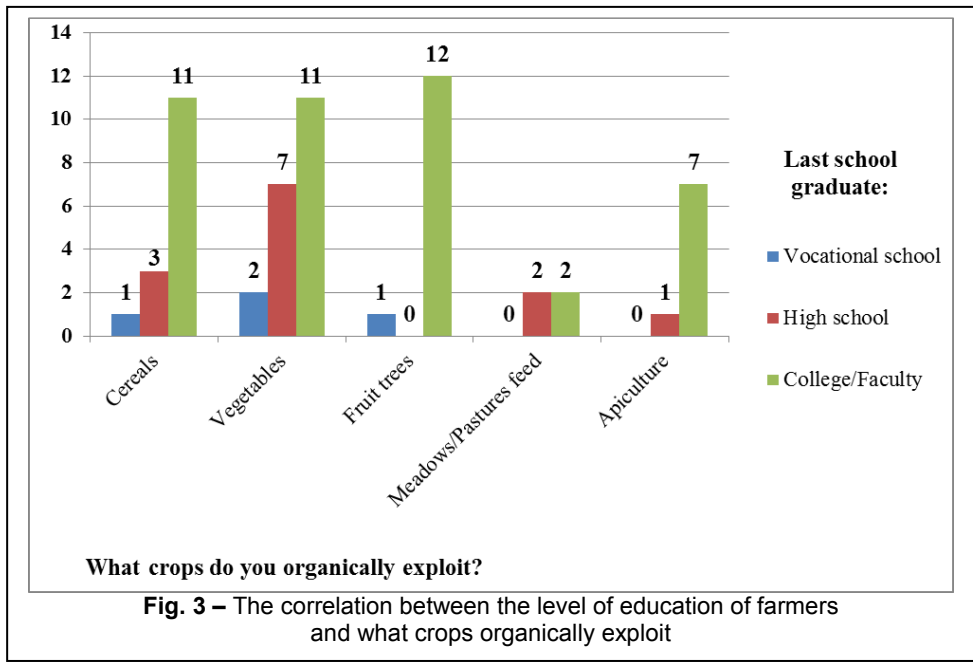


Connection between income on respondents and the motivation to obtain ecological production realm emphasizes opportunities related to the natural to those with the income of more than 1,000 lei (30%), followed by quality of the products (21.67%) and subsidies provided by the Ministry of Agriculture (18.34%).

In the opposition, an attractive price obtained by selling eco-friendly products and environmental aspects showed a weighted than under recitals expressed by respondent. They have amounted to 15% of the total respondents (figure 2).

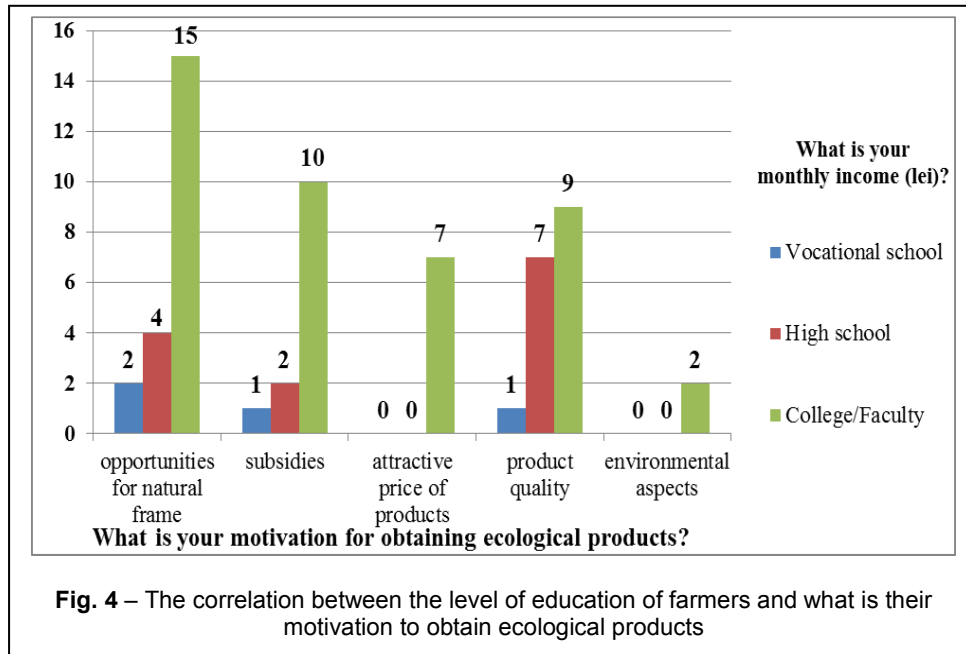


Favoring certain crops in proportion to the degree of training shows that fruit trees, vegetables, and cereals are preferred in the culture of those with higher education, cumulating a percentage of 56,67 % of the total respondents. However, organic vegetable growing is favored among respondents with medium studies, with a percentage of 11.67 % (figure 3).



With regard to the correlation between the level of training of respondents and the motivation to obtain eco-friendly products, this emphasizes the fact that out of the 35% who have indicated opportunities for natural frame as the main reason, 25% of them have higher education, 6.67% secondary education and 3,37% are graduates of vocational schools.

Also, 28,37% of the total respondents have referred to quality of the products as the main reason for obtaining ecological production, broken down according to the last school exempted from in the following way: 15% with higher education (11.67%) with secondary education and 1.67 % graduates of vocational schools (figure 4).



CONCLUSIONS

1. Regarding the way how organic production values, it is found that 61.67% of the respondents leverages crop on the free market, and 20% directly from the holding, which means that there is a market made up for such products.

2. Regarding the reasons for obtaining certified ecological products, 35% of them have referred to opportunities for natural frame and organizational constraints, and 21.67% have referred to opportunities with subsidies received from the Ministry of Agriculture.

3. From the data presented in this paper it is observed that 47% of farmers surveyed now have information on organic agriculture from the media, and 37% from the school.

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