

THE EXPORT AND DOMESTIC SALES OF THE HUNGARIAN ORGANIC FOOD

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ABSTRACT

The function of the organic production has been increasing in the EU and in Hungary. The Hungarian organic products are mainly exported and the rest of them are sold in the domestic market. 70–90% of the all production certified was exported. The main products are autumn wheat, sunflower, maize, cattle and sheep. The production amount reached 71,714 tons in 2001. The main countries of the Hungarian export are: Germany, Switzerland, Austria. The forming of domestic market is necessary and expected in future.

Key words: sustainable agriculture / organic food / Hungary

IZVOZ IN PRODAJA MADŽARSKIH EKOLOŠKIH ŽIVIL NA DOMAČEM TRŽIŠČU

IZVLEČEK

Vloga ekološke priraje se je v EU in na Madžarskem povečala. Madžarski ekološki proizvodi so predvsem namenjeni izvozu in le manjši delež se jih proda na domačem tržišču. 70–90% vseh potrjenih proizvodov je bilo prodano na tuja tržišča. Glavni proizvodi so jesenska pšenica, sončnice, koruza, govedo in ovce. V letu 2001 je proizvodnja dosegla 71714 ton. Najpomembnejše uvoznice madžarskih ekoloških proizvodov so: Nemčija, Švica in Avstrija. V prihodnosti se bo moralo oblikovati močnejše domače tržišče.

Ključne besede: sonaravno kmetijstvo / ekološka živila / Madžarska

INTRODUCTION

The importance and part of organic food have increased in Hungary for last years. The consumers have taken their health into consideration much rather nowadays. This has resulted the growing of the market of organic food in Hungary. The hungarian organic food has been made in a controlling method controlled by for example Biokontroll Hungária kht. As export market prices are higher than domestic prices, the hungarian organic farmers prefer export to selling their products in domestic markets. The rest of the productions have been sold here. The main export products are: cereals, fodder plants. (maize, wheat, pumpkin seed, sunflower) (Kissné, 2000., 20.p., Gyarmati, 2001, 18–20. p.)

MATERIAL AND METHODS

I have mainly used the statistical data of Biokontroll Hungária kht. and own reserch from questionnaire filled out by hungarian consumers. Biokontroll Hungária kht is the most significant Hungarian organisation of organic production and producers. This organisation is recognised in the E.U.. The statistical data of Biokontroll Hungária kht. are available from 1998 to 2003. These show the changes and development of the production and commercial of organic food in

Hungary. The survey of habits and motivation of the consumers of organic food show the possibility and development strategy of this field. The view of scientific literature helps the knowledge of the results of the domestic and international researches.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The definition of the organic production

The purpose of the organic agricultural production is the sustainable agricultural production with free from chemicals and it is controlled. The other main purpose is to sustain the harmony with the environment and the Earth. The net of the controlling organisations was built some years ago. The definition of the E.U. is following: Organic farming favours renewable resources and recycling, returning to the soil the nutrients found in waste products. Where livestock is concerned, meat and poultry production is regulated with particular concern for animal welfare and by using natural foodstuffs. Organic farming respects the environment's own systems for controlling pests and disease in raising crops and livestock and avoids the use of synthetic pesticides, herbicides, chemical fertilisers, growth hormones, antibiotics or gene manipulation. Instead, organic farmers use a range of techniques that help sustain ecosystems and reduce pollution. (The homepage of the E.U.) We can see the main purposes are same in Hungary and in the E.U.

Table 1. The number of enterprises controlled 1998–2003 (own construction) Source: The announcements of Biokontroll Hungária kht. with the permit of it

The number of the enterprises controlled 1998–2003							
		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Categories	The activity of the enterprises	The number of enterprises					
A Category	Agricultural producers	330	327	471	764	1116	1239
	Little garden (under 1 ha)		120	100	122	121	
	Bee keepers (honey producers)	49	76	165	207	193	177
	The collectors of growing wild plants (herbs and spice plants)	3	4	5	8	10	11
B Category	Preparers, wrappers	17	22	36	67	100	215
	Commercial Units	2	36	54	72	92	53
C Category	Importers	0	1	1	1	5	4
Altogether:		401	586	832	1 241	1516	1699

The regulation of the organic production

The political authorities have regulated the conditions of the organic production and commercial in Hungary and in the E.U..

The main purposes:

- The limitation of using of the plant protecting materials, artificial chemicals and fertilizers.
- The supporting of the extension using of ploughlands.
- The save of local threatened animal sorts.
- The environmental protection.
- The supporting of training and further education in this field.

The present of the domestic organic production

The basis of the announcements of Biokontroll Hungária kht. we can see the following trend in the states of the number of domestic organic producers.

Table 2. The changing of the territory of the organic producers (own construction) Source: The announcements of Biokontroll Hungária kht. with the permit of it.

The changing of the territory of the organic producers								
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Area controlled, ha	11 390	15 772	21 565	32 609	47 221	79 178	103 672	113 816
The number of the enterprises	127	161	330	327	471	764	995	*1 255
Changed territory, ha			9 869	15 639	24 935	49 490	54 497	70 317
Territory under changing, ha			11 692	16 970	22 287	29 687	49 175	43 499

We can see the growing of the number of the enterprises controlled year by year. These producers produce the domestic organic products and export them.

The changing of the areas controlled

The difference between the changed territory and the territory under changing is the time of the changing over to organic methods. This time is defined by the controll organizations and ministries. Generally if the method of production was changed on a territory, it becomes an organic territory after 3 years. We can see a dynamic growing the large of the organic territories between 1999 and 2002. The growing has slowed down in 2003 but has not stopped.

The domestic market

The large number of the domestic producers produce for export and the rest of their production can be sold in Hungary.

Table 3. Certified vegetal production (own construction) Source: The announcements of Biokontroll Hungária kht. with the permit of it.

Certified vegetal production			
kg	Altogether	Organics	Under changing
1999	27 742 659.0	22 810 500.0	4 706 059.0
2000	31 235 858.0	25 133 810.0	6 102 048.0
2001	71 714 789.5	58 888 785.5	12 826 004.0
2002	69 074 503.9	60 354 499.9	8 720 004.0
2003	49 785 247.0	48 096 869.0	1 688 378.0
kg	Export	Organics	Under Changing
1999	18 906 093.0	3 672 814.0	15 233 279.0
2000	24 496 814.0	20 139 056.0	4 357 758.0
2001	46 495 473.5	38 135 478.5	8 359 995.0
2002	62 159 380.3	54 416 005.8	7 743 374.5
2003	40 476 609.8	39 240 006.3	1 236 603.5

Table 4. Certified animals and farms (own construction) Source: The announcements of Biokontroll Hungária kht. with the permit of it.

Species	Animal number				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Poultry	107	129	196	162	85
Buffalo	2	6	124	70	289
Sheep	1 054	910	1 292	1 609	2 273
Goat	27	65	86	147	261
Horse	20	221	281	677	341
Pig	35	255	225	327	445
Cattle	2 291	3 483	6 181	8 862	7 503
Ass	2	14	2		13
Altogether	3 537	5 084	8 387	11 855	11 210
Animal number/Farm	58.0	84.7	116.5	142.8	81.8
Farm number	61	60	72	83	137

We can see growing in export until 2002 and all production until 2001. The all production has decreased in 2003.

Table 5. The export of the main export products in kg (own construction) Source: The announcements of Biokontroll Hungária kht. with the permit of it.

Autumn wheat	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
England	675 740			951 120	3 710 411
Austria	945 880	964 460	1 028 850	12 184 270	
Danmark	1 090 230				
France		642 920	1 101 350	1 833 068	
The Netherlands	50 000	1 867 140	1 922 420	815 603	
Germany	1 633 500	1 111 710	12 479 614	5 449 692	4 313 863
Switzerland	3 091 410	5 989 580	6 831 080	3 451 110	5 723 640
Altogether	7 486 760	10 575 810	23 363 314	24 684 863	13 747 914
Sunflower	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
England	90 000	64 050			
Austria	200 252	129 900	137 150	558 060	175 032
France		398 470	239 800	93 809	
The Netherlands	390 660	201 460	300 100		
Germany	447 500	135 000	423 600	524 530	1 764 720
Switzerland	980 770	1 429 440	2 103 800	1 167 900	2 301 530
Altogether	2 109 182	2 358 320	3 204 450	2 344 299	4 241 282
Maize	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
England				551 560	
Austria	900 000	820 000	120 000	4 174 190	2 336 150
France		221 341	592 050	77 930	
The Netherlands			999 890	691 960	
Germany	694 210	719 860	80 000	1 738 860	900 500
Switzerland	1 499 700	1 630 000	3 409 522	685 010	2 926 420
Altogether	3 093 910	3 391 201	5 201 462	7 919 510	6 163 070

The number of animals raised with organic methods had increased since 1999. The increase stopped short between 2002. The majority of the organic animal products were sold in Hungary. We can see the trend in the following chart.

The main problems of domestic commercial:

- The more difficult availability compared to the traditional products
- Higher price
- The lack of information
- Thinner products choice.

(Frühwald, Mokry, 1999.)

Export

The main export target countries are Switzerland, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands and France. The main export products are maize, wheat, sunflower and pumpkin seed.

We can see the main export products year by year in the following chart.

The main organic animal products were organic eggs to the Netherlands, honey to Germany.

CONCLUSION

The domestic organic production has developed for the last few years. The production reached the 50.000–70.000 tons per year. As the customs are repealed the domestic organic production has great opportunities after the E.U. joining. As the organic commercial net was not built and the prices of these products are 300–500% of a traditional product, it is necessary for the consumers to reach these products wider circle and lower price.

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