

## **5 The Global Survey on Organic Farming 2007: Main Results**

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In this chapter, we present the main results of the 2007 global survey on organic land area, land use and organic farms carried out by SOEL and FiBL

### *Presentation of the statistics in this book*

The statistics compiled under the 2007 survey can be found at various places in this book.

The general global statistics, including information on land area and farms and an overview of the general land use and some crop details, are available in *this chapter*:

- Organic land area and organic farms by continent.
- Share of organic land of the continents' agricultural area.
- Statistical information on main land uses (arable crops, permanent crops, permanent pastures, other) globally.
- Global statistics on the main arable and permanent crop categories.
- Statistical information on main land uses in the continents.
- Some crop statistics: Graphs showing the main countries for the production of cereals, citrus fruits, coffee, cocoa, cotton, grapes, rice, olives, wheat. Detailed information on some crops is available in the 2006 edition of 'The World of Organic Agriculture' (Willer/Yussefi 2006): Cocoa (Garibay 2006), coffee and cotton (Baraibar 2006) as well as grapes (Geier 2006).

In the *continent chapters* of this book, the following results of the global organic survey are available:

- Land area, share of total agricultural area and farms by country.
- Information and data sources for the country data. These sources refer to all country related data including land use and crop data.

In the *annex*, the results of the global survey on organic farming are presented in full detail:

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<sup>3</sup> Dirk Sthamer carried out the SOEL-FiBL survey 2007 at, Foundation Ecology & Agriculture SOEL. Contact is via SOEL, Weinstrasse Sued 51, D-67098 Bad Dürkheim, [www.soel.de](http://www.soel.de)

- Country list with information on land under organic management, share of organic of agricultural land and numbers of farms.
- Country list with land under organic management, sorted by global importance.
- Country list with information on share of organic of agricultural land, sorted by global importance.
- Country list with information on numbers of farms, sorted by global importance.
- Country list with land use and crop details. Global organic land use by main crop categories.

### **Developments at a global level**

According to the 2007 survey<sup>1</sup>, almost 31 million hectares are currently managed organically by more than 600'000 farms worldwide. This constitutes 0.7 percent of the agricultural land of the countries covered by the survey.

The continent with most organic land is Australia/Oceania with almost 11.9 million hectares, followed by Europe with almost 7 million hectares, Latin America (5.8 million hectares), Asia (almost 2.9 million hectares), North America (2.2 million hectares) and Africa (almost 0.9 million hectares).

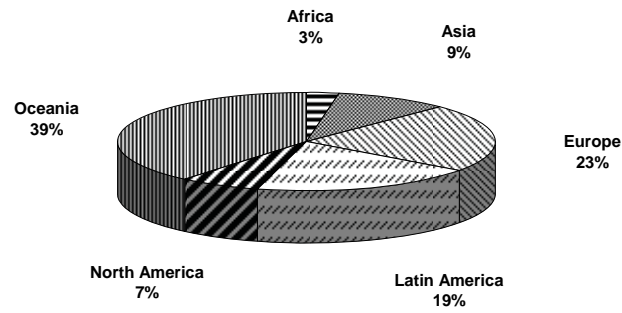
On a continent level, the share of organic land in proportion to all agricultural land is highest in Australia/Oceania (2.6 percent), followed by Europe. It should be noted, though, that some countries in Europe exhibit a much higher percentage; some countries have reached shares of more than ten percent of agricultural land (Austria, Switzerland). In the European Union, the share of organic land is almost four percent.

**Table 2: Organic land and farms by continent**

Continent	Organic land area (hectares)	Share of total agricultural area	Organic farms
Africa	890'504	0.11%	124'805
Asia	2'893'572	0.21%	129'927
Europe	6'920'462	1.38%	187'697
Latin America	5'809'320	0.93%	176'710
North America	2'199'225	0.56%	12'063
Oceania	11'845'100	2.59%	2'689
<b>Total</b>	<b>30'558'183</b>	<b>0.74%</b>	<b>633'891</b>

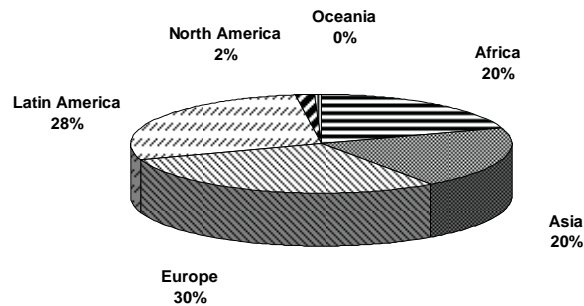
Source: SOEL-FiBL Survey 2007

<sup>1</sup> For reasons of statistical consistency we aimed to obtain the data as of December 31, 2005, for the 2007 survey, whereas in previous years we had tried to get the latest data available. For some countries the data as of mid 2006 would have already been available. On the other hand, for many countries the 2005 data were not yet available. In those cases we used the data of the previous surveys.



**Figure 1: Distribution of global organic land by continent**

Source: SOEL-FiBL Survey 2007



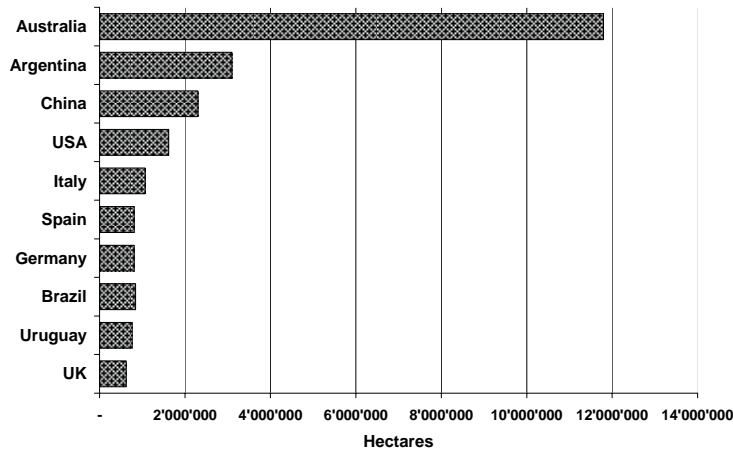
**Figure 2: Distribution of organic farms by continent**

Source: SOEL-FiBL Survey 2007

In most of the countries that provided new data, there has been an increase of organic land. The two continents of Europe and North America gained approximately half a million hectares each. This corresponds to an increase of 8 percent in Europe and of 29 percent in North America, representing exceptional growth.

### Developments at a country level

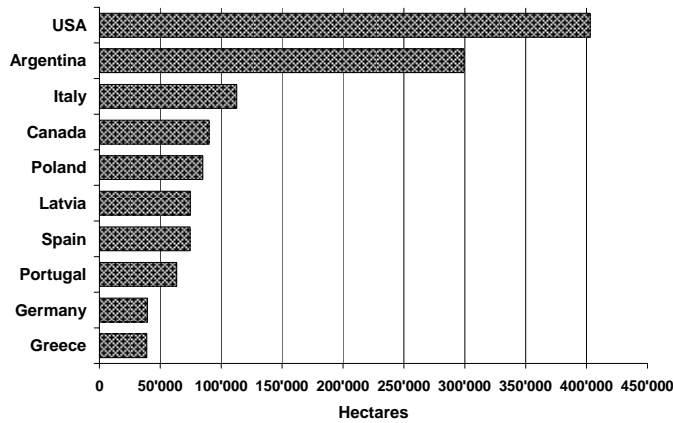
Like in previous years, Australia is the country with most organic land. Number two is currently Argentina, which had an increase of 300'000 hectares, followed China. Major increases of organic land in the United States have made this country the new number four, followed by Italy. The top 10 countries have 23.7 million hectares together, thus constituting more than three quarters of the world's organic land. In the annex a table with all countries and their organic land, sorted by organic land area is available.



**Figure 3: The ten countries with most organic land**

Source: SOEL-FiBL-Survey 2007

In more than 60 countries covered by the survey, organic land has increased since the previous survey. Prominent examples are the United States (+400'000 hectares), Argentina (+300'000 hectares), Italy (+110'000 hectares) and Canada (+90'000 hectares). The top ten countries regarding increase of organic land in hectares had a growth of 1.2 million hectares. The highest relative increases were in several countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Latvia, Poland and Lithuania), but also in other countries (Italy, United States).



**Figure 4: The ten countries with the highest increase of organic land area (hectares) according to SOEL-FiBL surveys 2006 and 2007**

Sources: SOEL-FiBL surveys 2006 and 2007

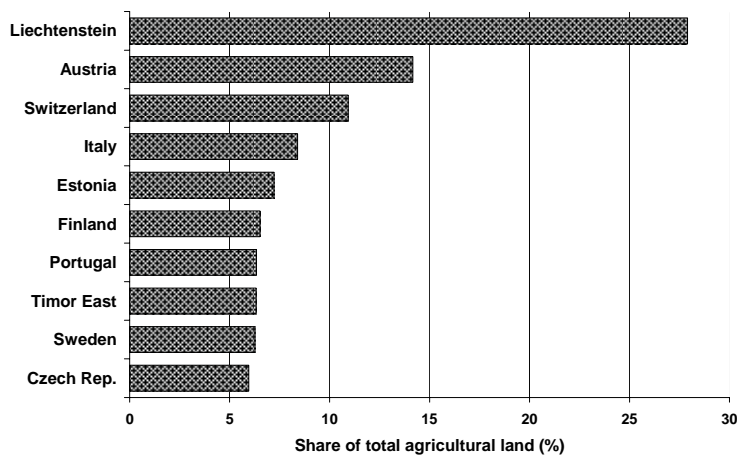
It is also important to look at the share of organic land. The graph of the ten countries with the highest share of organic land shows that, with the exception of East Timor, the shares of organic land of the total agricultural area are highest in Europe.

The total agricultural land (as of 2003) for most countries was taken from the FAO Statistical database FAOSTAT<sup>1</sup>. For the European Union, most data (as of 2005) were taken from Eurostat<sup>2</sup>. Where available, we used the data for total agricultural land from ministries (US, Switzerland, and Austria). Please note that in some cases the calculation of the shares of organic land and farms based on the Eurostat and FAOSTAT data might differ from the organic shares communicated by the Ministries or experts.

In the annex, a table with all countries sorted by share of organic land is available.

<sup>1</sup> FAOSTAT, Data Archives, the FAO Homepage, FAO, Rome at [faostat.fao.org](http://faostat.fao.org) > Data Archives > Land > Land Use; <http://faostat.fao.org/site/418/DesktopDefault.aspx?PageID=418>

<sup>2</sup> Eurostat, Agriculture & Fisheries Data, The Eurostat Homepage, Eurostat, Luxembourg, at [ec.europa.eu/eurostat/](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/) > Themes: Agriculture and Fisheries > Data > Agriculture, forestry and fisheries > Agriculture > Structure of agricultural holdings > Results of the farm structure surveys from 1990 onwards > General overview by area status > Key variables by region, agricultural area size classes and legal status; [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=0,1136206,0\\_45570467&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=0,1136206,0_45570467&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)



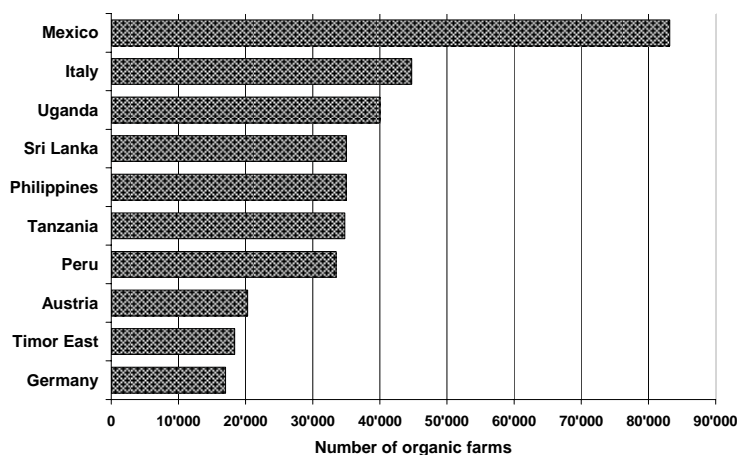
**Figure 5: The ten countries with the highest share of organic land**

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

As to the number of farms, the figures presented here have to be treated with caution, because in some countries only the number of enterprises, not the total number of farms, was included; some enterprises consist of many smallholder farms. Within the scope of this survey, it was not possible to discern the details.

According to the data obtained, the greatest number of farms is in Mexico, followed by Uganda, Italy and Sri Lanka. The small number of farms compared to the organic area in Australia is due to the fact that many farms are extensive sheep grazing farms. The figure for China – again small compared to the organic land - shows the number of enterprises but not the households involved in organic farming.

A table in the annex shows the countries of the world sorted by number of organic farms.



**Figure 6: The ten countries with the highest number of organic farms**

Source: SOEL-FIBL survey 2007

### **Results of the land use survey 2007**

#### **Data depth**

When interpreting the following data, it should always be kept in mind that detailed information on land use was not available for all countries. This means that the information presented below is far from being complete, and with the available data, the following has to be considered:

- The depth of information may differ: For some countries, only information on the main uses (arable crops, permanent crops, and permanent grassland) was available. For Australia, for instance, only permanent grassland data were available. For other countries, very detailed statistical land use information can be found; the Danish statistics list each vegetable type.
- Aggregation: In order to make data accessible the data are aggregated in many statistics. This means various crops have been put together into one group. For instance, Spain combines cereals and leguminous crops, and it is thus impossible to have a figure solely for cereals. In such cases the data available have to be classified as 'other arable crops'. In cases where arable and permanent crops were mixed, the category 'other crops' was used. As a result, a lot of information was lost due to the inability to obtain a precise breakdown of the data.
- For some countries, no land use information was available at all.

### Global land use

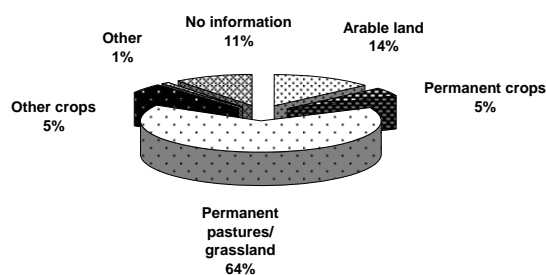
Compared to the previous survey, more land use information was available. In the 2006 survey, land use details were available for more than 16 million hectares; for the 2007 survey, land use information was available for 27 million hectares, 90 percent of organic land. It should be noted, however, that this does not mean that detailed crop information is available for every country (see table in the annex).

The table on the main land use categories and crop categories shows that more than half of the organic agricultural land for which land use information was available is used for permanent pastures/grassland. About one quarter is used for arable cropping, almost ten percent for permanent crops, followed by other crops and other land.

**Table 3: Global organic land by main land use categories**

Main category	Hectares
Arable land	4'156'754
Other	289'379
Other crops	1'550'272
Permanent crops	1'393'595
Permanent pastures/grassland	19'939'796
No information	3'228'387
Total	30'558'183

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007



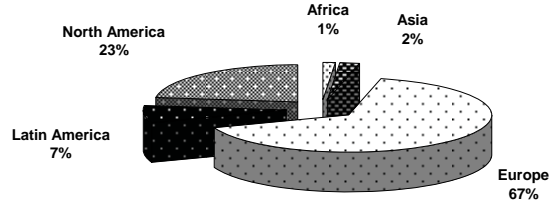
**Figure 7: Global organic land use: Global organic land use, including share of land for which no information was available**

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007



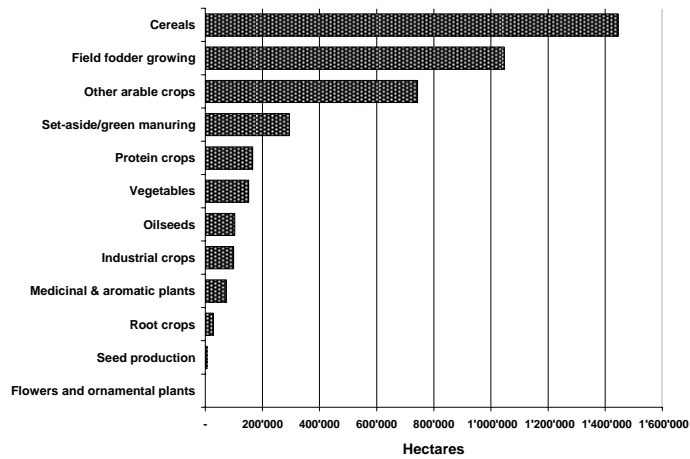
**Arable land**

On a global level, arable land accounts for more than one quarter of the organic agricultural land for which information was available – a total of 4.1 million hectares of organic arable land was covered by this survey. Most of the world’s organic arable land is in Europe, followed by North America and Asia. Most of the arable land is used for cereals, including rice, followed by field fodder crops (see graphs).



**Figure 8: Arable land by continent: The continents’ share of arable land**

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007  
Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

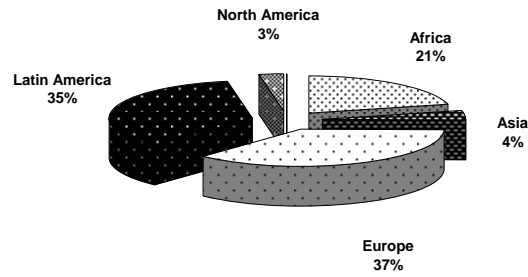


**Figure 9: Use of organic arable land (hectares)**

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007  
Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

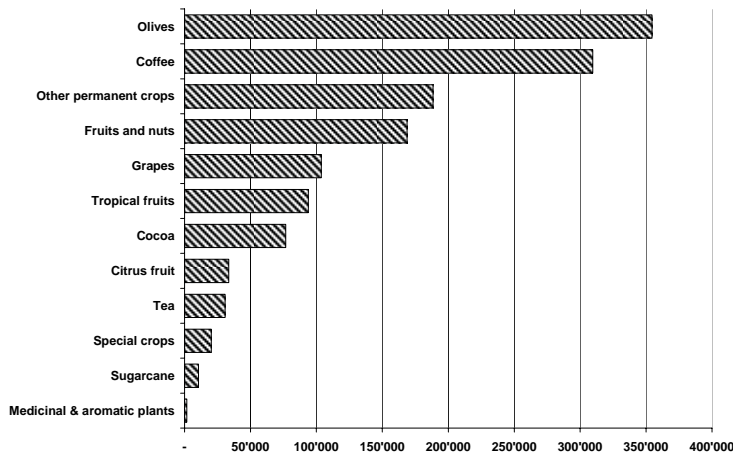
**Permanent crops**

On a global level, permanent crops account for nine percent of the organic agricultural land for which information was available (1.4 million hectares). Most of this land is in Europe, followed by Latin America and Africa. The most important crops are olives (almost a quarter of the permanent cropland) followed by coffee, fruits and nuts.



**Figure 10: Permanent crops by continent (hectares)**

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007  
Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

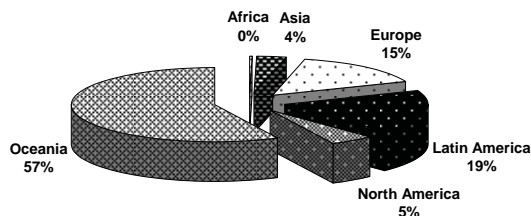


**Figure 11: Use of organic permanent cropland (hectares)**

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007  
Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

### Permanent pastures/grassland

On a global level, permanent pastures/grassland (19.8 million hectares) account for almost two third of the world's organic land. More than half of this grassland is in Australia. Furthermore, large areas of permanent pastures are in Latin America and Europe.



**Figure 12: Permanent grassland by continent (hectares)**

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

### Land use by continent

Looking at the land use at a continent level for each continent a different pattern emerges.

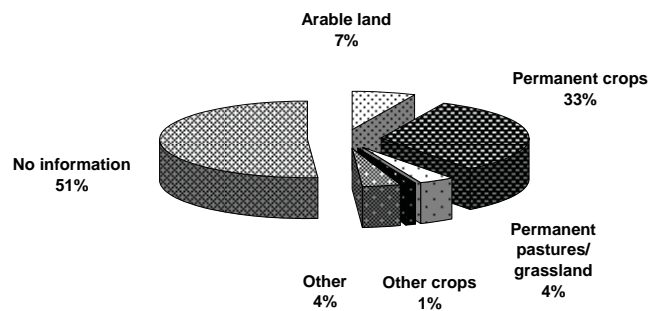
**Table 4: Organic land by main category**

Main category	Africa	Asia	Europe	Latin America	North America	Oceania	Total
Arable land	60'999	84'404	2'746'185	306'840	958'325		4'156'754
Other	37'396	990	240'462	10'531			289'379
Other crops	7'796	998'446	130'184	38'890	4'956	370'000	1'550'272
Permanent crops	292'522	59'123	512'538	488'934	40'378	100	1'393'595
Permanent pastures	35'716	710'900	2'995'695	3'776'461	991'024	11'430'000	19'939'796
No information	456'076	1'039'709	295'396	1'187'664	204'541	45'000	3'228'387
<b>Total</b>	<b>890'540</b>	<b>2'893'572</b>	<b>6'920'462</b>	<b>5'809'320</b>	<b>2'199'225</b>	<b>11'845'100</b>	<b>30'558'183</b>

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

## Africa

For Africa (almost 900'000 hectares), information covering about half of the organic agricultural land was available. Most of this land is used for permanent crops. The main permanent crops are cash crops like olives (North Africa), followed by (tropical) fruits, nuts and coffee.



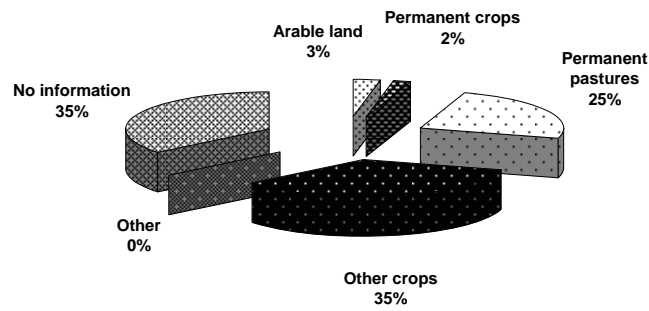
**Figure 13: Land use in organic farming in Africa**

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

## Asia

Some details are known for two thirds of the organic land in Asia (almost 2.9 million hectares). Arable land is mainly used for cereals, including rice. The most important permanent crops are coffee, fruits and nuts as well as grapes (see table in the annex). Large areas of extensive grazing land are in China.



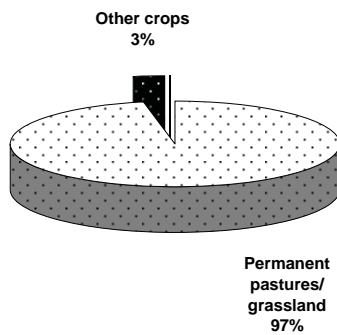
**Figure 14: Land use in organic farming in Asia**

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

*Australia/Oceania*

Most of the land in Australia is used for extensive grassland. On the remaining land no or little information is available. 100 hectares of coconuts were reported from the Fiji Islands.



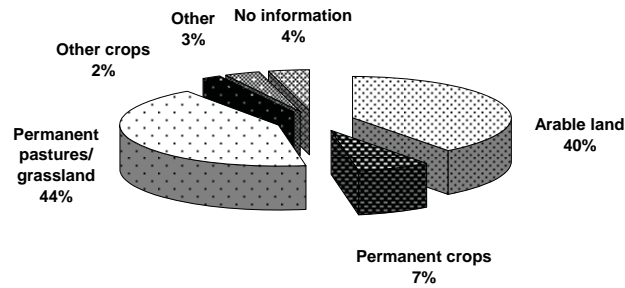
**Figure 15: Land use in organic farming in Australia/Oceania**

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

## Europe

In Europe (6.9 million hectares), the organic land uses are known to a good degree, and the main crop categories are well documented. Permanent pastures and arable land have approximately equal shares of the organic agricultural area. The main uses of the arable area include cereals, followed by the cultivation of field fodder. Permanent crops account for seven percent of organic agricultural land. More than half of this land is used for olives, followed by fruits, nuts, and by grapes.



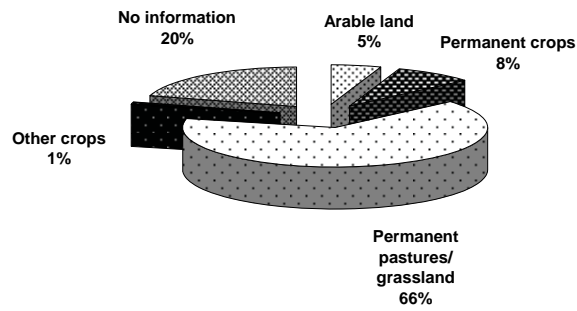
**Figure 16: Land use in organic farming in Europe**

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

## Latin America

For Latin America, (5.8 million hectares) most of the organic land, for which information was available, is permanent pasture. Permanent crops account for about eight percent of the agricultural area. The main crops are coffee, fruits, nuts and cocoa.



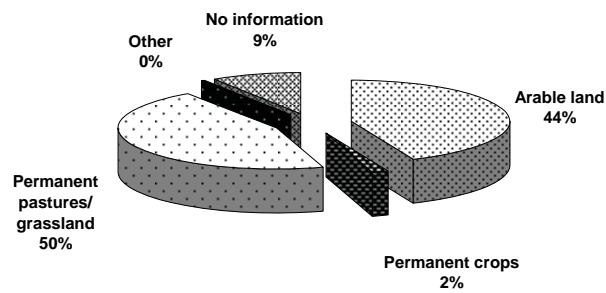
**Figure 17: Land use in organic farming in Latin America**

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

**North America**

In North America, crop information was available for most of the the land. Like in Europe, arable land and permanent grassland have almost equal shares. Most of the arable land is used for cereal production.



**Figure 18: Land use in organic farming in North America**

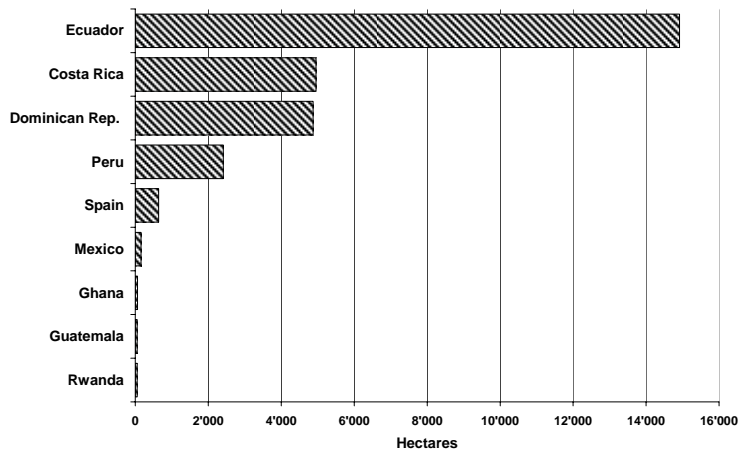
Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

### Statistics on important crops (graphs)

In this chapter, graphs showing the importance of major crops by country are presented: Banana, cereals, citrus fruit, cocoa, coffee, cotton, grapes, permanent pastures/grassland, olives, rice, tropical fruit, and wheat.

Please note that in the 2006 edition of 'The World of Organic Agriculture' detailed information is available on the following crops: Cocoa, coffee, cotton and grapes.

It should be noted that for many countries crop data are not available.



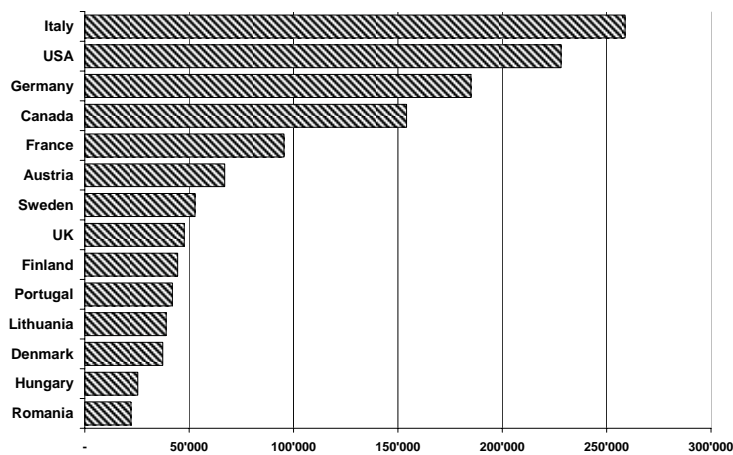
**Figure 19: Organic banana production (hectares)**

The most important countries according to the global organic survey 2007 (only countries with more than 50 hectares of bananas).

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.



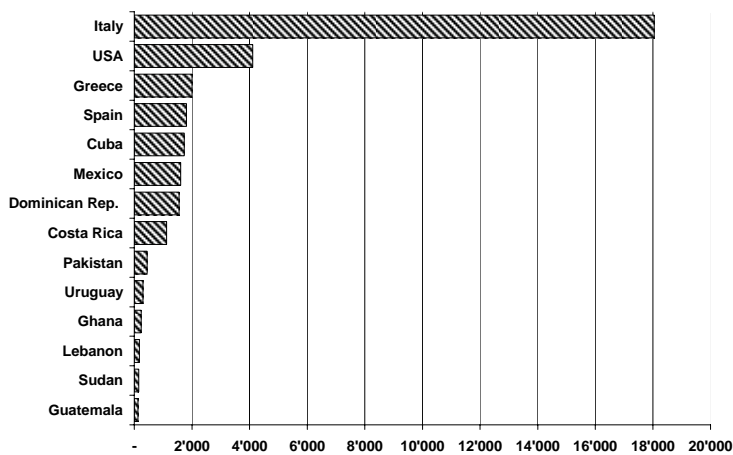


**Figure 20: Organic cereal production (hectares)**

The most important countries according to the global organic survey 2007 (only countries with more than 20'000 hectares of cereals).

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

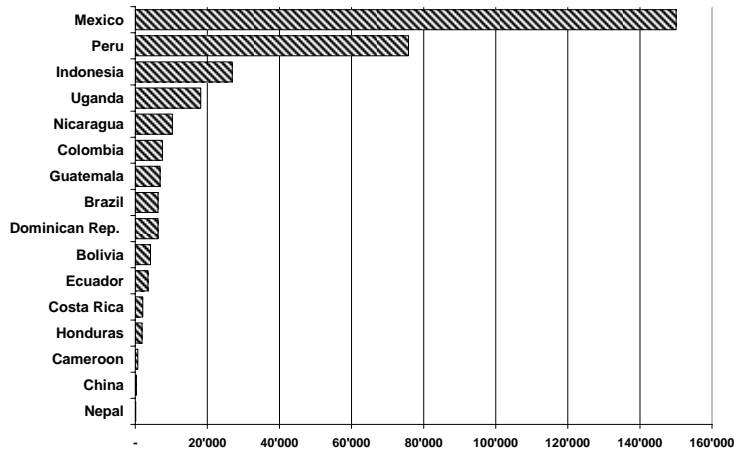


**Figure 21: Organic citrus fruit production (hectares)**

The most important countries according to the global organic survey 2007 (only countries with more than 100 hectares of citrus fruit).

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

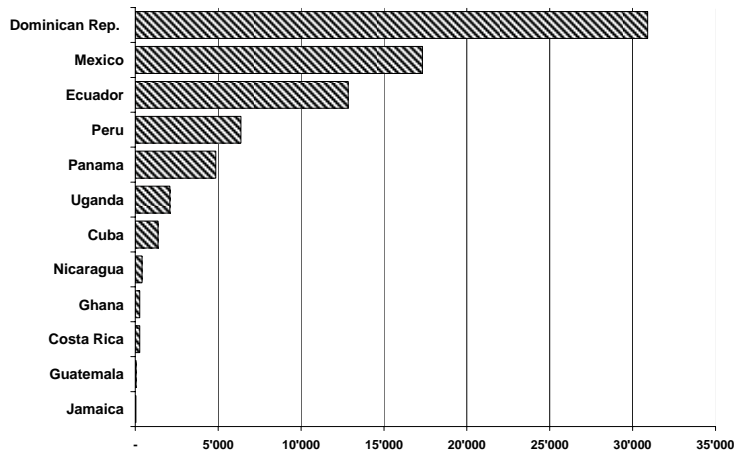


**Figure 22: Organic coffee production (hectares)**

The most important countries according to the global organic survey 2007 (only countries with more than 100 hectares of coffee)

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

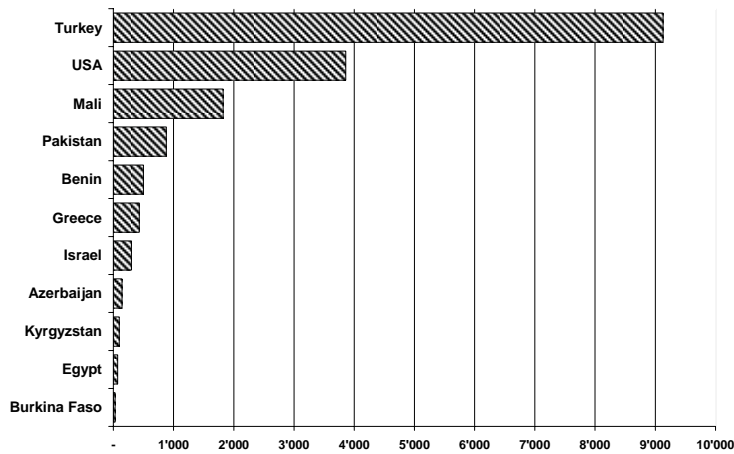


**Figure 23: Organic cocoa production (hectares)**

The most important countries according to the global organic survey 2007

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

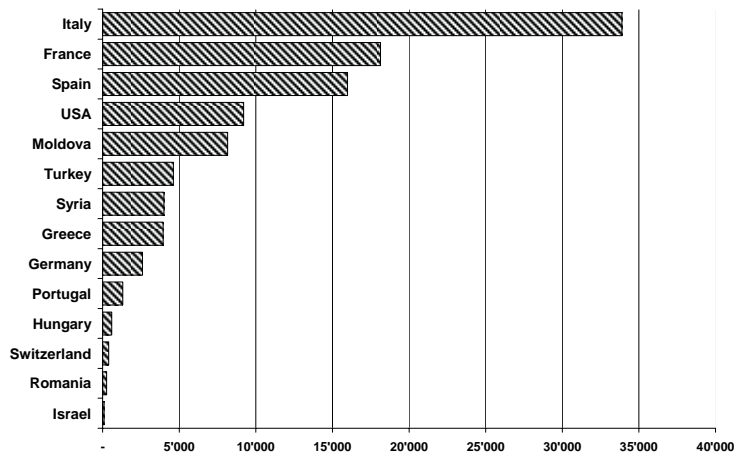


**Figure 24: Organic cotton production (hectares)**

The most important countries according to the global organic survey 2007

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

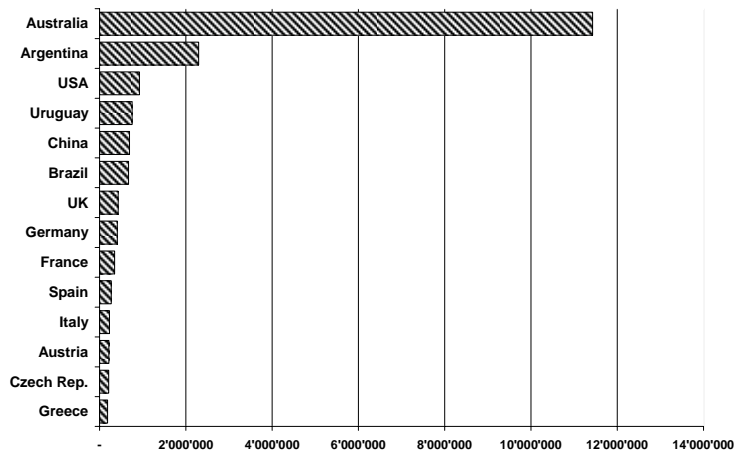


**Figure 25: Organic grape production (hectares)**

The most important countries according to the global organic survey 2007 (only countries with more than 100 hectares of grapes).

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

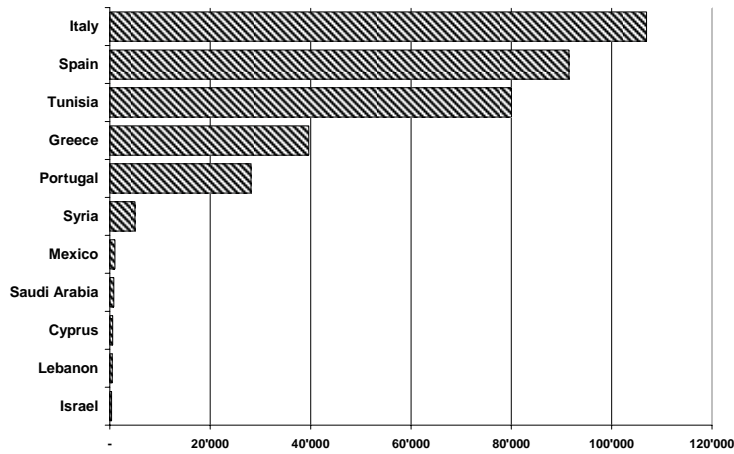


**Figure 26: Organic permanent grassland (hectares)**

Countries with major areas of organic permanent pastures/grassland according to the global organic survey 2007 (only countries with more than 100'000 hectares of grassland)

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

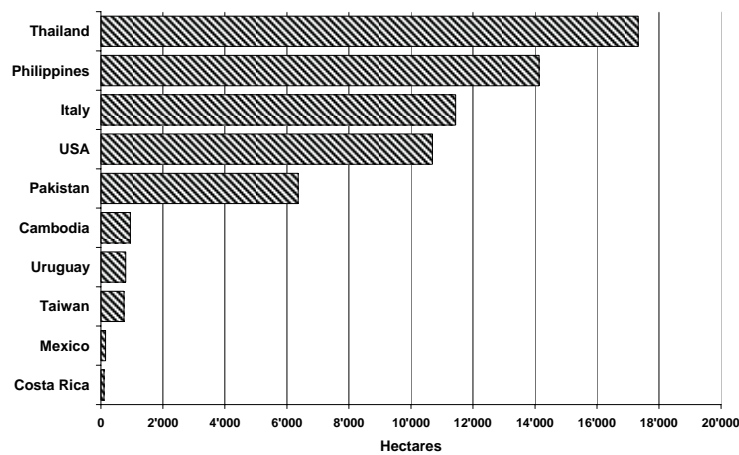


**Figure 27: Organic olive production (hectares)**

The most important countries according to the global organic survey 2007 (only countries with more than 100 hectares of olives)

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

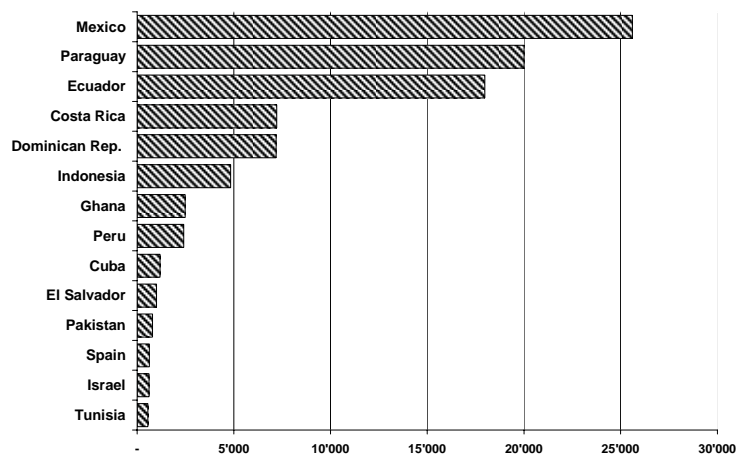


**Figure 28: Organic rice production (hectares)**

The most important countries according to the global organic survey 2007 (only countries with more than 100 hectares of rice)

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

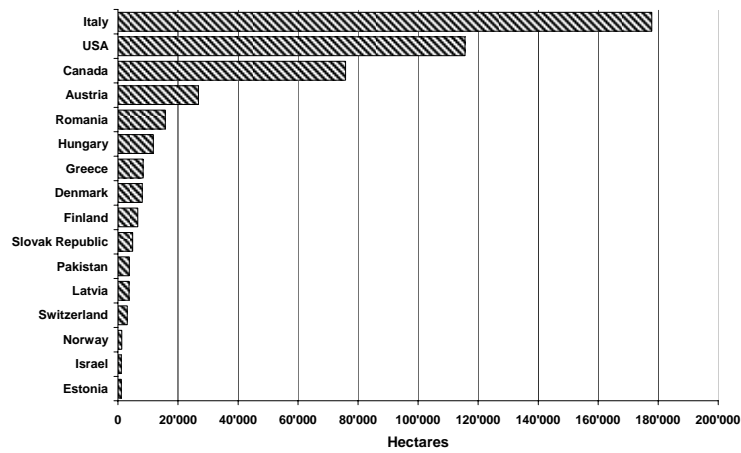


**Figure 29: Organic tropical fruit production (hectares)**

The most important countries according to the global organic survey 2007 (only countries with more than 100 hectares of tropical fruits)

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.



**Figure 30: Organic wheat and spelt production (hectares)**

The most important countries according to the global organic survey 2007 (only countries with more than 1'000 hectares of wheat and spelt)

Source: SOEL-FiBL survey 2007

Please note: information on land use, crop categories and crops was not available for all countries.

### Further reading

- Baraibar, Bárbara (2006) Organic Coffee. In Willer/Yussefi 2006, Statistics and Emerging Trends. IFOAM, Bonn, Germany. pp 52-54, <http://orgprints.org/5161/>
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