Facts and figures from the French organic observatory

Experience gained from the OrganicDataNetwork case studies

Nathalie RISON ALABERT
Agence Bio - France
What is Agence Bio?

- The French Agency for Development and Promotion of Organic Farming is a national organic exchange platform created in November 2001
- Members:
  - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
  - Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy
  - National Federation of Organic Farming
  - Permanent Assembly of French Chambers of Agriculture
  - French Organic Trade Association
  - Federation of agricultural Co-operatives
Organisation

Agence Bio works closely with partners who contribute to develop organic farming: public, professional and inter-professional organisations, research bodies, organic sales departments, environmental organisations and consumers associations and a special group for public catering.

National Organic Observatory

Organic Network & Markets

Land & Environment

Communication

+ Organic Operators Notification and Directory

+ AB Mark Monitoring when used for Communication

4 interdependant working groups at Agence Bio
Between 2007 and 2014, the organic sector doubled.
THE FRENCH ORGANIC SECTOR TODAY

In 2014

- 26 000 organic farms (5.5% of French farms)
- 13 000 organic processors and retailers
- More than 1 000 000 ha organically managed land (4% of the agricultural area)
- A market approaching 5 billion euros (2.6% of French consumption)
A market of more than 4.5 billion € in 2013

- A market almost multiplied by 3 in 8 years
- 2.5% of the food market in 2013
- A diversity of the distribution channels
- An increasing market in catering

Evolution of the sales of organic food by distribution channels between 2005 and 2013 (in million €)

A diversity of the organic products consumed in France

Distribution of sales of organic food by category in 2013 (in the whole market and in value)

- meat (beef, veal, pork and mutton) 7%
- poultry 3%
- "charcuterie" and "salaison" 2%
- sea products 2%
- other delicatessen products and frozen products 4%
- fruits and vegetables 16%
- wine 12%
- other drinks 5%
- bread and flour 8%
- milk and dairy products 14%
- eggs 6%
- grocery 21%

HOW TO IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION ON IMPORT/EXPORT (PART OF THE FRENCH CASE STUDY)

• Before 2014: data collection only through surveys of importers/exporters

• Since 2014: additional data collection from the French Customs on volume and value of all organic products directly imported from third countries (use of national R058 code – equivalent of EU C644 code)

• No data concerning intra EU exchange due to:
  ○ high levels of declaration exemptions (until 460,000 € in France)
  ○ no identification of organic products

• Possible improvements at EU level if (cf OrganicDataNetwork statement):
  ○ use of C644/national code for import/export and/or
  ○ additional codification (TARIC code) for organic products – but still exemptions are problematic in intra EU trade
  ○ general survey approach
Thanks for your attention
For more information: www.agencebio.org

Meet us at Biofach or on the International Agriculture Show in Paris from 21th February 22 to 1st March (International Organic Seminar on the 26)!