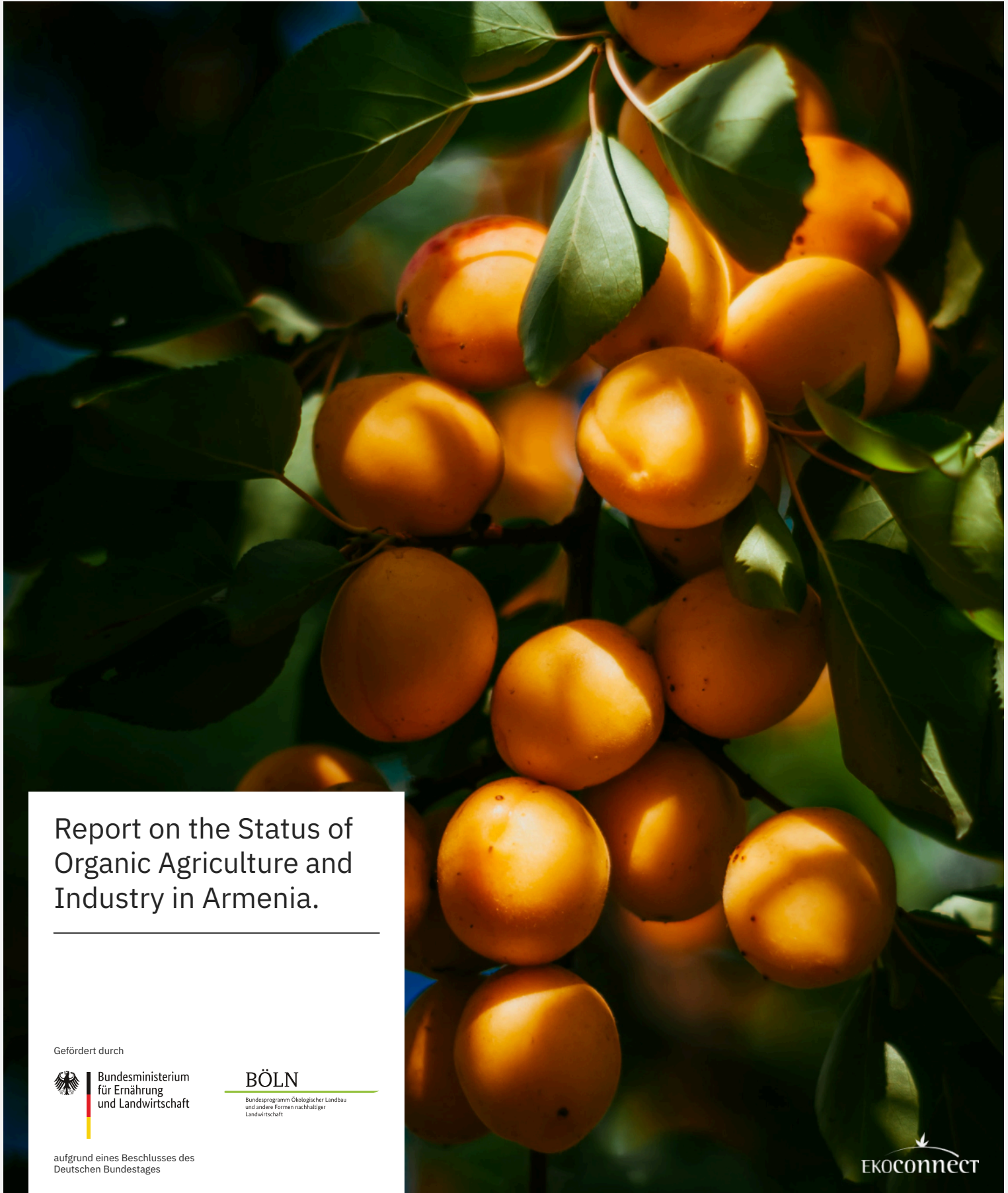


# ARMENIA



## Report on the Status of Organic Agriculture and Industry in Armenia.

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Gefördert durch



Bundesministerium  
für Ernährung  
und Landwirtschaft

**BÖLN**

Bundesprogramm Ökologischer Landbau  
und andere Formen nachhaltiger  
Landwirtschaft

aufgrund eines Beschlusses des  
Deutschen Bundestages

# Imprint

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## Disclaimer

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This report has been prepared to the best of our knowledge and belief. We cannot however accept any guarantee for the accuracy, correctness or completeness of the information and data provided.

# Acknowledgement

Before the report begins, we would first like to thank all the people without whom the production of this work would not have been possible.

Our thanks go to Dr. Nune Darbinyan and Filip Ashikyan, head of the inspection body Ecoglobe LLC. They organised the interview partners and visits to the Armenian organic farms for us. The organisation was perfect. They also gave us comprehensive information about organic farming in Armenia and answered all our questions.

We would also like to thank TSIRANI AYGI LLC, “Antaram” PC, Vahram Ghazaryan Farm for giving us an insight into their farming practices. Thank you very much for taking the time to show us around and for giving us such a warm welcome.

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# General

## Map

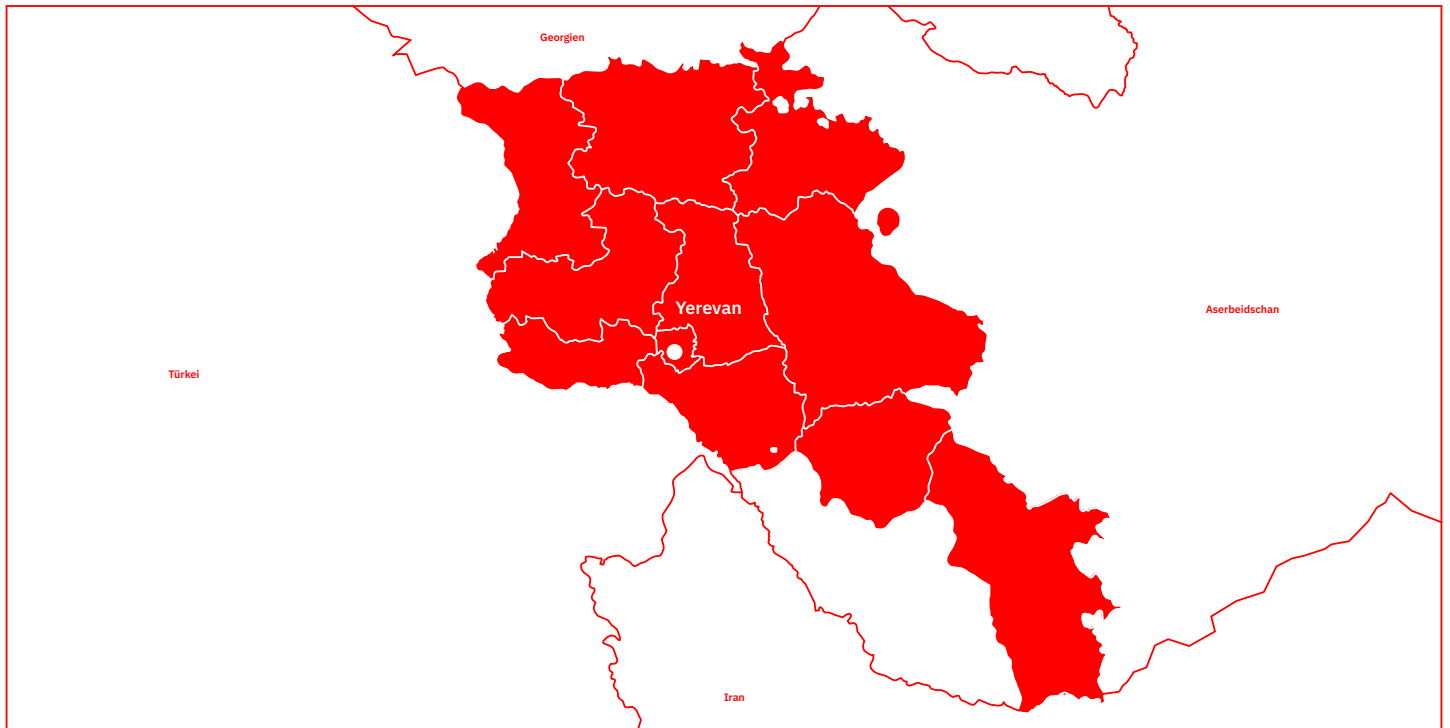


Figure 1: Map of Armenia

## Country statistics

**29,800** km<sup>2</sup>

Land area

**3.0** mil.

Population

**104** inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>

Population density

**Armenian, Russian, English**

Business languages

**8,782** USD

Gross domestic product

**13.3** %

Share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in GDP

**Dram** (1 dram = 100 luma)

Currency

# Climate and Soil

The Republic of Armenia is a landlocked country located in the north-eastern part of the Armenian Highlands in Western Asia, between Central Asia and the Caucasus. The country has an area of about 30 thousand square kilometres. It borders Georgia to the north, Azerbaijan to the east, Turkey to the west and Iran to the south.

Armenia is a mountainous country, ranging from 375 m to 4,090 m above sea level. The average altitude is 1,800 m. Three-quarters of the country lies at the altitude of 1,000 to 2,500 m above sea level. About one third of the territory of the republic consists of mountains and plateaus. The lowest point is the bottom of the Debed River. The highest point is the peak of Mount Aragatz.

The climate in Armenia is very dry. Annual precipitation averages 592 mm. Annual precipitation varies over a wide range from 200 mm in the dry areas to 1,000 mm and more in the highlands. The highest rainfall is observed in high mountain wetlands. They range from 800 mm to 1100 mm. The main rainfall season is from May to June. In the Ararat Valley and Syunik lowlands, the annual rainfall reaches 200–250 mm. In the summer months, however, precipitation in the lowlands is very low. The rainy season here is observed from April to May.

Like the distribution of the rain, the snowfall is also uneven. In the Ararat Valley, only little snow falls. The highlands, on the other hand, are covered by a stable blanket of snow for 5 to 6 months. Its height can be up to 2 metres.

The long-term average temperature in Armenia is 5.5 °C. In the highlands, the average temperature in June to August is 10°C, while in the lower regions it is 24 to 26°C. The average temperature in January depends on the altitude of the place. It varies between -13°C and +1°C.

The diversity of the geology and the various altitudes explains the diversity of species. Among them are many endemic species.



Figure 2: First snow in October at Lake Sevan with wild collection areas

# Flora and Fauna

More than 3500 plant species can be found in Armenia, which is one of the highest species densities in the world given the size of the country. Archaeological excavations show that apricots were already cultivated in Armenia 4000 years before Christ. The Latin name *Prunus armeniaca* also suggests that the apricot originated in Armenia. Translated, *Prunus armeniaca* means Armenian plum.



Figure 3: Armenian apricots

# Political Situation

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The country of Armenia has a very old history reaching deep into pre-Christian times. In recent history, Armenians have suffered great injustice.

To better understand the country's situation, here is a brief outline of recent history.

A genocide was committed against the Armenians at the beginning of the 20th century. Shortly before or during the First World War, it is estimated that up to 1.5 million people were murdered by the rulers of the Ottoman Empire, the forerunner of today's Turkey. The people of Armenia still suffer from this injustice today. In December 1922, Armenia formed the Transcaucasian Soviet Republic together with Georgia and Azerbaijan. In the same month, it was united with other Soviet republics to form

the Soviet Union. Already at that time a conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region began with Azerbaijan. This region is mainly populated by Armenians. However, both countries claim ownership of it. This dispute continues to this day. Armenia was one of the first countries to leave the Soviet Union and founded the Republic of Armenia. Armenia still maintains good relations with Russia. The country depends on energy supplies as well as on Russia's military support. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, attempts were quickly made to establish a market economy. Thus, already in the early 1990s, about 80 % of the agricultural land was privatised. About 350,000 privately run family farms were established. The average farm size is 0.5 to 1 hectare.

# Trade Relations Eurasian Economic Union

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The Republic of Armenia has been a member of the **Eurasian Economic Union** since 2015.

The Eurasian Economic Union is an association of former Soviet countries. The idea was conceived by former Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev in 1994, and Russia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan formed the Community of Integrated States in 1996, joined by Tajikistan in 1999. In autumn 2000, efforts towards economic integration were intensified by reducing trade barriers, tariffs and commitments to economic cooperation, and the Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC) was formed.

However, it took another decade before an actual customs union was created between Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia. To regulate this customs union, which was created in 2012, the member states appointed the Eurasian Economic Commission, which continues to regulate today.

In the following years, other important points of contention, such as the distribution of energy and car in-

dustry tariffs between the countries, were settled. This paved the way for the creation of the Eurasian Economic Union, which began its work on 1 January 2015. Already on 2 January 2015, the Republic of Armenia joined this economic union. In May of the same year, Kyrgyzstan also joined.

To date, further free trade agreements have been signed with Singapore, Vietnam, Iran and Serbia. The countries of Moldova, Cuba and Uzbekistan have observer status in the Eurasian Economic Union.

The countries of the Eurasian Economic Union recognise the respective national organic labels among themselves. This means that goods that are only certified according to the Armenian organic standard can be marketed as organic goods in Russia without any problems. The Eurasian Economic Union plans to strengthen the internal market for organic products. By 2025, the Commission wants to strengthen the framework conditions for organic farming and investigate export opportunities to third countries. (Pöhlmann, 2021) .

# EU Trade Agreement with Armenia

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The basis for the EU's relations with Armenia is the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA). This agreement replaces the 1999 Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. The agreement has been provisionally applied since 1 June 2018 and entered into force on 1 March 2021.

The agreement strengthens cooperation between the EU and Armenia in the following areas:

- Strengthening democracy, the rule of law and human rights,
- Job creation and business opportunities,

- Improving legislation and public safety,
- Environmental protection,
- Promoting education and research opportunities (↪).

The agreement is very similar to an association agreement with the European Union that was negotiated until 2013. However, due to the Republic of Armenia's entry into the Eurasian Economic Union, a free trade agreement could not be established. However, alignment with the EU's system of standards and regulations is to take place in order to allow trade and investment (↪).

## Info

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### Eurasian Economic Union



<http://www.eurasiancommission.org>

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### EAWU news



<http://eawu.news/>

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# The Armenian Eco-Sector

The Armenian organic sector is characterised by a very good control and advisory system. Unfortunately, however, access to markets is lacking.

## History

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, attempts were quickly made to establish a market economy.

A pioneer in promoting organic farming methods in Armenia is the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Shen. In 2000, Shen began to promote the development of organic farming with the support of HEKS-EPER (aid organisation of the Protestant Church in Switzerland). Knowledge about organic farming was imparted to interested farmers.

The main objectives of the project were:

- Establishment of an advisory group for organic farming
- Establishment of a local certification body
- Opening up new markets for organic agricultural products
- Involvement of experts and local markets
- Lobbying and advertising

After 12 years of project duration, some goals have been achieved. Organic farming has been launched. A well-functioning control system was established. Organic orchards have been established and training centres have been set up.

## National Legal Framework

The Republic of Armenia adopted a law on organic agriculture in 2008. This came into force in 2009. This makes Armenia one of the first former Soviet countries to have its own organic law.

The Law of the Republic of Armenia of 8 April 2008 No. 23-N on Organic Agriculture is based on the principles of the Codex Alimentarius. The law provides the legal framework. It regulates the production, storage, processing, transport and marketing



Figure 4: Armenian Eco Logo

of organic agricultural products and raw materials as well as the cultivation of wild plants.

In order to implement the Law of the Republic of Armenia **On Organic Agriculture**, the following government decrees were adopted:

- No. 662-H (2009) On organic farming, organic plant and animal husbandry, processing, packaging, transport, marketing and labelling of organic products.
- No. 451-H (2009), Lists of substances whose use is permitted and conditionally permitted and which describes the procedure for the use of each permitted and conditionally permitted substance to improve yields, optimise soil structure and plant protection
- No. 256-N of 1 November 2016. List of pesticides and agrochemicals authorised in the Republic of Armenia;
- No. 530-H (2010), List of organic and inorganic toxic and undesirable substances permitted in feed production and the maximum permissible amounts;
- No. 1688-N (2012), Requirements for organic food imports including the form of the required documents for imported organic products;
- No. 704-H (2009), which approves the national organic label for certified organic products and defines the procedure for issuing the certificate of conformity in the field of organic agriculture.

## Green Caucasus

Green Caucasus is a certification and quality system established by two independent private companies. The Armenian inspection body **ECOGLOBE LLC** and the Georgian **CAUCASCERT Ltd** jointly developed and operate Green Caucasus. The Green Caucasus Organic Standard is the central component of the protected trademark **Green Caucasus**. The Green Caucasus Standard can be found here ([↪](#)).

The Green Caucasus Standard is regularly audited for equivalence with the EU Organic Regulation. It is also recognised by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia.

The standard is constantly adapted to changes in European organic legislation and the Law on Organic Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia. It is considered equivalent by the European Union. Products certified according to the Green Caucasus standard can be marketed as organic in the European market, Switzerland, Armenia and other countries.

## Associations and Organisations

The **NGO Shen** was founded in 1988 by a group of professors and students from the Polytechnic Institute in Yerevan. Their intention was to solve some of Armenia's humanitarian problems.

Since that time, Shen has been involved as an NGO in development work in over 350 rural communities in Armenia. Almost all means of rural development have been used, such as:

- Humanitarian aid;
- Holistic approach to rural development;
- Rebuilding physical and social infrastructure in rural communities;
- Asset-based community development;
- Value chain development;
- Development of agricultural cooperatives.

As mentioned above, the NGO Shen has a focus on organic farming. More information on the NGO's activities and events can be found here ([↪](#)).

**Organic Armenia** is a network of farmers, producers/manufacturers, processors, political leaders, educators and food lovers with the aim of promoting organic food processing, sustainable agriculture and a clean environment in Armenia. They develop and support the distribution of locally produced food in Armenia and abroad. The website of the association provides an overview of the products and information on certification and contact addresses ([↪](#)).

## Info

### NGO Shen

- 110 Nalbandyan Str.,  
Yerevan 0001, Armenia
- Tel.: +374 (10) 567031

<https://www.shen.am/>



## Control Bodies

A private certification body exists in Armenia. The inspection body **Ecoglobe LLC** was founded in 2002 by Dr. Nune Darbinyan. The inspection body advised the Armenian Ministry of Agriculture on the creation of the national standard. Ecoglobe LLC is accredited by the German Accreditation Body (Dakks). The specially developed private Green Caucasus organic standard has been recognised as equivalent by the European Union and Switzerland. Since 2009, Ecoglobe LLC has also offered certification according to the North American Organic Standard NOP.

For farms certified according to the North American Organic Standard NOP, there is an online database with search and filter functions, so that, for example, all farms with their inspection body for Armenia are displayed (↪).

Ecoglobe LLC has its offices in Yerevan and employs 5 permanent staff supported by freelancers. The inspection body is active in other countries, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Iran, among others.

A list of currently approved inspection bodies in third countries can be found in Annex IV of the EU legislation (↪). There, for each inspection body, it is tabulated for which inspection area in which countries under which inspection body code an approval exists. In Armenia, however, only Ecoglobe LLC is active.



Figure 5: Nune Darbinyan, founder of the Ecoglobe inspection body.

## Teaching and Research

Das **International Center for Agribusiness Research and Education** (ICARE) is a research and educational institution in the Armenian agricultural sector.

In 2019, it founded the Eco Farm near Yerevan. The educational guiding principle “Learning by Doing” was taken to heart. This innovative educational approach aims to show students, agricultural entrepreneurs, farmers and other participants that environmentally conscious farming promotes a healthy lifestyle and appreciation of nature.

The Master’s Programme in **Organic Agriculture** of the **Armenian National Agricultural University** was developed in cooperation with the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna, the National Agricultural University of Armenia, the ICARE Foundation and representatives of organic agriculture. The Master’s programme is a full-time programme of 120 credits, based on the defence of the final Master’s thesis and the degree of Master of Agriculture.

## Info

### Organic Armenia Agricultural Association NGO



- Ed. Petrosyan 1/29/10,  
Abovyan city, 2201 Armenia
- Tel.: +37493 00 66 56

<http://organicarmenia.bio/en>

### Ecoglobe LLC



- 80 Arami street, 4th floor,  
Yerevan 0002, Armenia
- Tel.: +37499221295

<https://www.ecoglobe.com/>

### (ICARE)

- 74 Teryan Street,  
0009 Yerevan, Armenia
- Tel.: (37498) 33-45-65,  
(37410) 58-79-57,  
(37410) 56-96-70

<https://icare.am/>



The **training centre SHEN NGO** in Akunq Municipality, Kotayq Marz offers Armenian farmers a wide range of information related to organic fruit and vegetable production free of charge and was set up by Shen. Organic and ecological farming methods are presented and tested, as well as the efficient use of technology. When the National Agrarian University of Armenia introduced the master's degree programme in organic agriculture, the board of Shen NGO, with the approval of the United Nations Global Environment Fund, donated the training centre to the university. However, conditions were set that it would be run as a certified organic farming demonstration and training centre and that Shen NGO would be allowed to continue providing free training and advice to organic farmers.

## Supporters of Organic Farming

Since the beginning of the 2000s, various aid organisations have been active in Armenia. They are supported by Armenian organisations active in organic agriculture, such as the aforementioned NGO Shen and the ICARE Centre.

The **Austrian Development Agency** is particularly active in supporting organic agriculture in Armenia. It initiated the Organic Agriculture Support Initiative (Oasis) project between 2015 and 2019.



Figure 6: Ecological fruit orchard supported by the Austrian Development Agency.

The **Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)** has an office in Yerevan. It has been involved in nature conservation in Armenia since 2001. Together with ACBA Bank, they give financial support to organic farms for certification costs. They are also involved in other organic farming projects in Armenia.

The **German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)** has been active in Armenia since 1990. It has had an office in Yerevan since 2002. In Armenia, in addition to regional programmes for economic promotion, legal and judicial reform advice and the promotion of municipal development, it also implements sustainable management programmes in the South Caucasus for the conservation of biodiversity.

## Info

### ARMENIAN NATIONAL AGRARIAN UNIVERSITY



- Teryan 74, Yerevan
- Tel.: (+374 10) 52 45 41

<https://anau.am/ru/faculties/faculty-of-agronomy/building-organic-agriculture-in-armenia/>

### Austrian Development Agency



- Austrian Development Agency
- Zelinkagasse 2, 1010 Wien

<https://www.entwicklung.at/laender/suedkaukasus/armenien>

### NABU



- Isahakyan St. 18,
- Office 3, Yerevan

<https://nabu.am/en/news/156>

### German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)



- GIZ-Büro Armenien
- Hanrapetutyan Straße 59,
- Yerevan, 0010
- Tel.: +374 10 510060

<https://www.giz.de/de/weltweit/374.html>

# Production of Plant and Animal Raw Materials

Organic agriculture in the Republic of Armenia is characterised by wild collection, beekeeping and fruit growing.

## Certified Areas

In 2019, the eco-certified cultivated area of the Republic of Armenia was 594 ha. This is 0.04 % of the total cultivated area. (Willer, Schlatter, Trávníček, & Kemper, 2021).

The area used for ecological wild collection is considerably larger. It amounts to 8570 ha. The certified organic area in the Republic of Armenia has shrunk by 21 % in the last 10 years. (Willer, Schlatter, Trávníček & Kemper, 2021) .

The amount of farms that have dropped out of the procedure in 2020/21, available here: ([↪](#)), suggests that the area under cultivation will continue to decline.

The decline of the organically certified area can probably be explained by the end of the projects to promote organic farming. As the farmers cannot generate any additional yield through their organic certification and do not receive any financial support, neither from the Republic of Armenia nor from aid organisations, they drop out of the process.

In 2019, 2358 hives were certified organic in the Republic of Armenia (Willer, Schlatter, Trávníček & Kemper, 2021) .

## Organic Production

The organic certified farms in the Republic of Armenia are exclusively producers of plant products. There is no certified organic animal production so far. As in conventional agriculture, the production of fruits plays an essential role in organic farming. In Armenia apricots are the most important fruit grown after wine. According to FAO statistics, in 2019, 10363 ha of apricots were grown conventionally and organically in total. This is only 4000 ha less than wine. Pomegranates, apples, pears and plums are also grown. Furthermore, raspberries and blackberries are grown in Armenia.

Another important ecological production sector in the Republic of Armenia is wild collection. In the regions of Armenia where cultivation is not possible, plants are collected wild to make teas and medicinal products. As described above, Armenia has a rich flora. The plant parts taken from the ecologically certified wild collection areas include nettles, thyme, mint, lime blossom, sea buckthorn, liquorice, oregano, rose hips, raspberries, blackberries, cornelian cherry and sea buckthorn. Wild collection is an important source of income for the rural

population in remote areas. It allows them to earn money during the harvest months and still continue their micro-enterprises for self-sufficiency. Organic wild collection in Armenia produces very high qualities through the use of technology. Contamination, which often occurs during drying in the collectors' homes, is avoided by purchasing the fresh produce. For this purpose, cold storage cells are set up at the delivery points. The goods are handed over fresh and are then cleaned and dried in the production facility. In addition, the quality of the herbs is increased through optimal drying.



Figure 7: Collective cooling container in the winter quarters and herb washing room of the ANTARARAM company



Figure 8: Vahram Ghazaryan farm manager in the raspberry plantation

One branch of production that is also very important for the Republic of Armenia is, strictly speaking, actually to be attributed to animal husbandry, but is considered separately in the EU organic regulation. This is beekeeping. The production branch of beekeeping optimally complements the two main products. Bees are absolutely necessary to grow fruit. And the vast areas where wild collection takes place produce excellent honey due to their diverse flora.



Abbildungung 9: Large selection of organic honey in the supermarket

## Export of Raw Materials from Armenia

The export volume of organic products to Europe decreased by 70 % from 18 t in 2018 to 54 t in 2019 (Willer, Schlatter, Trávníček & Kemper, 2021).

Unfortunately, exporting raw materials from Armenia is difficult. For one thing, the country has no access to the sea. Secondly, it is surrounded by two countries which it has no economic relations with. The only export possibility is by land to the port of Porti in Georgia and then by sea to Europe. The freight costs by air are 5 times higher and are constantly rising. This makes it especially difficult to export fresh fruit. According to information from interviewed apricot producers part of the harvest is sent by plane to Russia where it is marketed organically.



Figure 10: Freshly harvested organic apricots

The organic fruits are dried. They are also processed into puree, juice or compote and then exported to Europe by larger processors.

The wild collection products do not have a high net weight, as they are marketed dried. The beekeeping products are mainly exported to North America.

The Republic of Armenia is the country with the largest diaspora in the world. This means that more Armenians live in other countries than in Armenia itself. Since a large proportion of Armenians live in North America, there is also a strong demand there for Armenian organically produced products. Armenian honey is particularly sought after there.



Figure 11: Armenian organic honey for the American market

## Import of Organic Products to Armenia

The import of organic raw materials from the EU to Armenia is negligible. This is due to the fact that in Armenia mainly home-grown products are simply processed. The main processing in Armenia is in the area of fruit production. This mainly requires sugar. In Europe, sugar is produced from beet. Organic beet sugar is also a very scarce product in Europe. Therefore, in the Republic of Armenia, South American organic cane sugar is used to produce juices and compotes. This may then also be used in organic beekeeping to feed the bees.

From the other countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, above all Russia, mainly eco-vodka is imported.



Figure 12: Armenian pomegranate juice left organic, right GMO free

## Processing and Trade of Organic Products

Organic food processing in Armenia mainly consists of processing fruits and herbs. The aim is to preserve these products in order to market them worldwide. The organic fruits grown are processed into juice and compote. They are also used to make puree, which is sold for further processing.

The collected herbs are dried, blended and packaged. They are marketed as tea bags, loose herbs and blends.

In the Eurasian Economic Union, people seem to like to consume organically certified alcohol. That is why there are a lot of organic distilleries in Russia. This trend is now also emerging in Armenia, where 2 distilleries are in the process of converting to organic farming. Alcoholic beverages and brandy are Armenia's main exports.



Figure 13: Organic herbal tea from Armenia

# The Organic Market in Armenia

In contrast to Europe, there is still a lot of subsistence farming and self-marketing in Armenia. A large part of products is sold at markets and on the street.

To understand the organic market in the Republic of Armenia, one should first look at the general marketing structure in Armenia. In contrast to Europe, there is still a lot of subsistence farming and self-marketing in Armenia. Of course, there are some larger supermarkets in Armenia. However, most of the products are sold at markets and on the street. When looking at the Armenian organic market, it must first of all be pointed out that a large part of the population lives below the poverty line, in rural areas some of them even in extreme poverty. The pandemic, the war and the muddled foreign policy situation are reasons for this.

In Armenia's capital Yerevan, there is an organic shop that also has an online shop. In the **organic shop Green Day** you can buy Armenian juices, honey and teas in organic quality. In addition, the shop markets the entire dry assortment, which is imported from Europe.

The French supermarket chain Carrefour also has some shops in Armenia. Organic food is also marketed here. Most of the goods are imported from France. For example, you can buy organic apricot jam made in France, which is questionable considering the wonderful quality of apricots in their own country.

In addition to the imported European goods, Russian organic goods are also on the shelves. Here again, the organic certified spirits catch the eye. There is a large selection of spirits, but organic eggs and dairy products are missing. These are not available in organic quality in Armenia. So the basic food needs cannot be met in organic quality. Thus, one can say that there is no organic market in Armenia.

## Info

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### Green Day Organic Store

- Azatutyan 1/21,  
0037 Yerevan
- Tel.: (374 10) 25-00-25

<http://www.greenday.am>

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# Potentials

The organic products that Armenia produces, namely fruit, honey and herbs, are currently in great demand worldwide. Due to the pandemic, the demand for medicinal herbs has increased enormously. Honey is also in high demand as a healthy sweetener.

Armenian food enjoys the reputation of being a top product in the countries of the former Soviet Union. “Armjanski Cognac” was the luxury product par excellence during the Soviet era. As mentioned earlier, there is a very large diaspora living all over the world. Most Armenians are found in North America and in Russia. With the creation of the Eurasian Economic Union, food trade will probably take place mainly on the Eurasian market in the future. Here, too, the demand for organic food is constantly increasing.

The hope of the organic Vahram Ghazaryan Farm lies in the cultivation of rose blossoms for the production of rose oil for perfume or cosmetics. The family has been growing roses organically for some time. Until now, the farm has specialised in growing berries, but this requires a lot of manual labour. In Armenia, just like in Germany, it is difficult to find employees who enjoy working in agriculture.

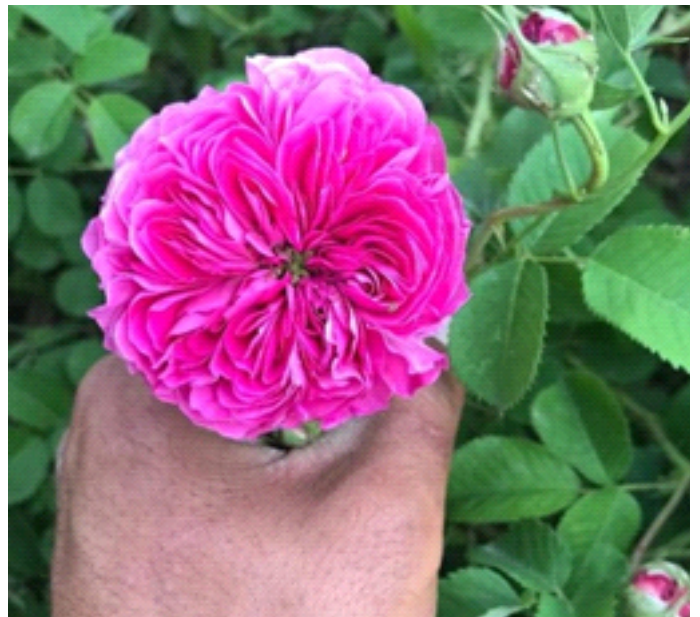


Figure 14: Organic rose blossom

# Conclusion

The main problem of organic farming in Armenia is marketing. Very valuable and and high-quality products are produced, which are difficult to market.

The development aid provided over the last 20 years laid the foundations for organic farming in Armenia. Organic control works excellently in Armenia. The country is not on the European Union's negative list of importing countries. With the Green Caucasus Standard, the country even has its own organic standard recognised by the European Union, in addition to Armenia's own standard. Food monitoring also ensures that there are no falsely declared organic products or pseudo-organic products on the supermarket shelves.

The country also has no lack of expertise in cultivation methods and certification. A broad network of advisory services has been established thanks to development aid and, of course, the commitment of the Armenians.

The newly established degree programme in organic agriculture at the University of Yerevan will train more experts in the field.

The main problem of organic farming in Armenia is marketing. Very valuable and high-quality products are produced, which are then difficult to market. On the one hand, because a large part of the population simply cannot afford organic products, and on the other hand, because export to Europe is difficult. Another disadvantage of the farms is that they sometimes produce quite small batches that are not large enough to be marketed in the Carrefour supermarkets mentioned above.

Urgent action is needed to stop the further decline of organic farms in Armenia. Certified organic farms need continued financial support to maintain organic certification. Meanwhile, outlets need to be sought urgently. Perhaps it would be a possibility to market the products produced in Armenia bundled under an umbrella brand such as Organic Armenia. This would make it possible to export larger quantities and thus save freight and advertising costs abroad.



Abbildung 15: Armenian stand at Biofach 2019

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