

The World of Organic Agriculture 2025: Summary

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The latest global organic agriculture data for 2023 reveal steady progress. Organic farmland expanded to nearly 99 million hectares, with notable increases in Latin America, Europe, and Africa, while North America and Oceania reported slight declines. However, the number of organic producers decreased by over 4 percent, driven by reductions in India and Thailand. On the trade front, organic exports to the USA surged, while EU imports saw a decline. Despite economic pressures and challenges, global retail sales of organic products grew to over 136 billion euros.

Statistics on organic area

Nearly 99 million hectares of organic farmland

In 2023, almost 98.9 million hectares of agricultural land were organic (including in-conversion areas).

The regions with the largest organic agricultural land areas were Oceania (53.2 million hectares – comprising more than half of the world’s organic agricultural land, at 54 percent) and Europe (19.5 million hectares, accounting for 20 percent of global organic farmland). Latin America followed with 10.3 million hectares (10 percent), succeeded by Asia with 9.1 million hectares (9.2 percent), Africa with 3.4 million hectares (3.4 percent), and Northern America with 3.3 million hectares (3.4 percent). For details on organic areas, see chapters from page 34).

Australia has the largest area

The countries with the most organic agricultural land were Australia (53.0 million hectares), India (4.5 million hectares) and Argentina (4.0 million hectares).

Globally, 2.1 percent of the farmland is organic

In 2023, 2.1 percent of the world’s agricultural land was organic. The highest organic shares of the total agricultural land, by region, were in Oceania (14.1 percent) and in Europe (3.9 percent; European Union: 10.9 percent).

Liechtenstein has the highest organic share, with almost 45 percent

Some countries achieve significantly higher organic shares compared to the global average. Liechtenstein (44.6 percent), Austria (27.3 percent), and Uruguay (25.4 percent)

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had the highest organic shares. Remarkably, in 22 countries, 10 percent or more of their agricultural land was organic.

Continuous growth in organic farmland – Increase of 2.5 million hectares

Organic farmland witnessed an expansion of 2.5 million hectares (2.6 percent) in 2023, with numerous countries reporting significant growth.

The largest increases in absolute terms were observed in Uruguay, China, and Spain. Uruguay's organic farmland surged by more than 831'287 hectares (+30.3 percent), while China experienced a growth of 522'267 hectares (+18 percent), and Spain saw an increase of 316'550 hectares (+11.8 percent).

Nevertheless, some countries experienced a decrease in organic farmland, with the most significant decline occurring in Canada and India, where data showed a reduction of nearly 0.28 and 0.26 million hectares, respectively.

Organic farmland expansion: Notable growth in Africa and Latin America

Africa achieved the most remarkable farmland growth, recording a 24.4 percent increase (+0.7 million hectares), making it the fourth-largest organic region globally, ahead of North America. Latin America led absolute growth (+10.8 percent, +1.0 million hectares), followed by Europe (+4.1 percent, +0.8 million hectares). Meanwhile, organic land decreased in North America (-7.7 percent, -0.3 million hectares) and Oceania (-0.02 percent, -10'123 hectares).

Consistent growth across all organic land use categories in 2023

Land use and crop details were available for over 92 percent of the organic agricultural land. However, some countries with very large organic areas, such as Brazil and India, had limited or no information on their land use (see chapter from page 53).

Grassland/grazing areas constituted more than two-thirds of the organic agricultural land, accounting for over 68.5 million hectares and experiencing a 1.2 percent increase in 2023.

Arable land, covering almost 16.2 million hectares, made up 16.3 percent of the organic agricultural land. This category reported a 6.9 percent increase since 2022 and was primarily utilized for cereals, including rice, along with green fodder from arable land, oilseeds, textile crops, and dry pulses.

Permanent crops occupied 6.8 percent of the organic agricultural land, totalling over 6.7 million hectares. Compared to the previous survey, an increase of more than 523'000 hectares or 8.5 percent was reported. The most significant crops in this category included nuts, coffee, olives, grapes, and cocoa (see chapter on land use in organic agriculture from page 53).

Further organic areas

Apart from land dedicated to organic agriculture, there are further areas of organic land dedicated to other activities. The largest parts of these are wild collection areas and beekeeping areas. Further non-agricultural areas include aquaculture, forests and grazing areas on non-agricultural land. These areas totalled 32.0 million hectares, and

all the organic areas together summed up to 130.9 million hectares (see chapter from page 59).

Opportunities and challenges in organic banana production

Bananas remain one of the most consumed fruits worldwide, valued for their affordability, convenience, and nutritional benefits. Organic banana production grew to over 100'000 hectares in 2023, with Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, and the Philippines leading. However, challenges like *Fusarium* TR4 and climate impacts threaten supply chains, particularly for the Cavendish variety, which dominates exports. Organic farming methods provide pest and disease tolerance, supported by biodiversity and reduced chemical inputs. Demand for organic and double-certified Fairtrade bananas is driving growth, with the market expected to expand by 11 percent annually to 2.71 billion US dollars by 2029. Innovations, including new supply chains for speciality varieties like baby bananas, highlight the sector's adaptability and continued relevance in global markets.

Global count of organic producers fell by 4 percent in 2023¹

In 2023, the global count of organic producers decreased to 4'332'500, representing a decline of -181'950 producers or 4.0 percent compared to the previous year. Asia continued to lead with 59.5 percent of the world's organic producers, followed by Africa at 22.4 percent, Europe at 11.4 percent, and Latin America at 5.7 percent.

The top three countries with the highest number of organic producers remained India (2'358'267), Uganda (404'246), and Thailand (31'632). However, the decline was primarily driven by significant reductions in the number of producers in India (-122'592) and Thailand (-89'917). For more information on organic operators, see page 41.

Organic exports to the USA soar by 27 percent, and EU imports decline by more than 9 percent

In 2023, the combined organic imports of the EU and the USA reached 5'243'469 metric tons (MT), reflecting a 7.1 percent increase compared to the previous year. While exports to the EU declined by 9.1 percent (from 2.73 million metric tons in 2022 to 2.48 million metric tons in 2023), exports to the USA surged by an impressive 27.4 percent (from 2.17 million metric tons in 2022 to 2.76 million metric tons in 2023). Please note that the US organic export statistics does not cover all product categories.

The top exporters were Mexico (728'632 metric tons), Ecuador (665'483 metric tons), and Peru (302'826 metric tons). Mexico recorded the highest growth in export volume, with an increase of 192'904 metric tons, followed by Canada (+99'664 metric tons) and Türkiye (+96'489 metric tons).

¹ Please note that some countries report only the numbers of companies, projects, or grower groups, which may each comprise a number of individual producers. It may be assumed that the total number of organic producers is higher than that reported here.

On the other hand, notable declines in exports were observed in Ukraine (-89'848 MT, mainly soybeans and maize), the Dominican Republic (-59'981 MT, mainly bananas), and Paraguay (-44'619 MT, mainly sugar).

The top three imported organic products were bananas (1'250'628 MT), sugar (500'733 MT), oilcakes (408'874 MT, mainly soybean oilcakes) and soybeans (383'132 MT), accounting for 49 percent of the total organic imports. The USA, the Netherlands, and Germany were the leading importers, together accounting for nearly 76 percent of all organic imports. For more information, see page 45.

The global organic market reached 136 billion euros, driven by growth in the United States, Europe and Asia

Organic food and drink sales reached 136 billion euros in 2023^{1,2} (page 48). In 2023, the countries with the largest organic markets were the United States (59'003 million euros), Germany (16'080 million euros) and China (12'648 million euros). The largest single market was the United States (43.2 percent of the global market), followed by the European Union (46'474 million euros, 34.1 percent) and China (12'648 million euros, 9.3 percent). Switzerland had the highest per-capita consumption in 2023, with 468 euros. The highest organic market shares were reached in Denmark (11.8 percent), Switzerland (11.6 percent), and Austria (11.0 percent). Several markets experienced modest growth, with Europe increasing by 3.0 percent and Asia by 2.9 percent. The world's largest market, the United States, grew by 3.4 percent. For more information, see page 48.

The global organic food and drink market grew in 2023, primarily driven by rising prices rather than increased sales volumes. North America and Europe accounted for most of the global revenues, with the U.S. leading as the largest market. Inflation and economic uncertainty have slowed growth, particularly in Europe and Canada, while emerging markets in Asia, Latin America, and Africa have expanded their roles as producers and exporters. Concerns persist over fragmented organic standards, but demand remains strong, especially among younger consumers. For more information, see the chapter by Sahota on page 102.

Statistics of the Biodynamic Federation Demeter International

The Biodynamic Federation Demeter International (BFDI) comprises 53-member organisations across 40 countries, promoting biodynamic agriculture under the Demeter brand. As of 2024, the network includes over 7'000 Demeter-certified farms spanning 260'000 hectares in 62 countries. Biodynamic viticulture is a standout sector, with 1'439 certified wineries (26'556 hectares), led by France, the USA, Chile, and Argentina. Since 2000, the number of Demeter farms has grown by 4'000, reflecting

¹ Please note that there are some differences in organic food sales figures from Ecovia Intelligence and those from FiBL due to different methodologies. According to Ecovia Intelligence, global retail sales reached over 130.4 billion euros in 2023.

² In 2023, 1.0813 US dollars corresponded to 1 euro.

rising global interest in biodynamic practices. BFDI also supports research, training, certification, marketing, and advocacy for sustainable agriculture, with recent expansions in biodynamic bananas, olive oil, and vineyards. More details are available from the contribution by Behr (page 95).

Policies, PGS and new Organic Regulation

Policies for organic farming

In their article “Policies Advancing Agroecology and Organic Agriculture in 2024”, Brahim and Figeczky show that in 2024, governments worldwide strengthened agroecology and organic farming policies, driving sustainable food systems. Europe advanced pesticide residue rules and certification frameworks under the EU Green Deal. Africa saw growing agroecology strategies, yet funding remains limited. Latin America launched ambitious national plans, while Asia prioritised climate-resilient agriculture and organic expansion. Despite progress, scaling innovation, aligning budgets, and fostering collaboration is critical for meeting sustainability goals. For more information, see the article by Brahim and Figeczky on page 108.

Global Trends in Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) 2024

In 2024, 343 Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) initiatives were identified globally, covering 1.29 million hectares. Latin America leads with 149 initiatives (43 percent of the total), while Asia hosts the largest certified area (1.2 million hectares). Africa has 53 initiatives, Europe 28, and Oceania 18, with North America having the fewest (2). Of these initiatives, 79 percent are operational, reflecting the growing global emphasis on PGS as a tool for certifying organic farming. See article from de Jorge on page 116.

EU Rules challenge smallholder farmers

The EU Organic Regulation 2018/848 replaces the equivalence system with stricter compliance rules for imports, requiring third-country producers to fully meet EU organic standards by 2024. This poses significant challenges for smallholder groups, particularly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, where many must restructure to comply. Increased costs, stricter certification, and new pesticide rules may force some farmers out of EU markets, risking supply shortages of organic coffee, cocoa, and tropical fruits.

Africa

In 2023, Africa achieved remarkable growth in organic farming, with certified organic agricultural land expanding by an impressive 24.4 percent—the highest increase among all regions. This growth added over 668'000 hectares, bringing the total to 3'403'319 hectares. The region also had almost one million producers actively engaged in organic farming, with Uganda leading in both organic land area (505'308 hectares) and the number of producers (404'246). In São Tomé and Príncipe, 22.1 percent of the country's total agricultural land is devoted to organic farming, highlighting its significant role in the sector. Africa's key organic products include oilseeds (over 92 percent were

soybeans), coffee, nuts, textile crops, cocoa, and olives, most of which are targeted for export markets. For more information about statistics in Africa, see page 157.

The African Union Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I), supported by global donors, made significant strides in 2024, reaching 2.8 million farmers, with 88.9 percent adopting ecological organic agriculture practices. It produced 55 validated knowledge products, such as manuals on soil fertility and organic standards, and established 32 Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups to promote local organic markets. The Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology (KCOA) reached 19 million farmers and value chain actors, uploaded 1'000 knowledge products in over 20 languages to its digital platform, and hosted 81 awareness events across Africa. The African Organic Network (AfrONet) hosted the Zanzibar Organic Festival, co-organized a conference on the European Union's Plant Reproductive Material regulations, and advanced preparations for the 6th African Organic Conference (AOC), scheduled for Zambia in 2026, following the successful 5th AOC in Rwanda in 2023. The Network of Organic Agriculture Researchers in Africa (NOARA) published proceedings from the 5th AOC, began biodiversity research in four countries and initiated planning for the 2nd African Organic Research Conference, set for 2025. For more updates about Africa, see the contribution by Amudavi et al., page 122.

Asia

In 2023, Asia had over 9.1 million hectares of organic agricultural land, managed by approximately 2.6 million producers, representing 59 percent of the total organic producers. India led in both organic area and the number of producers, with 4.5 million hectares and 2.4 million producers. China followed with 3.4 million hectares, while Kazakhstan ranked third with 0.2 million hectares. Timor-Leste had the highest organic area share at 9.2 percent, followed by India and Sri Lanka, both with 2.5 percent. For more information about Asian statistics, see page 157).

In 2024 and early 2025, significant progress was made in organic agriculture across Asia, driven by national and regional initiatives. China implemented over 160 new local policies to promote organic farming and issued a record 5 billion organic product labels, underscoring robust governmental support. India introduced updated organic certification standards, launched an upgraded traceability system, and announced plans for a unified, organic logo by 2025 to enhance its regulatory framework. Japan expanded certified organic land to 30'000 hectares, fuelled by mandatory certification for organic livestock and proactive local government programs in schools and communities. Indonesia initiated its first organic dairy program and promoted youth entrepreneurship in organic farming through the YESS Program. Mongolia prepared to implement its Law on Organic Products in 2025, aiming for a 5 percent organic share in agricultural output by 2030. Saudi Arabia advanced organic olive farming through integrated support systems and international partnerships. Additionally, IFOAM – Organics Asia registered as an NGO in China, launched the Dryland and Deserts Organic Agriculture Network (DOAN), and scheduled the first “Organic Festa Asia” for 2025. These initiatives highlight Asia's growing commitment to organic farming

through strong policy support, innovative programs, and international collaboration. More information is available in the chapter of IFOAM Organic Asia on page 146.

Europe

Statistics: By the end of 2023, Europe had 19.5 million hectares of organic agricultural land (EU: 17.7 million hectares) managed by 494'624 producers (EU: 434'577). Organic farmland increased by 0.77 million hectares (+4.1 percent) across Europe and by 0.62 million hectares (+3.6 percent) in the EU. Europe's organic area accounted for 3.9 percent of total farmland, with the EU's share reaching 10.9 percent. Spain (2.99 million hectares), France (2.77 million hectares), and Italy (2.46 million hectares) were the top three countries by organic area. Sixteen countries had more than 10 percent of their farmland under organic management, with Liechtenstein leading at 44.6 percent, followed by Austria (27.3 percent) and Estonia (22.9 percent). Retail sales of organic products in Europe amounted to 54'736 million euros (+3 percent), while the EU recorded sales of 46'487 million euros (+2.9 percent). Germany, France, and Switzerland remained the largest organic markets, with retail sales of 16'080 million euros, 12'081 million euros, and 4'193 million euros, respectively. See page 175 for more details.

In 2023, **imports of organic agri-food products into the EU** declined by 9.1 percent, decreasing from 2.73 million metric tons in 2022 to 2.48 million metric tons—a reduction of 247'456 metric tons. This marks the lowest level since 2018. The decline was primarily driven by reduced imports of vegetable and animal oils and fats, oilseeds, sugar, and non-tropical fruits. While imports of dry pulses, cereals, and feedstuffs increased, they were insufficient to offset the overall reduction. The decline is linked to factors such as reduced demand due to higher inflation, supply chain disruptions, climate change impacts, and shifts in consumer behaviour and market dynamics. For details, see the summary on EU organic imports on page 202.

Organic aquaculture remains a niche market despite growing consumer interest. Europe accounted for 6.7 percent of its total aquaculture, with mussels, salmon, and trout dominating production. Regulatory constraints, high costs, and limited organic inputs challenge growth. Positive consumer attitudes and demand driven by environmental and ethical concerns offer potential. To meet the EU's Farm-to-Fork goals, tailored policies, incentives, and public awareness are essential. For details, see the contribution by Lembo and Toomey on page 220.

In 2024, EU **organic policy developments** focused on imports, with four new regulations addressing the transition from equivalence to compliance for third-country operators, effective January 2025. Renegotiations of equivalence agreements with major trade partners like Argentina, Canada, and the US are underway, except for countries with existing trade deals (e.g., Chile, UK). The European Green Deal, alongside protests, shaped debates on balancing environmental goals with competitiveness. The Strategic Dialogue on EU Agriculture emphasised sustainable farming while ensuring farmer livelihoods. Thanks to the advocacy efforts of TP Organics, organic farming research advanced through Horizon Europe funding and initiatives like "A Soil Deal for Europe" and the partnership Agroecology. Events like the European Organic Congress in Hungary and TP Organics' Organic Innovation Days highlighted the

organic sector's key role in tackling climate, biodiversity, and food system challenges. However, CAP eco-schemes and national strategies showed insufficient ambition to meet the goal of converting 25 percent of EU farmland to organic by 2030. 2025 will bring pivotal policy and funding decisions for the sector. For details, see the contribution by Gernert et al. on page 165.

The European Union (EU) aims to achieve **25 percent organic farmland by 2030** under its Farm-to-Fork strategy, requiring significant growth beyond the current 10.9 percent (17 million hectares). Market and policy support are key, but challenges persist, including insufficient Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) funding and uneven national targets. Organic action plans and supply-demand policies offer potential, but stronger reforms, collaboration, and innovation are needed. The OrganicTargets4EU project explores strategies to close gaps, with results expected by 2026. Reforms in Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) and public engagement are vital. For details, see the contribution by Lampkin et al. on page 213.

Latin America and the Caribbean

In 2023, Latin America and the Caribbean reported 10.3 million hectares of organic agricultural land managed by 249'095 producers, representing 10.5 percent of the global organic area and 1.6 percent of the region's total agricultural land. Argentina led the region with 4.0 million hectares, followed by Uruguay with 3.6 million hectares and Brazil with 1.0 million hectares. Uruguay had the highest organic share of total agricultural land at 25.4 percent, followed by French Guiana with 13.0 percent and Dominica with 11.6 percent. Key organic exports from the region included bananas, coffee, tomatoes, and soybeans. The region remains a significant player in the global organic market due to its large-scale organic production and export-oriented agriculture (see chapter on statistics on page 226).

North America

In 2023, North America had 3.3 million hectares of organic agricultural land, representing 0.7 percent of the total agricultural area in the region. The United States accounted for 2.06 million hectares, while Canada had 1.29 million hectares. The organic market in North America recorded retail sales of 63'920 million euros. For details, see page 242.

United States

According to OTA's 2024 Organic Industry Survey, organic food sales in the United States reached 59'003 million euros (63.8 billion US dollars). The country had 2.06 million hectares of farmland under organic management, representing 0.5 percent of the total agricultural area.

In 2024, the U.S. organic sector navigated significant regulatory, economic, and market changes. The Strengthening Organic Enforcement rule improved fraud prevention and traceability, requiring certifications for importers/exporters and electronic import certificates. New Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards set higher animal welfare requirements, with full compliance expected by 2029. Inflation and rising costs

challenged farmers, leading to USDA initiatives like the 85 million US dollar Organic Market Development Grant and the Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program. Organic food sales hit a record 63.8 billion US dollars (59 billion euros) in 2023, driven by Millennials and Gen Z consumers who trust the USDA Organic seal. U.S. organic exports grew, supported by federal promotion funding, with demand increasing in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Despite uncertainties in the Farm Bill and political changes under a new administration, the sector showed resilience, balancing regulatory advancements with global market opportunities and continued consumer demand. For more information, see the contribution by McNeil on page 234

Canada

Canada's organic market thrived in 2023, valued at 9.01 billion CAD (€6.13 billion), with organic food and beverage sales growing by 10.1 percent since 2020 to reach 7.18 billion Canadian dollars (4.88 billion euros). Despite strong demand, certified operators fell by 2 percent to 7'558, reflecting challenges in maintaining operations. Maple production surged by 21 percent, while pastureland contracted by 29 percent. Exports reached 684.6 million Canadian dollars (465.5 million euros), with Quebec contributing 47 percent of the total, driven by a 131.9 percent increase in maple syrup exports. On the policy front, Canada revised equivalency arrangements with Japan (adding alcoholic beverages) and signed a new agreement with South Korea. Canada also piloted compliance with the USDA's stricter organic import requirements, facilitating smooth trade transitions. These efforts underscore Canada's resilience and growing role in the global organic market. For more information, see the contribution by Loftsgard on page 240.

Oceania

In 2023, Oceania had 53.2 million hectares of organic agricultural land managed by 15'575 producers, representing 14.1 percent of the region's total agricultural land and accounting for 53.8 percent of the world's organic area. More than 99.7 percent of the organic land in the region was in Australia (53.0 million hectares), followed by New Zealand (79'347 hectares) and Samoa (41'307 hectares). The highest organic share of total agricultural land was recorded in Samoa (14.6 percent), followed by Australia (14.6 percent), French Polynesia (9.3 percent), Solomon Islands (6.3 percent), and Fiji (4.1 percent). More data can be found on page 256.

Australia

In 2024, Australia's organic sector addressed challenges from the lack of domestic regulation, which undermines consumer trust and export potential. The Organic Development Group pushed for mandatory standards, resulting in the National Organic Standard Bill 2024, aiming to establish a unified certification framework and tackle greenwashing. The "Trading North" report highlighted harmonised standards, financial support, and trade assistance to unlock growth, especially in Southeast Asia. Despite managing over 53 million hectares of certified organic land—more than half the global total—Australia accounts for just 1.3 percent of global organic sales, indicating room for expansion. Lobbying efforts and public hearings amplified the

sector's message, while improved data collection remains key to driving growth and cementing Australia's global leadership. (See article by Frampton on page 248).

Pacific Islands

In 2023, Pacific Island nations advanced organic agriculture through policy initiatives, training 49 organic auditors and expanding Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), now involving over 2'000 growers. French Polynesia's agriculture census used TAPE, a global first, to analyse organic farming. Challenges remain, including high certification costs and underdeveloped value chains. Development projects like Organic Learning Farms and PROTÉGÉ promote agroecology while local markets grow with PGS-certified products and tourism demand. (See the article by Mapusua on page 252).

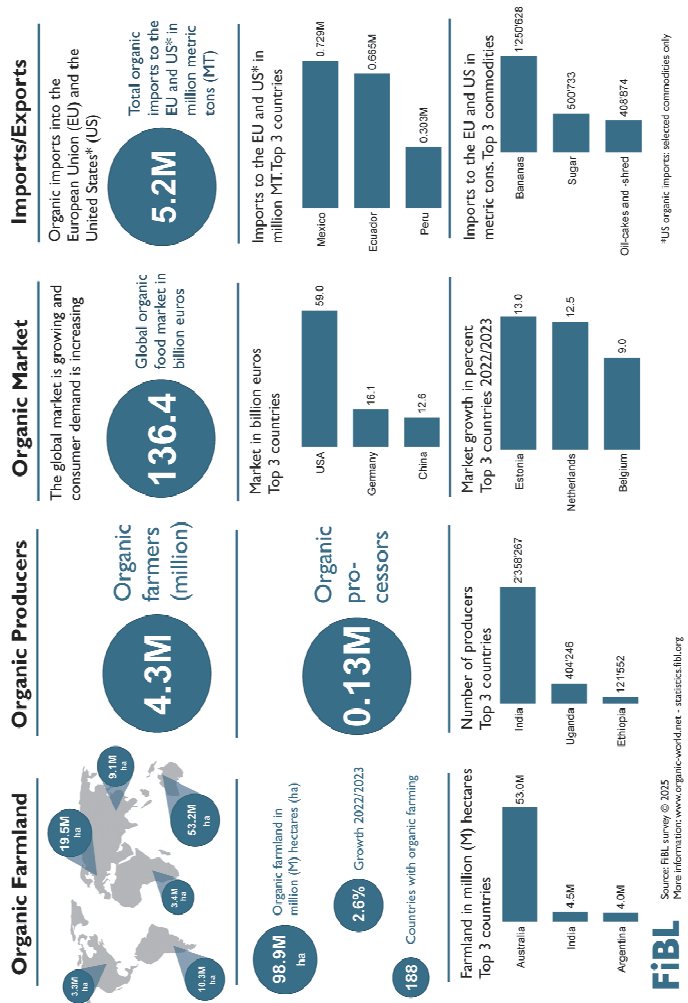
Organics: Beating the Odds

Despite global challenges, the organic movement demonstrated resilience in 2024, with organic farmland growing by 2.6 percent, led by Africa's 24.2 percent increase, surpassing North America, writes Ravi R. Prada, Executive Director of IFOAM Organics – International. Retail sales also rose steadily. IFOAM – Organics International advanced its 10-year strategy, hosted the 21st Organic World Congress, and advocated for policies supporting organics globally. Key initiatives included capacity-building projects in Asia and Africa and fostering collaboration to position organics as central to climate, health, and food systems solutions. For more information, see the contribution by Ravi R. Prasad, the Executive Director of IFOAM Organics International, on page 262.

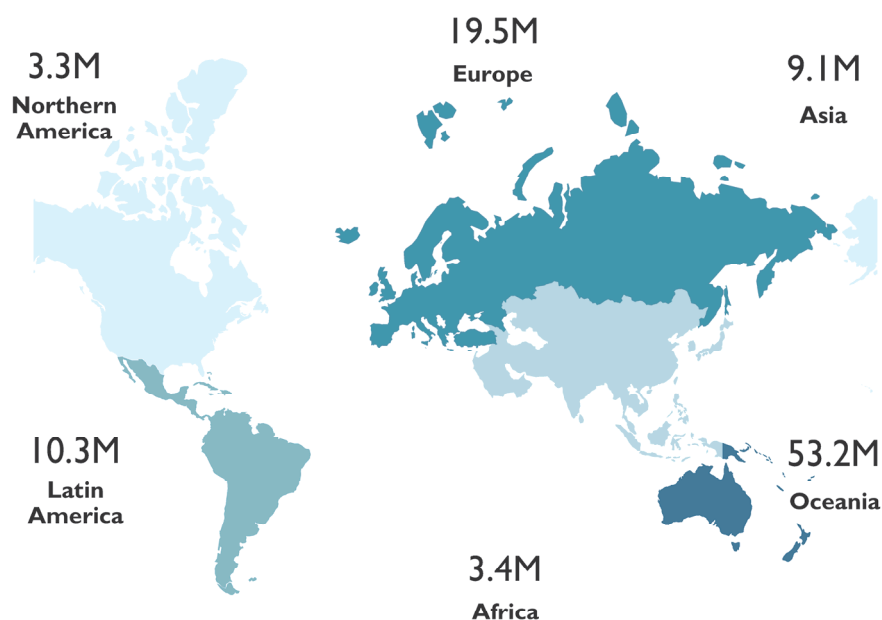
Next FiBL survey on organic agriculture worldwide

The next global organic survey will commence in mid-2025, with results published in February 2026 and presented at the Biofach Organic Trade Fair in Nuremberg, Germany. We will reach out to relevant experts and kindly request your support in providing data. If you notice any errors in the statistical data in this volume, please inform us. Corrections will be made in our database and reflected in the 2026 edition of The World of Organic Agriculture as well as on www.organic-world.net. Contact: helga.willer@fibl.org

Organic Agriculture Worldwide 2023



Organic Agriculture Worldwide: Current Statistics



Organic agricultural land in hectares (M=millions)

Map 1: Organic agricultural land in 2023

Source: FiBL survey 2025