

FRENCH ORGANIC PRODUCTION BOOSTED BY CITIZEN-CONSUMERS DEMAND

In 2015 compared to 2014:

- +14.7 % for the organic market
- + 5 % operators in processing, distribution and import/export of organic products
- + 9 % farmers
- + 18 % organically farmed land

Almost 5% of the French utilised agricultural area farmed organically.

Organic agriculture saw unprecedented growth in France in 2015 and this growth continues to take off in 2016. The organic market has grown by 14.7% when compared to 2014 with a total of 5.76 billion euros. In this growing market, the catering sector has increased purchases of organic products by 18 % in one year.

To echo the high demand for products which are respectful of both to nature and to man, organic production is also enjoying record levels, with more than 200 additional organic farms each month in 2015. At the end of 2015, there were 28,884 organic farms in France which is an increase of + 9% when compared to 2014. These farms cultivated a total of 1.322 million hectares of organic land, which is an increase of 18 % on 2014 figures. The share of land farmed organically in France at the end of 2015 has risen up to approximately 5 %.

In the processing and distribution organic sectors, the number of operators has increased by 5 % to reach a total of 13,528 processing, distribution and import/export establishments. In total, France had 42,412 operators with certified organic activities, representing an increase of +8 % when compared to 2014.



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Increased sales for direct sales and organic specialist stores

In 2015, sales of organic products to consumers have gone up for all channels of distribution. Eventually direct sales have increased by 20 % when compared to 2014, specialist shops by 17 %, artisan and shopkeepers by 15 %, ahead of supermarkets at 11 %. Most noteworthy increases are for specialist stores and direct sales from farmers to consumers who both put emphasis on trust and human contact.

Organic purchases increase by 18 % in collective catering

In the beginning of 2016 about 6 out of 10 catering facilities in France were serving organic produce to be compared to 46 % in 2011 and just 4 % before 2006. Organic produce is particularly popular in school canteens where 75 % of all facilities offered organic food. Excluding bread, catering purchases were estimated at 225 million euros, which represents +18% when compared to 2014. 3.2 % of food procurement in the social catering are now organic in France. However, the percentage of organic produce in overall food procurement was on average of 14 % in 2015. This figure has constantly been increasing since 2008 when the percentage was 5 %.

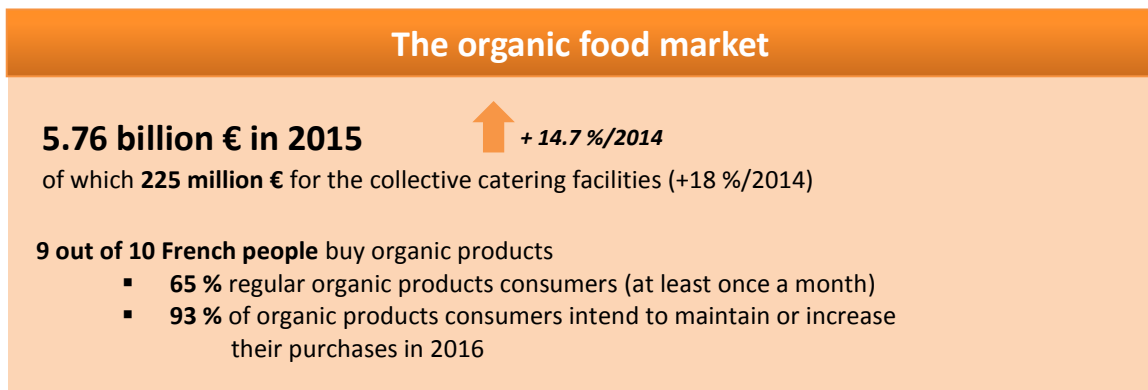
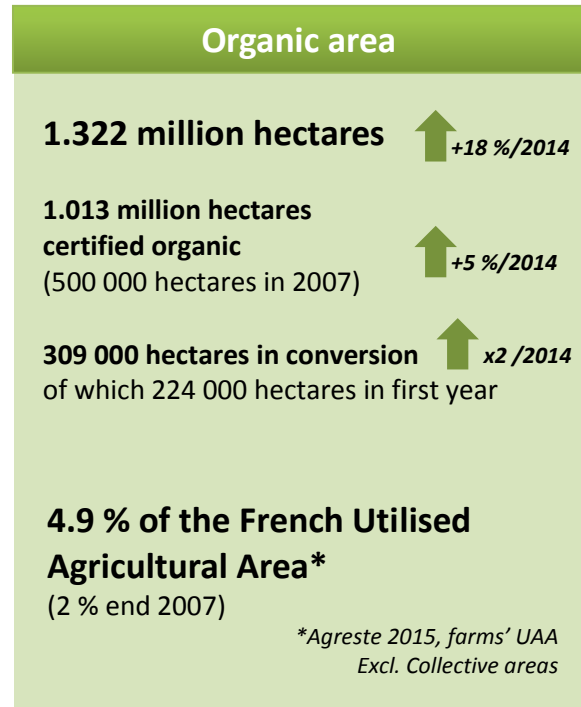
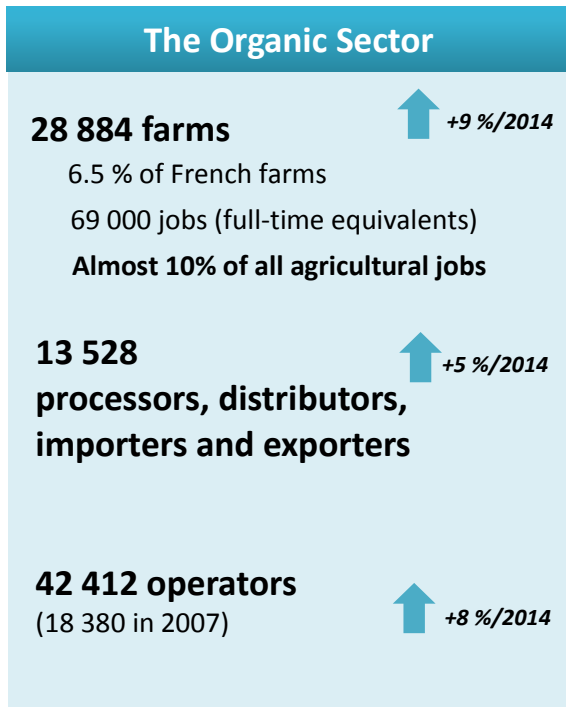
Demand for organic produce “Made in France” is rising

In accordance with organic values, particularly as regards environment preservation, 76 % of organic products consumed in France are grown in France. In the future this proportion could continue to increase due to production take off particularly for cereal products like bread. In 2015 arable crops have accounted for the largest increase in organic area with +31 % additional surface since 2014. By 2017, French mills should be using 100 % French organic wheat. In 2015, exports rose by 27 % vs. 2014. Organic wines are particularly involved, their exports having expanded of 26%.

Organic agriculture in France in 2015

Key figures

Unprecedented rate of conversion to organic in 2015 for an accelerating market



In 2015, the French organic sector employs:

- + **69 000 jobs** in farms full-time equivalents
(almost 10% of agricultural jobs in France)
- + **30 000 jobs** in processing and distribution of organic products in full-time equivalents
- + **2 000 jobs** full-time equivalents in organic control, advisory, research and training, development and administrative services.

= **More than 100 000 jobs in full-time equivalents in France**

For further information on the organic sector in France:

www.agencebio.org
www.agriculture.gouv.fr
www.organic-farming.europa.eu

And follow us on:



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