

Organic Agriculture in Portugal

Producing and consuming locally



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President of Agrobio



Portuguese Association for Organic Agriculture

AGROBIO is an association with a national scope, gathering 6000 members, among farmers, processors, technicians and consumers.

It is a public interest institution, also recognised as a Non-Governmental Organisation for Environment.

Its **mission** is to *promote and develop Organic Agriculture.*



Portuguese Association for Organic Agriculture



AGROBIO gathers the most experience in Organic Agriculture, in Portugal, currently developing:

- Professional training
- Technical and commercial support to farmers
- Annual exhibition Terra Sã
- Organic street markets
- Social urban kitchen gardens
- National and international projects

Terra Sã 2010
1ª Feira Nacional da Agricultura Biológica

9-10
Outubro
2010

"Agricultura Biológica e Biodiversidade"
Centro de Congressos de Lisboa (Antiga FLJ)

Organização: www.agrobio.pt

 **Actividades**
Alimentação Biológica;
Ambiente;
Energias Renováveis;
Vestuário;
Cosmética;
Bio-construção;
Palestras

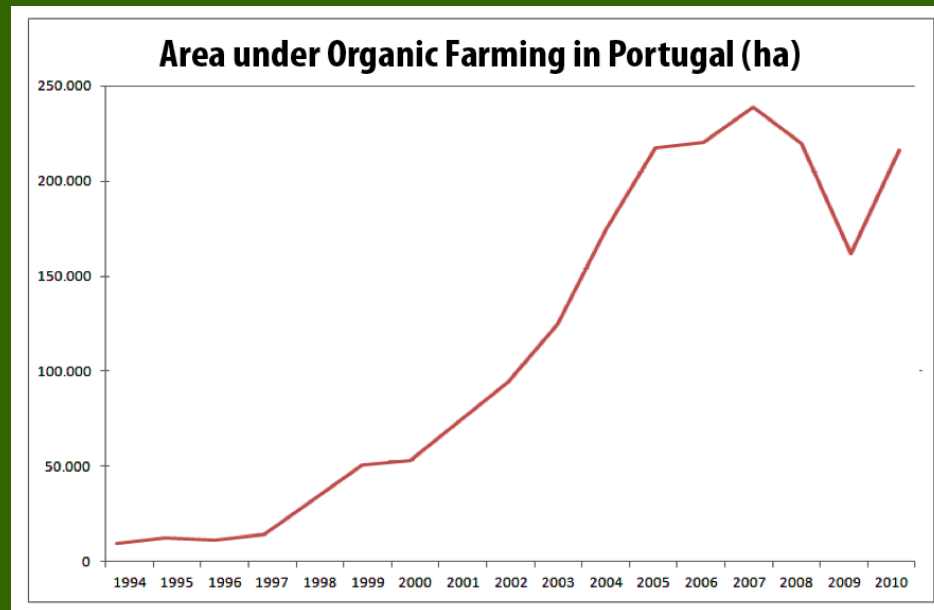
Horário
Sábado, dia 9: das 14h às 20h
Domingo, dia 10: das 10h às 18h

Patrocínios:



Organic Agriculture in Portugal

Since the foundation of AGROBIO, in 1985, when the first organic farmers began their activity, until today, with 1949 organic operators, and 229 717 ha under O.A. [6,6% of agricultural land area (2007); European average: 4,5%], this production method never stopped growing.





Organic Agriculture in Portugal

Pastures and olive groves represent the largest areas under organic agriculture.

Concerning organic livestock, sheep is the most common, followed by cattle.

In terms of national market, there is a growing demand, and it is larger than the supply, especially regarding fruit and vegetables.





Organic Agriculture in Portugal

Organic products can be found in a growing network of street markets implemented by AGROBIO, in specialised shops, and in supermarkets.

Through the consulting of the members of AGROBIO, in 2011, it can be estimated that the sales value of organic products in Portugal came near to **20 million EUR**.



The Portuguese public is increasing its awareness on the benefits of organic food for health and environment.

Organic Urban Kitchen Gardens



In Portugal, we find a strong interest in the field of urban community kitchen gardens, and several municipalities are developing projects that seek to provide plots for a nominal cost so that their citizens can have access to a space for practising gardening and produce fresh food for self-supply.





Organic Urban Kitchen Gardens

The interest and commitment of the municipalities focus, now, on using organic agriculture as a production method for these kitchen gardens, as a non-polluting way of growing food, implying a *more sustainable use of soil and water, and a lower use of nonrenewable energy sources*, i.e. with a **smaller ecological footprint**.



Organic Urban Kitchen Gardens



Promoting community gardens is an opportunity to strengthen the social and economic component of urban agriculture, contributing to local sustainable development. The growth of urban gardens will reveal the need to develop a policy on urban agriculture for the promotion of its social, environmental and health effects.



Organic Street Markets



Recognising the importance of raising consumer awareness to the consumption of organic products through direct contact with farmers, in October 1988 the first Organic Agriculture exhibition TERRA SÃ, Fair of Alternatives, is organised at Estufa Fria, Lisbon.

In November 2003, the first AGROBIO organic Street Market is inaugurated at Jardim do Príncipe Real, in Lisbon, taking place weekly, each Saturday.





Organic Street Markets

Currently, AGROBIO organises eight weekly organic street markets, and new AGROBIO markets will open in the near future.

In a global context of climate change, market volatility, scarcity of natural resources, in particular, fossil fuel, and increasing energy price, growing food through organic methods becomes, more and more, a choice of responsible citizenship.





Organic Street Markets

Considering that Portugal imports 70% of the food needed for internal consumption and undergoes a serious financial crisis, promoting national production and consumption of organic food should be a national priority.

Furthermore, *producing and consuming locally grown organic produce should be a responsible option towards environmental and social sustainability of our planet.*

