

# FINLAND

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## Information about Finland and Finnish agriculture

- 5 million inhabitants
- total area 330 000 km<sup>2</sup>
  - 33 350 km<sup>2</sup> lakes
  - 230 000 km<sup>2</sup> forests
  - 2,2 million ha fields
- 70 000 farms
  - The number of farms increased considerably when they were divided so that the Finns immigrating from the area which became Russian area after the II World War would get a piece of land to live on.
  - The farms aiming to survive often need to have versatile sources of income.
  - Forestry used to be an important source of income for farmers but nowadays salary income is difficult obtain due to the pricing forestry companies have set
- milk is the most important product in cattle production
- poultry farming, pig farming are more important sources of meat than cattle
- largest area is growing hay
- barley, oats, wheat, rye, potatoes and rape are the most important crops
- The growing season in Finland varies from 170 days of the south to under 120 days in the north
- The harsh climate conditions keep the pest and disease problem relatively well controlled
  - seed production perhaps one of the future growth areas
- Finland joined the EU in 1995 and the agricultural policies changed dramatically
- Agriculture subsidies grew massively but the farmer income still fell by 40% in some lines of production
- 98% of the fields are now within the environment subsidy programme

## Organic farming in Finland

**Organic farms and the area of land under organic management in Finland (7 % in 2006)**

Hectares	1995	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Fully organic land area</b>	23 139	120 438	135 434	142 054	148 183
<b>In-conversion land area</b>	21 557	27 505	21 258	17 933	13 841
<b>The whole organic land area</b>	44 696	147 943	156 692	159 987	162 024
<b>Organic land area /farm</b>	20	30	31	32	33
<b>The number of organic farms</b>	2 793	4 983	5 071	4 983	4 887

### Organic farming in the spring 2006

<b>Fully organic land area</b>	<b>127 400</b>
<b>In-conversion land area</b>	<b>11 845</b>
<b>The whole organic land area</b>	<b>139 245</b>
<b>Organic land area /farm</b>	<b>34,5</b>
<b>The number of organic farms</b>	<b>4036</b>

### Examples of the organically managed land area in Finland

	Hectares
<b>Oats</b>	<b>19 047</b>
<b>Wheat</b>	<b>5325</b>
<b>Rye</b>	<b>4813</b>
<b>Barley</b>	<b>4777</b>
<b>Turnip rape</b>	<b>2685</b>
<b>Potato</b>	<b>440</b>
<b>Black current</b>	<b>383</b>
<b>Strawberry</b>	<b>172</b>

## Organic markets in Finland

The share of organic markets is about 1 % of total sales (in value) in Finland. Variation between different product groups is 0,5-4,0 % (flakes 6,2 %, flours 4,3 %, pasta 2,5 %, milk 2,6 %, eggs 4,8 %, vegetables 3,3 %). Organic sales decreased 5 % during 2003-2004. Only sales of organic eggs increased. Willingness to increase the share of organic have decreased among farmers, processors, retailers and catering sector.

Distribution of organic sales: 24 % vegetables, 17 % milk, 11 % bread, 7 % flours and flakes, 32 % other (coffee, tea, honey, processed food) and 9 % fruits.

### Organic animal products:

Product	Share of total production %	Share of total consumption %	Share of organic production sold as organic
Milk	1,0	1,0	100
Beef	0,8	1,5	65
Sheep,goat	15,7	5,8	90
Pork	0,5	0,4	75
Broiler	0,1	0,0	34
Eggs	2,7	2,6	90

4 % of consumers in Finland use organic products over 6 %, 16 % of consumers use 1,2-6 %, 40 % 0,5-1,2 % and 40 % of consumers don't use organic products at all. The most of the organic consumers live in the big cities. Over 90 % of organic food is sold in the supermarkets.

In Finland is two own organic labels: a formal sun label and an organic association's ladybird label. Ladybird label has stricter requirements and it is granted only to Finnish products. In Finland is also used the organic label of EU and Demeter label.

SUN LABEL



LADYBIRD LABEL



### **Consumer prices:**

<b>Product</b>	<b>Organic product €/kg</b>	<b>Conventional product €/kg</b>
<b>Rye bred</b>	4,11	3,25
<b>Wheat flour</b>	1,06	0,60
<b>Ground meat (beef)</b>	9,66	4,75
<b>Cheese</b>	12,48	10,09
<b>Banana</b>	2,56	1,62
<b>Coffee</b>	16,77	4,46
<b>Milk</b>	1,03	0,74
<b>Eggs</b>	5,67	2,19
<b>Potato</b>	0,70	0,59
<b>Onion</b>	2,39	1,73
<b>Tomato</b>	4,49	2,59

### **Problems**

There are many problems in organic food marketing in Finland. The supply of the organic food doesn't meet the demand. On the other hand, interest in organic products has decreased and the most important reason is too high prices. Supermarkets do not want to boost organic markets.