Organic livestock farming in Republic of Croatia - state and perspective development

Zvonko Antunović, Đuro Senčić, Željka Klir, Krunoslav Zmaić, Danijela Samac and Josip Novoselec

Faculty of Agrobiotechnical sciences Osijek, J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek, V. Preloga 1, 31000 Osijek, Croatia; zantunovic@fazos.hr

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Croatia has recorded significant increase in organic agriculture with the same trend in organic livestock farming.

Favorable climatic conditions, the possibility of producing cheap and good quality food, large quantities of floorcloth, smaller financial investments and the possession of certified organic land areas are very good prerequisites for the spread of organic livestock farming in the Republic of Croatia (Antunović, 2011).

In the common market of the European Union, the advantages of the Republic of Croatia are, among other things, reflected in the possibility of developing organic agriculture, including organic livestock farming, and through the integration with tourism, as well as the protection of native plant and animal genetic resources and the conservation of biodiversity.

According to the data of the Croatian Chamber of Economy, cited in the Ministry of Agriculture’s Annual Report on the State of Agriculture in year 2018, it was pointed out that the annual value of the Croatian market of organic products is around 100 million EUR, which is certainly not negligible, while the share of consumption of organic products in total consumption is 2.2%.

The aim of this paper is to present the state and perspectives of the development of organic livestock farming in the Republic of Croatia, by analyzing the period of the recent five years.

State and perspectives of development of organic livestock farming in the Republic of Croatia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Agricultural land used, ha</th>
<th>Areas under organic production, ha</th>
<th>Share of areas under organic production in total utilized agricultural area, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1 508 885</td>
<td>50 054</td>
<td>3.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1 537 629</td>
<td>75 883</td>
<td>4.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1 546 019</td>
<td>93 814</td>
<td>6.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1 496 663</td>
<td>96 618</td>
<td>6.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1 485 645</td>
<td>103 166</td>
<td>6.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference (2014-2018), %</td>
<td>- 1.54</td>
<td>+ 51.48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSIONS

An analysis of organic livestock farming in the recent five years in the Republic of Croatia shows the expansion of this production, some difficulties, and significant advantages that contribute to its overall positive image.

This has also contributed to the growing interest of this production, which is indicated by significant increase of analyzed indicators, not only by farmers but also by consumers of organic animal products, as well as by those users whose perception of environmental protection and biodiversity are especially emphasized.

REFERENCES

3) Bureau of Statistics (available at: www.broz.hr)
4) Annual Report on the state of agriculture in year 2018. Available at