

FIRST RESULTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY ON ORGANIC OLIVE OIL

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Organic agriculture in a few years have had a rapid development; a still growing and interesting process not only for experts in economical effects but also for operators of the agro- food sector and for the policy makers. Among the Mediterranean Basin and always often even out of this geographical area the organic olive grove cultivation and organic olive oil production is playing a considerable role for the organic agriculture. The opportunity to create a permanent Observatory on the olive grove farming and on the organic olive oil is aimed to update this particularly dynamic and ever growing sector with all its specific aspects connected.

The Observatory can become the site for a continuous forum where it is possible to see the different state of the markets giving also a contribute to operators in the sector and to responsables for agrarian politics.

This year we started verifying the availability of information in the principle producers countries, and we found a serious lack of official and continuative data on areas invested in cultivation and on organic olive and organic olive oil production. It was very difficult even for european countries to find out information on the evolution of this cultivation. In many cases the only available data are those gathered by the certification bodies. Out of Europe it is often not available any specific information about this sector.

We have made researches through the web sites offering information on organic agriculture, and through this way it is possible to find many data on organic agriculture in general but there are not so many details on the evolution of the single sectors of the field and of the olive grove cultivation in particular.

To make up for the lack of this service we have created a procedure that, starting from average data of olive grove farming and from the areas invested in organic olive grove farming, permits to estimate the productions of olives and of olive oil made by organic farming in the more important producers countries. The availability of official data induced us to restrict at the moment the evaluations to the european countries, that anyway constitute nearly the totality of the world production.

In the following speech we will give some results of the research. The areas invested in olive grove cultivation according to the organic agriculture have risen quickly in the last years and they reached 185.893 ha. Organic olives production surpasses on average the 365.000 tons from which it is possible to obtain more than 70.000 tons of oil. The effect of organic production in countries is different, but it is possible to see a clear prevalence in Italy where the 7% of the oleary production belongs to the organic olive grove farming, Italy is followed by Portugal (5,5%), Spain (2,9%) and Greece (0,8%).

In this research we have noticed a lack of data referring to national situation. Hence we have estimated the organic olives and oil production in all italian regions and in the provinces of Apulia, which is the most important olives and oil producer area in Italy.

The elaborations that we have made using those productive average parameters of 1997-2000 and the data concerning the areas invested in organic olive grove cultivation elaborated by Biobank show that the national production is approximately 182.000 tons of organic olives from which it is possible to estimate a potential production of organic olive oil that should be more than 34.000 tons. Only two regions, Calabria and Apulia, totalize more than 80% of the entire national production.

Calabria is the region that owns the productive supremacy with more than 16.000 tons equal to the 48% of the national total, followed by Apulia that produces on average more than 11.000 tons of organic olive oil.

Stima della produzione di olio di oliva da agricoltura biologica in Italia

Regioni	Sup. Tot. investita ad olivo (ha)	Sup.invest. ad olivo bio (ha)	Incid.% sup. bio sul tot. sup.oliv.	Prod.olive da olio bio (t.)	Prod. Potenziale olio bio (t.)	% sul Tot. Italia
Trentino A.A	369	5	1,35	7,8	1,3	0,00
Veneto	4.655	82	1,76	114,2	17,5	0,04
Friuli V.G.	98	3	3,07	7,7	1,5	0,00
Liguria	14.876	143	0,96	229,3	48,2	0,12
E. Romagna	1.341	176	13,12	439,0	67,7	0,17
Toscana	96.506	6.418	6,65	5.672,8	947,2	2,43
Umbria	27.341	1.619	5,92	3.706,6	692,9	1,78
Marche	7.015	462	6,59	1.240,7	205,1	0,53
Lazio	84.795	2.929	3,45	4.157,0	703,9	1,80
Abruzzo	44.979	1.104	2,45	2.782,1	466,5	1,20
Molise	23.357	971	4,16	1.089,7	183,9	0,47
Campania	68.553	2.072	3,02	5.511,1	1.079,9	2,77
Puglia	356.196	24.174	6,79	75.130,0	13.912,0	35,65
Basilicata	27.965	237	0,85	453,0	93,0	0,24
Calabria	178.345	30.948	17,35	83.717,3	16.583,5	42,50
Sicilia	152.787	8.721	5,71	10.274,4	2.092,0	5,36
Sardegna	36.988	8.494	22,96	8.913,2	1.923,6	4,93
Italia	1.125.963	88.645	7,87	181.987,7	39.019,7	100

Fonte: ns elaborazioni su dati ISTAT e BioBank

Stima della produzione di olio di oliva da agricoltura biologica nei principali Paesi Produttori (tonnellate)

Paesi	Tot. produz. Olive (a)	Prod. olive da tavola (b)	Olive molite (c) = (a-b)	Prod. olio (d)	Superficie investita ad olivo (e)	Prod. media di olive da olio (t/ha) (f) = (c/e)	Sup. ad olivo Bio (g)	Prod. olive da agr. bio (h)	Resa in olio	Prod. potenziale di olio bio	Incid. % olio bio su olio convenz.
Spagna	4.322.235	341.500	3.980.735	826.366	2.201.889	1,808	71.350,75*	116.093,8	20,8	24.100	2,9
Italia	3.166.081	64.630	3.101.451	582.013	1.134.269	2,734	88.645**	218.145,2	18,8	40.937	7,0
Grecia	1.971.336	82.500	1.888.836	407.794	745.629	2,533	6.483***	14.780,5	21,6	3.191	0,8
Portogallo	304.500	8.875	295.625	41.527	317.650	0,931	19.415***	16.261,9	14,0	2.284	5,5
Tot.	9.764.152	497.505	9.266.647	1.857.700	4.399.437	2	185.894	365.281	20	70.512	4

(a) Fonte: <http://www.FAO.org/> (visitato il 3/04/'00)

(b) Fonte: ns elaborazione su dati COI

(d) Fonte: <http://www.FAO.org/> (visitato il 3/04/'00)

(e) Fonte: <http://www.FAO.org/> (visitato il 3/04/'00)

(g) Fonte: (*) <http://www.Mapya.es/> (2000) (**) dati: BioBank(2000); (***) dati: DIO(1999) ;(****) dati Agribio(1999)

Stima della produzione di olio di oliva da Agricoltura Biologica in Puglia (tonnellate)

Province	Olive molite	Prod. olio	Sup investita ad olivo	Prod. media (t./ha)	Sup.bio	Prod. Olive da agr. Bio	Resa olio	Prod. Potenz. Olio bio	% extra vergine
Bari	183.045	35.580	53.913	3,4	7.605	23.239	19	4.517	4.428
Foggia	82.130	13.214	29.858	2,8	5.940	14.705	16	2.366	2.464
Taranto	162.706	29.644	62.888	2,6	4.013	9.344	18	1.702	1.192
Brindisi	323.942	56.448	82.709	3,9	5.140	18.119	17	3.157	1.579
Lecce	1.230.021	227.759	356.196	3,5	10.529	32.723	19	6.059	1.212
Puglia	1.981.844	362.645	585.562	3,4	33.227	101.212	18	18.520	10.874

Fonte: ns elaborazioni su dati Istat e Regione Puglia