

ORGANIC LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN LITHUANIA: SITUATION AND PERSPECTIVES

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Summary. The aim of the study was to estimate the development of organic agriculture and livestock production and to work out the main factors influencing the growth of production and market. The analysis is based on a literature review and data collected by national experts.

The situation in the European countries is presented that is Denmark, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and others. Organic food is getting more and more popular in the whole world and Europe. The organic market is growing year by year. The estimations show up to 20 % of the market share of the total organic retail sales in less than 10 years.

Organic milk, pork and beef production is of increasing interest in many countries. The future of organic farming is influenced by development of prices for organic products and technical progress. Agricultural policy is to continue to have a substantial impact on the economic viability of organic farms.

The development of organic agriculture in Lithuania has started ten years ago. The sector still is very small but growing noticeably in the recent years. In the year 2000 there were 230 organic farms with 0,14% of the total farming land. Organic farms are mixed. The biggest share among organic livestock production sold in the domestic market make up milk 91%, beef – 4%, poultry – 0,2%, rabbit meat – 0,08proc, goose meat – 0,04, duck meat – 0,02 %. A relatively high proportion of organic livestock products are not sold as organic or they are sold without an organic label. There are preconditions for the increase of organic livestock production in Lithuania. In order to increase rapidly the organic production is necessary to prepare strategy for the development of organic livestock production and Action Plan to implement it.

Keywords: organic agriculture, organic livestock production, sustainable farming.