



EU regulation on organic production

*EU-Taiwan International Food Trade
Seminar (Taipei, 9 March, 2016)*

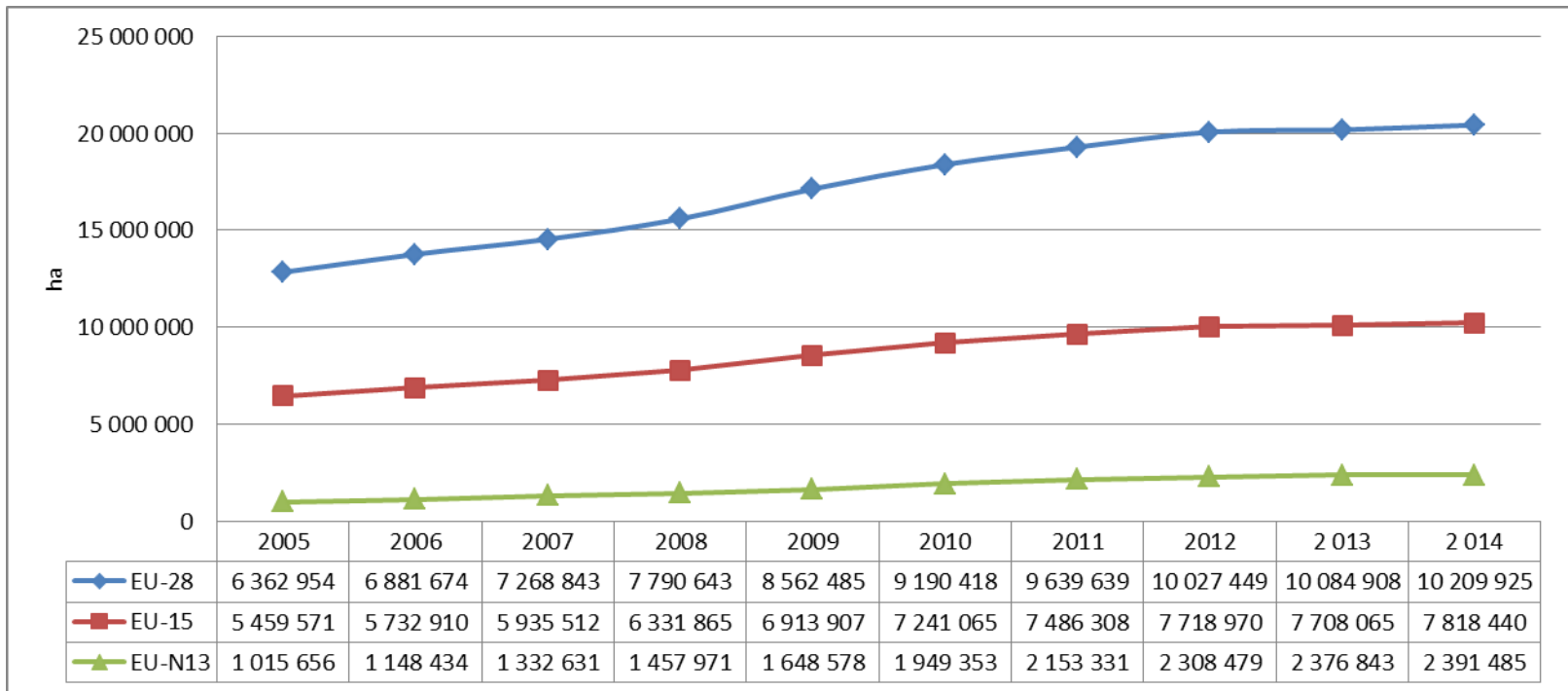
**European Commission
DG Agriculture and Rural Development
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What will I present?

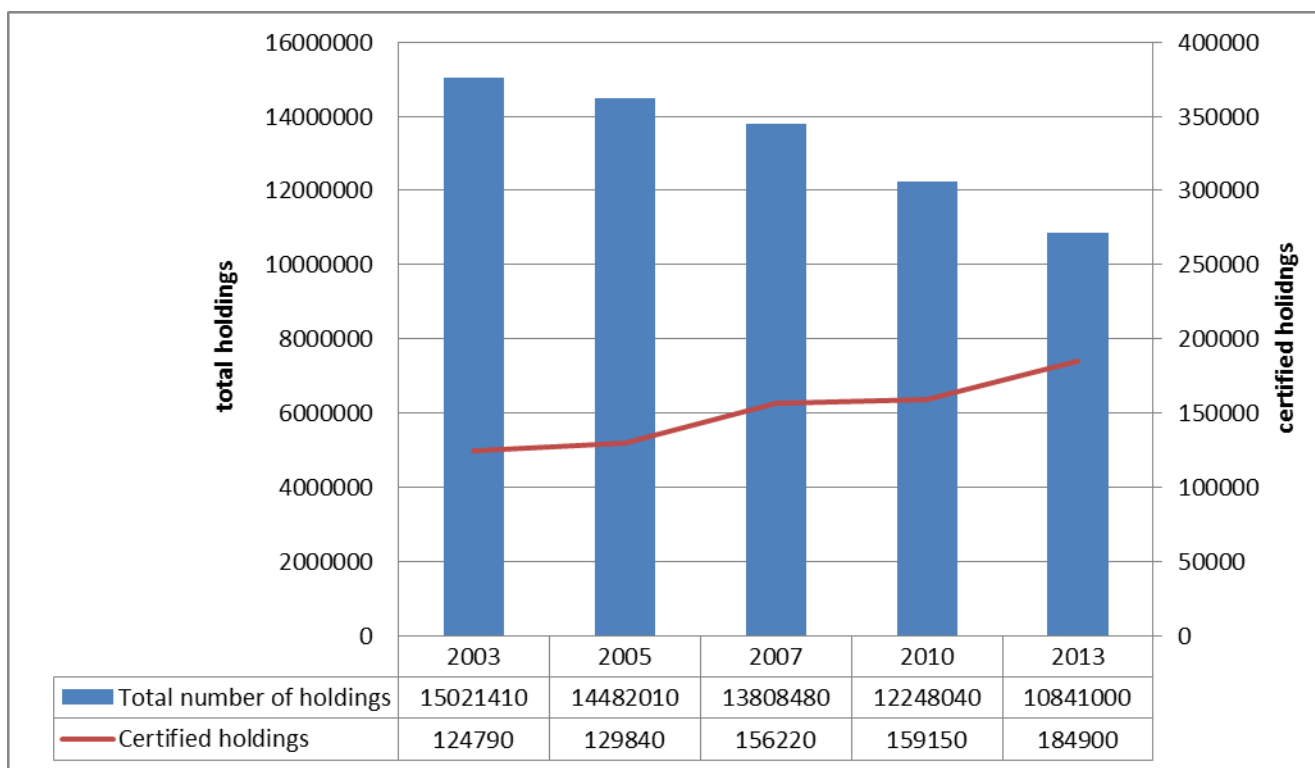
- *Glimpse on organic production in the EU*
- *How is EU organic production regulated?*
- *What future changes in EU organic legislation?*

Organic production in the EU

Organic area on the rise



Organic number of holdings



EU organic sector

- *Area: almost doubled in ten years, but still 5,8% of the total in 2014*
- *Market: more than doubled between 2004 and 2014 (reaching 23.9 billion euros in 2014). Gap between internal production and demand covered by imports.*
- *EU covers about 41% of global organic retail sales value.*

How is EU organic production regulated?

EU organic legislation

- *Regulation 834/2007*
 - **Principles**
 - **Production rules**
 - **Controls**
 - **Labelling**
 - **Import rules**
- *Detailed implementing Regulations on production, controls and labelling (Regulation 889/2008) import rules (Regulation 1235/2008)*
- *Commission Guidance (eg labelling controls, imports)*

EU organic legislation in brief

- *Principles*
 - **Farm management system = best environmental practices+ protection of biodiversity+ preservation of natural resources+ animal welfare+ responds to consumer demands**
- *Coverage*
 - **All stages of production**
 - **Agricultural and processed products, aquaculture**

EU organic legislation in brief

- *Production rules*
 - **No GMOs, ionising radiation, hydroponic production**
 - **Practices: use of natural resources, crop rotation, respect production cycles, organic fertilisers, adapted choice of species and varieties.. etc**
 - **For processed foods: rules on ingredients, process, processing aids.. etc**

EU organic legislation in brief

- *Control rules*
 - **European Commission + Member States**
 - **National Competent Authorities supervise and may delegate control competences to *control authorities* and/or *control bodies***
 - **Checks: every operator at every step of the food chain**
- *Labelling*
 - **Protection of the term "organic" in EU languages + derivatives+ EU logo**
 - **Compulsory information: code number of control body/authority, EU/non-EU agriculture**



EU organic legislation in brief

- *Import rules*
 - **Equivalence (production rules and controls equivalent to EU rules)**
 - Country as equivalent system (list of recognized third countries)
 - Products providing equivalent guarantees (list of recognized control bodies/authorities)
 - **Compliant products (EU rules)**
 - **Certificate of inspection required**
 - **EU logo may be used** (not mandatory for exported products to the EU)

What future changes in EU organic legislation?

EU organic legislation revision

- *Why?*
 - **clarify and simplify rules**
 - **further enhance acces of small producers**
 - **Maintain consumer confidence**
- *Where are we in the process?*
 - **Commission proposal in 2014**
 - **Under discussion in the European Parliament and Council of the EU** (process takes 2 years)
 - **New rules likely not applicable before 2017**

EU organic legislation revision

- *Some proposed changes...*
 - **Streamlined production rules**
 - **Controls: removal of exceptions (eg for certain retailers)**
 - **Group certification for small farmers (internal control system)**

EU organic legislation revision

- *Some proposed changes...*

Imports

- **Equivalence of the system (production rules and controls equivalent to EU rules)** - bilateral agreements
- **Compliance with EU rules** for recognized control bodies



More information on organic:

• ***European Commission webpage on organic:***

<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/>

• ***Commission proposal on organic farming (2014):***

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/documents/eu-policy/policy-development/report-and-annexes/proposal_en.pdf

• ***Facts and figures on organic agriculture in the European Union***

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/more-reports/pdf/organic-2013_en.pdf



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Thank you for your attention