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ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN BELARUS

B.S. Sipailo, A.I. Kartunova, I.V. Suchkova
VSAVM, Vitebsk, Belarus

ОРГАНИЧЕСКОЕ СЕЛЬСКОЕ ХОЗЯЙСТВО В БЕЛАРУСИ

Б.С. Сипайло, А.И. Картунова, И.В. Сучкова
ВГАВМ, г. Витебск, Беларусь

Abstract. The article deals with the issues of organic farming as a method of rational and environmentally safe implementation of agricultural activities, obtaining environmentally friendly products that meet consumer demand around the world and in the Republic of Belarus, and sustainable development of agricultural territories. Organic agriculture is rapidly developing and is becoming increasingly important in the agricultural sector of countries around the world, regardless of their level of development.

Аннотация. В статье рассматриваются вопросы ведения органического сельского хозяйства как способа рационального и экологически безопасного осуществления сельскохозяйственной деятельности, получения экологически чистой продукции, отвечающей потребительскому спросу во всем мире и в Республике Беларусь, устойчивого развития сельскохозяйственных территорий. Органическое сельское хозяйство стремительно развивается и приобретает все большее значение в сельскохозяйственном секторе стран по всему миру, независимо от уровня их развития.

Key words: *organic farming, eco-friendly products, organic animal husbandry.*

Ключевые слова: *органическое сельское хозяйство, экологически чистые продукты, органическое животноводство.*

One of the components of the sustainable development of the country's economy is to ensure harmonious coordination of its elements, one of which and its integral part is organic agriculture, where there is a rejection of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators, feed additives, genetically modified organisms, and the

one that promotes the rational use of natural resources, the preservation of soil fertility, the use of organic fertilizers, humane treatment of animals.

Organic agriculture is considered as one of the components of the sustainable development of Belarus. In this paper, we will adhere to the FAO definition for the concept of "organic agriculture". "Organic agriculture is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agri-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activities. It emphasizes the use of Good management practices in preference to the use of off-farm sources, taking into account that regional conditions require locally adapted systems. This is accomplished by using, where possible, agronomic, biological, and mechanical methods, as opposed to using synthetic materials, to fulfil any specific function within the system." (FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, 1999) [1].

Organic agriculture is a socio-economic and food component focused on the preservation of the environment, well-being of people and animals. Organic agriculture is rapidly developing and is becoming increasingly important in the agricultural sector of countries around the world, regardless of their level of development.

Animal husbandry and crop production are the leading branches of the Belarusian agro-industrial complex aimed at obtaining maximum productivity at minimum costs. Intensive agriculture is criticized for the use of significant amounts of mineral fertilizers, pesticides that pollute the soil and water sources, as well as for the unjustified use of antibiotics, the use of hormones and growth stimulants.

With the strengthening of the policy of intensification of animal husbandry and crop production, approaches to agriculture have changed. At the same time, the population is increasingly concerned about the nature preservation, land conservation the health and welfare of people and animals.

According to the FiBL, (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture, Switzerland), the percentage of organic land from the total amount of agricultural land is 1.5%, but many countries have a share of organic agricultural land over 10%.

Currently, organic farming is cultivated in 187 countries from the North to the South pole. According to FiBL, the global organic food market reached 106 billion euros in 2019. The US is the leading market (44.7 billion euros), followed by Germany (12.0 billion euros) and France (11.3 billion euros). Many major markets continue to show high growth rates [2]. There are about 3 million organic producers in the world.

When defining the goals of the long-term development of the Belarusian economy for period of 2020-2030 the tasks are set to maintain a stable sustainability of development, further growth of the "green economy" while preserving natural capital. The development of organic agriculture is especially important for Belarus, as it can change the negative trends that have developed for decades and lay the foundations for sustainable development of rural areas.

In "The National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the Period up to 2030" in the field of ecology it is provided for: preservation of the favorable environment that ensures the necessary conditions for the life of not only current but also future generations; ensuring environmental

safety; reducing the anthropogenic load on the environment, restoring the disturbed ecological balance, rational use of all types of natural resources; environmentally safe use of production and consumption waste; achieving high environmental standards of life of the population, improving the ecological state of the environment [3].

In Belarus, until 2018, despite the growing interest of the consumers in organic products, the main constraint to the development of organic agriculture was the lack of legislative regulations and laws, although the republic was already engaged in the production of organic products of wild plants and agricultural products certified for the EU market. Currently, the country is adopting its own laws in the field of production and turnover of organic products, and developing a regulatory framework in the field of organic agriculture. In 2018, Law No. 144-3 "On the Production and Circulation of Organic Products" was developed, the law defines the basic concepts and requirements for the processes of production and circulation of organic products.

Belarus has joined the interstate standard defining the rules for the production, processing, labeling and sale of organic products "Organic Production Products. Rules of Production, Processing, Labeling and Sale" (GOST 33980-2016). Certification bodies were established in the RUE "Scientific and Practical Center for Food of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus" and in the Belarusian State Institute of Metrology (BelGIM). In addition to the Belarusian certification bodies, in Belarus there are 10 foreign companies accredited in the European Union that issue certificates for organic products produced in the Republic of Belarus (Organic Standard (Ukraine), Ecocert SA (France), Control Union Certifications (the Netherlands), CERES GmbH (Germany), Kiwa BCS Oko-Garantie (Germany), Ecoglobe (Armenia), Ekoagros (Lithuania), etc.). All this has allowed manufacturers to actively develop the organic production sector.

As a result, 45 certified economic entities, including farm peasant holdings and private family-operated farms, are currently engaged in the production of organic products in the Republic of Belarus. Of them: 4 farms produce livestock products, 12 enterprises are engaged in the production of grain and fodder crops, 12 farms produce and process vegetable products, 14 producers are engaged in the production of berries and their processed products, 2 producers produce beekeeping products [4]. Farmers in small farms collect mushrooms, berries, and birch sap, which are exported to the United States, Japan, and the EU.

The development of organic animal husbandry was severely constrained by the lack of organic feed producers. Certified enterprises for the production of grain and feed crops provide opportunities for farmers to purchase organic feed.

More than 11,500 hectares of agricultural land are certified for organic production, the share of organic land in Belarus is steadily increasing every year. In accordance with the National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Belarus for the period up to 2030 it is planned to increase the area of organic agricultural farmlands to 2-3% of the total area, up to 340 thousand hectares [5].

Today, the organic livestock sector in Belarus produces meat of beef breed cattle, goat milk, chicken eggs, and honey. The republic has created all the prerequisites for the active development of such branches of organic animal farming

as rabbit breeding, sheep breeding, fish farming, goat breeding specialized in goat cheese production, dairy cattle breeding.

At the beginning of 2019, there were 300.9 thousand heads of rabbits in the Republic of Belarus, including: 277.7 thousand from the population in private family operated farms, and 19.3 thousand from farmers, the production being potentially organic. Rabbit breeding is of a great potential for production of organic meat that would allow in the nearest future to produce dietic rabbit meat to be supplied for children, hospitals and people in the rehabilitation period.

Since 2014, sheep breeds have been imported to the republic to restore the sheep industry, and at the beginning of 2021, 11 breeds are being bred, mainly in the meat-and-wool direction of production. This allowed farms to sell young pedigree animals and produce mutton. The number of breeding animals in these farms makes 24.7% of all breeding sheep in the national herd. It is for such farms that the transition to organic animal farming is promising.

In the republic there is a large farm "Dak" for breeding goats of the Zaanen breed. The farm has certified its land for production of organic agricultural products. At average the cooperative farm "Dak" receives 108 tons of goat's milk per year, and sells it for the production of baby food [5].

For the purpose of production 'greening' and ensuring environmental safety, effective mechanisms are needed to improve environmental protection and rational use of natural resources; to develop environmental education and improve the management of business entities in order to increase their responsibility for ensuring environmental safety and minimization of potential hazards caused by economic activities; stimulating economic entities to minimize the level of waste growth, and increase the level of recycled wastes [3].

Currently, as part of the promotion of organic animal husbandry and the expansion of knowledge, the subject "Organic Animal Husbandry" has been introduced in higher educational institutions of agricultural profile for Master's degree students. Workshops and conferences on organic farming are held at different levels of agricultural studies. This will contribute to a better understanding of the importance of organic agriculture, for ensuring the viability of ecosystems, human and animal welfare, rural development and sustainable economic growth of the country.

Organic agriculture in the Republic of Belarus is developing in the following directions: 1) development of regulatory legal acts for the production and processing of organic products; 2) restructuring of the consciousness of producers on the need to produce organic products; 3) accelerated development of industries based on the processing of local raw materials, production of products at a full technological cycle (woodworking, production of complex mineral fertilizers, food products, processing of flax and other types of agricultural products); 4) formation of consumer demand for organic food and the development of the market of biological products; 5) popularization of theoretical (science-based), practical information on organic agriculture [3].

Thus, organic agriculture in Belarus is just beginning its development, which in the future would allow the republic to join the dynamically developing market of

organic products. Further improvement of a comprehensive legislation, provision of state support to producers, training of qualified specialists, reduction of prices to the level accessible to numerous segments of the population would significantly increase the share of organic production in the country's economy.

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БУДЕМ ПРОДОЛЖАТЬ ЕСТЬ МЯСО ВЫБРАКОВАННЫХ МОЛОЧНЫХ КОРОВ ИЛИ НАЧНЕМ СОЗДАВАТЬ ОТРАСЛЬ МЯСНОГО СКОТОВОДСТВА?

Н.А. Табаков

ФГБОУ ВО Красноярский ГАУ, г. Красноярск, Россия

WILL WE CONTINUE, EAT MEAT OF REJECTED DAIRY COWS OR START TO CREATE THE MEAT CATTLE INDUSTRY?

N.A. Tabakov

FSBOU VO Krasnoyarsk GAU, Krasnoyarsk, Russia

Аннотация. В конце 2020 года много было выступлений руководителей разного уровня, где озвучивали данные, сколько бедных в стране, какая покупательная способность той или иной группы населения, уровень и продолжительность жизни и конечно наши руководители высказывали направления повышения этого уровня при этом уходя от анализа вопроса продовольственной безопасности и главного вопроса насколько производство