

THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIC FARMING IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN LAST DECADE

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After the booming performance of organic farming in the world, one would rightly expect it to play an increasingly important role in rural development. This could be the case, but the Hungarian experience shows otherwise. Its development has stagnated, or it is the small farms that do well in elite markets or the larger export units that exist. This division in turn shows that it is not fulfilling the role it was intended to play decades ago. However, as a forward-looking production method in principle, with the right support system it can not only be an attractive sector for a small group of producers supplying a narrow elite, but can also be a good example of rural development and sustainability. With the right support for the supply side (seeds, land, dissemination of production methods, training), it could develop into a production sector that could be more widely used, thus providing consumers with a greater quantity and variety of healthy food, not only in rural areas. The aim of the study is to present the last decade of Hungarian organic farming, its main trends, characteristics and reasons for stagnation. It will provide producers and traders with suggestions on how more products can reach domestic consumers at affordable prices.