



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

**Date:** 6/9/2006

**GAIN Report Number:** PL6035

## Poland

### Agricultural Situation

### Organic farming in Poland - update

**2006**

**Approved by:**

Ed Porter  
U.S.Embassy

**Prepared by:**

EP/NK

---

**Report Highlights:**

Organic farming is still considered by the Polish government as one of the best options for the survival of small farms, as long as subsidies remain available. Although the number and area of organic farms in Poland almost doubled between 2004 and 2005, organic production remains marginal compared to traditional agriculture. While Poland will follow the path of other EU members and strongly promote organic farming, Polish officials understand that it will always remain a very small part of Polish agriculture.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Warsaw [PL1]  
[PL]

Since May 1, 2004, an amended act dated April 20, 2004 (Official Journal No 93, Pos. 898) regulates organic farming in Poland. The act was originally introduced in Poland in March 2001, but not included in European Union legislation until April 2004. There are also three other documents pertaining to organic farming in Poland regulating the use of fertilizers, plant protection chemicals and financial support:

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development regulation dated May 30, 2005, (Official Journal No 99, Pos. 831) regulating the subsidies for providers of services to farmers, including cost of organic farm controls;

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development regulation dated July 1, 2004, (Official Journal No 164, Pos. 1720) regulating the organization/agency for selecting fertilizers and soil improvement products for use in organic farming, as well as record keeping for these materials; and

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development regulation dated July 1, 2004, (Official Journal No 164, Pos. 1719) regulating the organization/agency for selecting plant protection products for use in organic farming, as well as record keeping for such products.

(In addition, to these local regulations, there are several EU regulations governing organic farming in member states that are enforced in Poland.)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection office are the main authorities responsible for control and certification of organic farms and products in Poland. In 2005, there were seven authorized organic certifying organizations in Poland.

The number of organic farms in Poland almost doubled between 2004 and 2005 to 7,183, while total land under organic farming more than doubled to 204,134 hectares (see chart 1 and 2). Although these increases seem significant, organic farms still account for only 0.2 percent of all Polish farms and only 0.5 percent of all farmed area in Poland (see chart 5 and 6). In fact, Poland lags behind nearly all EU members when it comes to organic farming. For example, only Cyprus and Malta have smaller organic farmed areas and for the entire EU, organic farms account for 1.5 percent of total farms. The value of organic production is quite low, as only a small number of farmers produce commercial quantities. The latest statistics from 2004 indicate that organic production represents only about 0.05 percent of all agricultural production in Poland.

Meadows and pastures account for over half of the land being organically cultivated in Poland, followed by crops (see chart 4). The major organic crops grown in Poland are potatoes followed by rye and wheat. The highest subsidies for organic farming are paid to farmers with orchards, the lowest to crop farmers. Despite the higher subsidies for orchards, organic crop production is more popular because production costs are lower and return on investment comes quicker, e.g. no waiting for trees to mature.

Percent of Organic Farms in Poland, by size						
Total number of farms	up to 5 hectares	5-10 hectares	10-20 hectares	20-50 hectares	50-100 hectares	over 100 hectares
6,872	1,480	1,708	1,678	1,190	471	345

Source: Organic farming in the 1st half of 2005 as reported by the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection Agency

The average size of an organic farm in Poland is 28.4 hectares (see chart 3) or more than three times the average size of all farms in Poland which is 8 hectares. Nearly 90 percent of

all organic farms are less than 50 hectares in size. Smaller organic farms are located mostly in central and southern Poland and larger farms in the lake areas of eastern and northern Poland and along the western border of the country.

Inspection Subsidy Rates		
Size of farm	Rate per farm in PLN	US\$1=PLN3.2
up to 5 hectares	450	140.63
5- 10 hectares	500	156.25
10-20 hectares	550	171.88
20-50 hectares	600	187.50
50- 100 hectares	650	203.13
over 100 hectares	700	218.75

Source: Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Regulation from May 30, 2005 (Official Journal no 99, pos. 831)

Since 2002, Poland has subsidized the costs of inspection associated with organic farming based on farm size. In 2006, the GOP allocated PLN 8 million (US\$ 2.5 million) for organic farming, of which PLN 4.2 million (US\$ 1.37 million) goes to certifying organizations to cover their inspection related costs. The remaining PLN 3.8 million will be spent on research in organic farming (PLN 3.1 million (US\$ 1.01 million)) and on promotion and extension of organic farming (PLN 700,000 (US\$ 227,272)).

EU Subsidies to Organic Farms	
	PLN per hectare per year
Farms without certificate*	680
Farms with certificate	600
Meadows, pastures without certificate*	330
Meadows, pastures with certificate	260
Vegetables production without certificate*	980
Vegetables production with certificate	940
Special production (orchards, berries) without certificate*	1800
Special production (orchards, berries) with certificate	1540

Source: the Agency for Modernization and Restructuring of Agriculture

Exchange rate: US\$1=PLN 3.2

\* For farms in the first or second year of transition from conventional to organic farming and not yet certified as organic.

Since Poland joined the EU in May 2004, Polish organic farmers have also been able to receive a per hectare subsidy depend on the type of production. Subsidies are increased by 20 percent if a farmer also has organic animal production. The Agency of Modernization and Restructuring of Agriculture is responsible for these area payments. Applications are accepted through September and farmers should receive payments at the beginning of the following calendar year.

Farmers receive 100 percent of the subsidy amount for the first 100 hectares of organic cultivation, 50 percent for the next 200 hectares and 10 percent for each hectare above 300. The subsidy amount for yet-to-be certified organic farms is higher because of the costs associated with transitioning from conventional to organic farming. According to Ministry of Agriculture officials, there are plans to shift the allocation for organic subsidies more towards

labor-intensive production like vegetable, orchards and animal, and away from less labor-intensive production such as meadows and pastures.

Despite significant promotion of the benefits of organic farming, interest in changing from conventional to organic farming is not as high among Polish farmers as the Ministry of Agriculture anticipated. One of the reasons discouraging farmers is a law which prohibits a farmer from selling his organic production more than 100 kilometers from his farm. However, the Ministry is still very optimistic and hopes that the number of organic farms will increase to 3-5 percent of all farms within the next few years. Based on the current situation, including the labor-intensive and costly transformation process required to move from conventional to organic farming, this appears to be an ambitious goal that will require significant effort on the part of Polish government officials. One of the most important priorities of the Ministry is to intensify research in organic agriculture and expand the scope of its organic agriculture extension program to include promotion of organic products among farmers and consumers. The Ministry also has applied for EU funds to promote organic products and plans to launch an extensive promotional campaign, including mass-media, starting in 2007.

Demand and high consumer prices for organic products also are limiting interest in organic farming. Demand for organic products in Poland is very low compared with conventional products, mostly due to higher prices for organically grown products and a lack of information about organic products due in part to a lack of organic product promotions. Organic production remains small and organic farmers, processors and traders do not have the financial means to launch effective advertising campaigns. However, the Ministry of Agriculture believes that organic farming is a chance for small farms to survive, a major government goal, as long as organic subsidies remain available.

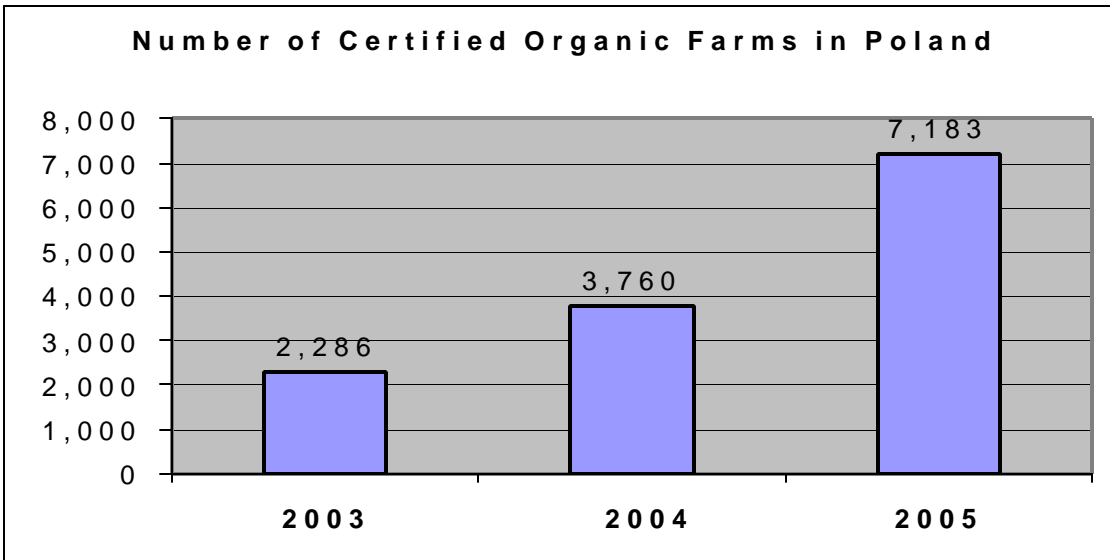
### Trade in Organic Products

It is difficult to determine the impact of accession on organic trade. However, total Polish agricultural exports to other EU member states rose 16 percent in 2005 compared with 2004. Exporters of organic products indicate that there has not been a sharp increase in exports to other EU countries, but note that export procedures are much easier and local certificates are recognized by other member states.

There is no local organic logo to identify and promote Polish organic products, but there is a EU logo that has been translated into Polish (see below). To qualify to use this logo, a farmer must successfully complete a certification process and maintain all standards required for organic farming/processing in the EU.

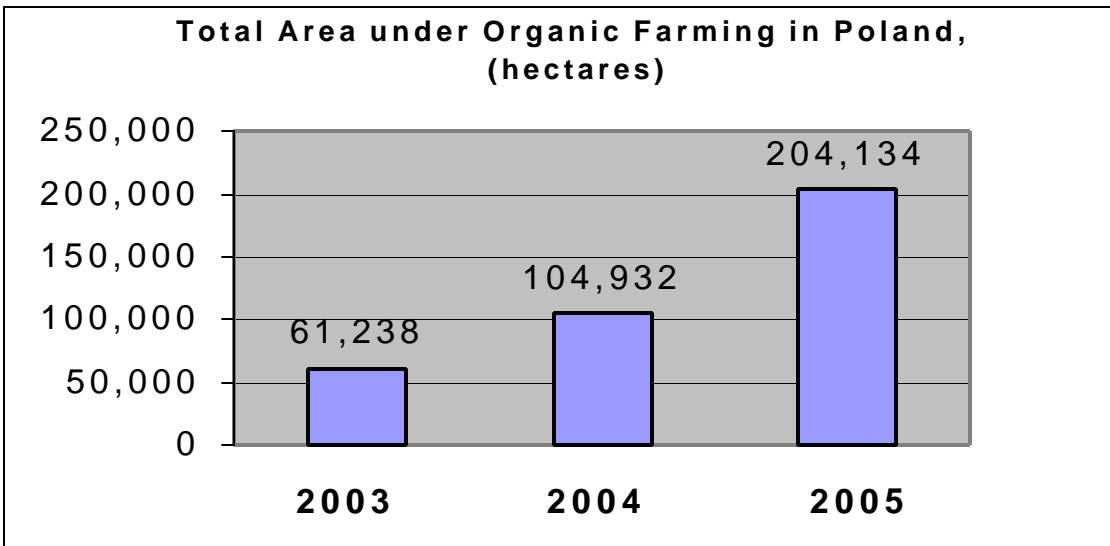


Chart 1.



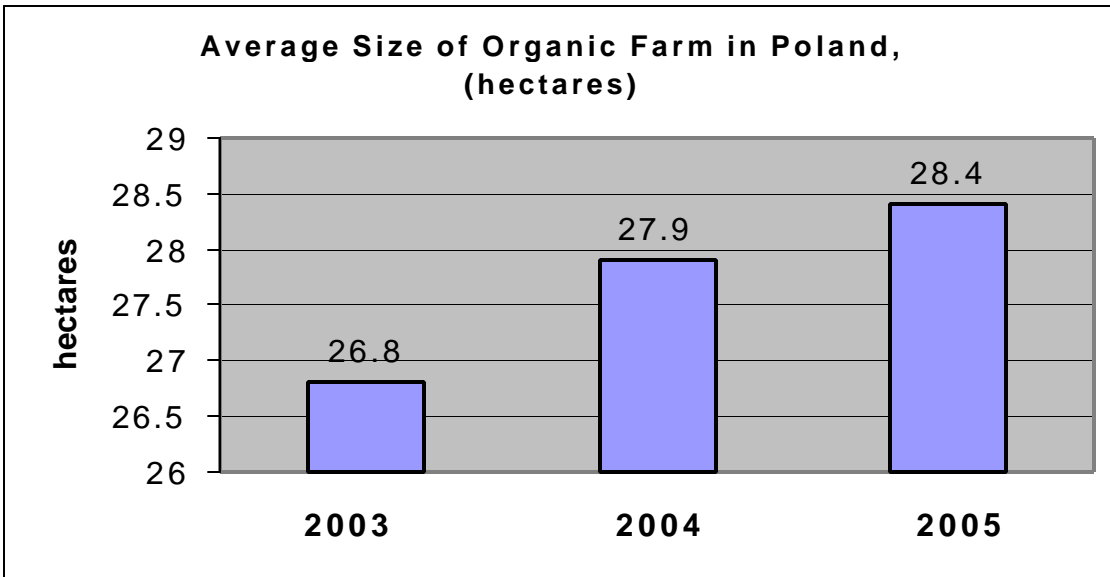
Source: Organic farming in 2005 report prepared by the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection

Chart 2.



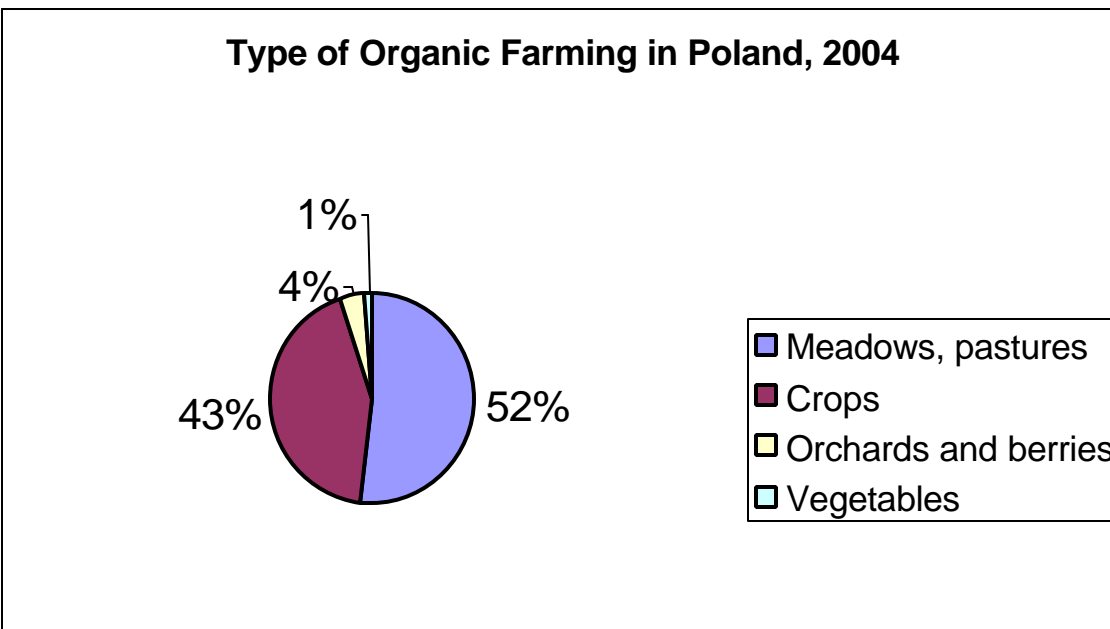
Source: Organic farming in 2005 report prepared by the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection

Chart 3.



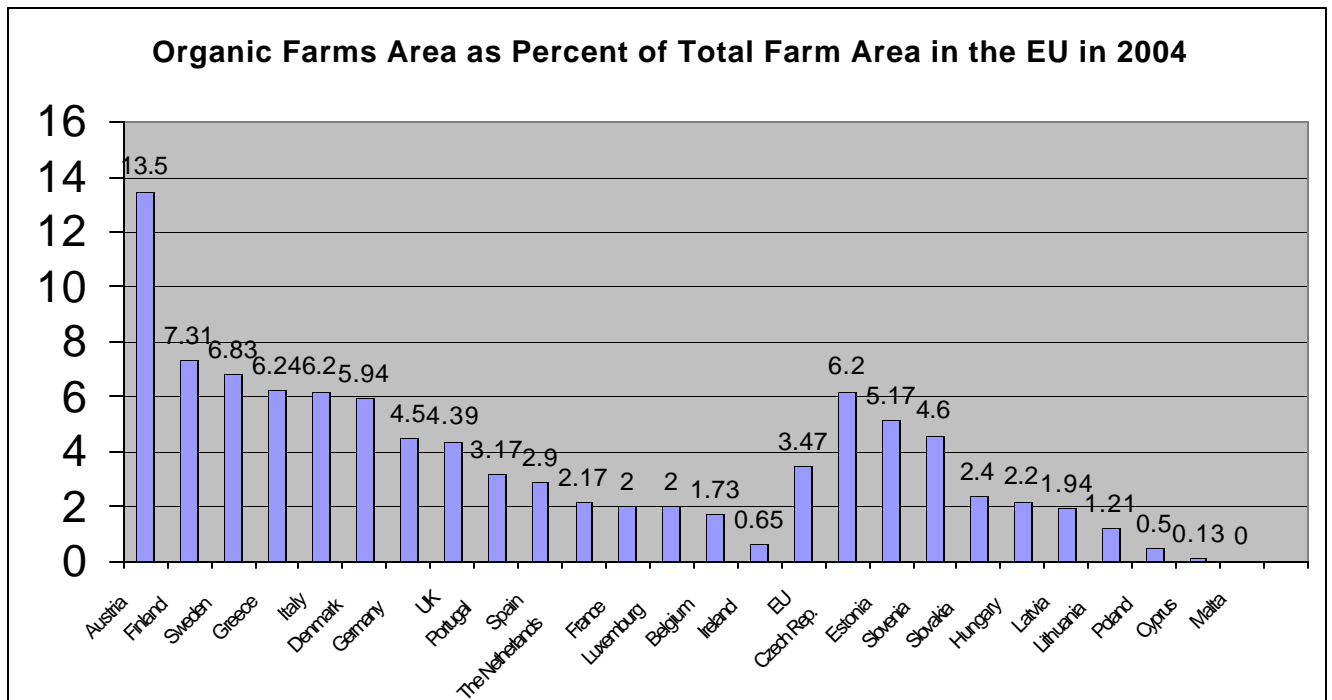
Source: Organic farming in 2005 report prepared by the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection

Chart 4.



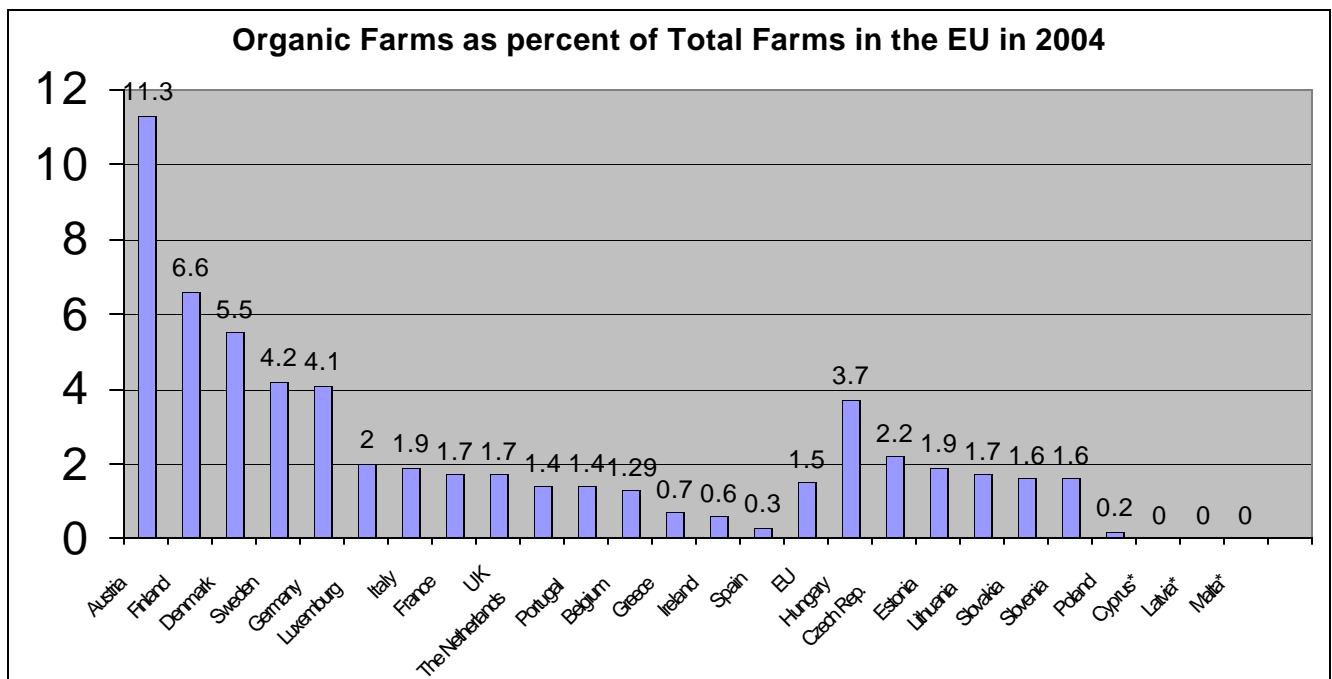
Source: Organic farming in 2005 report prepared by the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection

Chart 5.



Source: Environmental protection annual 2004 report prepared by the Main Statistical Office

Chart 6.



Source: Environmental protection annual 2004 report prepared by the Main Statistical Office

\* to small to show

**Local contacts:**

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Department of Plant Breeding and Protection  
Section of organic farming

**00-930 Warszawa ul. Wspólna 30**

ph. 48-22 623-24-66, 623-25-73

fax: 48-22 623 1781

e-mail: [wieslaw.wawiernia@minrol.gov.pl](mailto:wieslaw.wawiernia@minrol.gov.pl)

Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection

**00-930 Warszawa ul. Wspólna 30**

ph. 48-22 623-29-00, 623-29-01

fax: 48-22 623-29-98, 623-29-99

Web page: <http://www.ijhar-s.gov.pl/index.php?idkat=114>

**Extension service:**

EKOLAND - <http://www.ekoland.org.pl/>

Central Extension Service in Brwinow - [http://www.odr.net.pl/rolnictwo\\_ekologiczne/](http://www.odr.net.pl/rolnictwo_ekologiczne/)

**Certifying organizations:**

EKOGWARANCJA PTRE Sp. z o.o. in Lublin - <http://www.ekogwarancja.pl>

Unit of Certification of Organic Production PNG Sp.z o.o. in Zajaczkow -

<http://www.png.ecofarm.pl>

COBICO Sp. z o.o. in Krakow - <http://www.cobico.pl>

BIOEKSPERT Sp. z o.o. in Warsaw - <http://www.bioekspert.waw.pl/>

BIOCERT Malopolska in Krakow - [www.biocert.pl](http://www.biocert.pl)

Polish Center for Research and Certification S.A. in Pila - e-mail: [pcbcpila@i-pila.pl](mailto:pcbcpila@i-pila.pl)

Agro Bio Test Sp. z o.o. in Warsaw - <http://www.agrobiotest.pl>

More information on organic products can be found:

q FAS website on organics: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/agx/organics/organics.html>

q ERS website on organics: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Organic/>

q OTA's website: <http://www.ota.com/index.html> and the OTA site on market trends:

<http://www.ota.com/organic/mt.html>

q Organic Business Website: <http://www.hotlineprinting.com/obn.html>