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Poland

Organic Products

Certification and Subsidies to Domestic Production

2008

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Report Highlights:

Highlights: American and European organic standards are not yet equivalent although they achieve the same end result for fulfilling a vision of healthy, nutritious and natural foods. Exporters wishing to supply their products to Poland (EU-27) or to the U.S. have to obtain additional certification on their products. Due to the small demand for such services, there is no Polish certifier accredited by USDA for the National Organic Program. However, Polish companies can request the certificate from other EU certifiers and they have local offices. EU farmers in Poland receive subsidy payments to become organically certified and organic farmers receive supplemental payments for their farms.

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

Poland produces high quality organic products and sells them locally and in EU markets. According to the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection Service (AFQI), there were 11,887 organic farms and 207 organic products processors in Poland at the end of 2007, a 30 percent increase compared with 2006. The Ministry of Agriculture estimates that the number of organic farms will double by 2013. Poland subsidizes partially the cost of certification for organic standards. For smaller farms the subsidy pays almost all of the certification cost. Larger farms get a smaller certification payment as a percentage of the certification cost.

Subsidy Rates for certification in 2007		
Size of farm	Rate per farm in PLN	US\$1=PLN2.5
up to 5 hectares	500	200
5-10 hectares	600	240
10-20 hectares	650	260
20-50 hectares	700	280
50-100 hectares	750	300
over 100 hectares	800	320

The actual rates for 2008 will be available in April/May.

Farmers also get EU subsidies for organic farming depending on the specialization of the farm and its certification status:

EU Subsidies to Organic Farms within PROW 2007-2013 (Rural Development)		
	PLN per hectare per year	
	with certificate	under the certification process
Farms	790 (202.4 euro)	840 (215.2 euro)
Meadows, pastures	260 (66.6 euro)	330 (84.5 euro)
Vegetables production	1 300 (333 euro)	1 550 (397 euro)
Herbs production	1 050 (269 euro)	1 150 (294.6 euro)
Special production (orchards, berries)	1 540 (394.5 euro)	1 800 (461.1 euro)

There are 7 private companies accredited by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to certify organic farms and products in Poland. Polish certificates are valid throughout the EU. Only two companies, Ekogwarancja and Bioekspert provide certification in accordance with the U.S. National Organic Program (NOP/USDA) as sub-contractors to German and Swiss companies accredited by USDA. As there is no great demand for NOP certification services in Poland, no Polish company is interested yet in U.S. accreditation. At the moment there are 60 companies (farmers and traders) under the U.S. certification process. They are suppliers of apples, strawberries, blackberries, nuts, herbs, wheat, and oat. There were some exports of Polish organic products to the United States in 2006, but in 2007 there were no shipments due to prices and organic demand in the EU. But more and more exporters are interested in getting into the U.S. market. There are three ways to export foreign organic products to the U.S. market: 1) direct certification from a USDA accredited certifier; 2) Poland's Ministry of Agriculture (or other government body) becomes "recognized" by USDA as the competent authority which then accredits certifiers in Poland, to certify organic production in Poland to USDA, NOP standard; or 3) USDA recognizes Poland's (or the EU's) organic standard as "equivalent" and product produced in Poland is allowed to

flow into the U.S. without further certification. A U.S.-EU equivalence agreement has not been finished yet.

A producer who intends to import organic agricultural products into the EU from third countries has to apply for authorization to import. A special application form is available at the Main Inspectorate of AFQI website, (www.ijhars.gov.pl -> organic farming).

The Chief Inspector of AFQI provides authorization based on the principles specified in EU Council Regulation 2092/91/EEC and Commission Regulation 1788/2001/EC. The authorization is issued to the producer as an administrative decision.

The producer applying for such authorization has to present evidence that the production methods and control measures in the country from which the imports are to be realized are equivalent to the production principles and control systems specified in Council Regulation 2092/91/EEC, or organize inspection by an EU approved group.

Companies certifying Polish products according to USDA/NOP standards:

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