

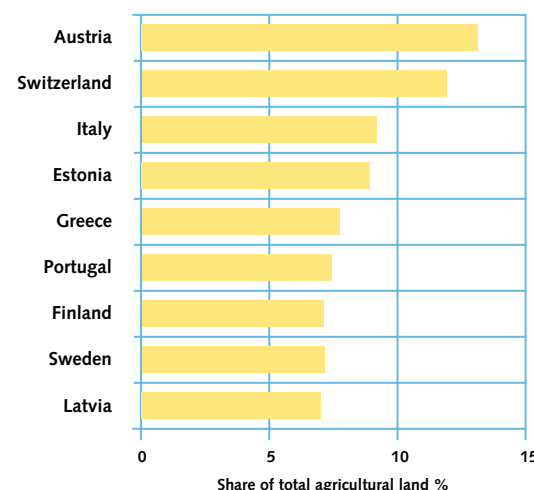
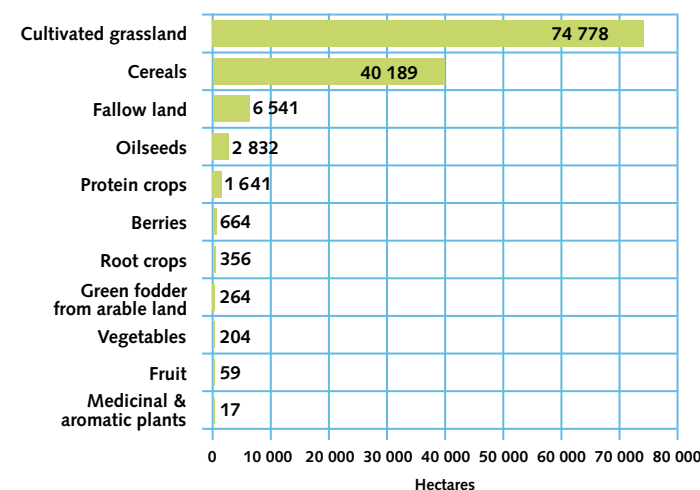
▶ KEY FIGURES ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION

In 2008 there were 3,900 organic farms in Finland (5.6% of all farms). The total area farmed using organic production methods was 150,000 hectares (6.5% of all farmland) – of which 135,000 hectares is already certified organic production area, plus a further 15,000 hectares currently undergoing conversion. Around 400 organic food processors and importers also operate in Finland.



FIGURES Land areas used for organic farming in Finland (fully converted by 2006)

Shares of agricultural land farmed organically (2006)



▶ FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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www.finfood.fi/luomu > English

Organic Farmers' Union (Luomuliitto)
e-mail luomuliitto@luomuliitto.fi
www.luomuliitto.fi

Organic Food Finland (Export consortium)
www.organic-finland.com

Food from Finland (Website dedicated to Finnish food and food culture)
www.foodfromfinland.com

Organic Europe website
www.organic-europe.net > Country Reports > Finland



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Naturally from FINLAND
Organic Farming in Finland

▶ ORGANIC HIGHLIGHTS IN FINLAND

OATS
Finland is the largest producer of organic oats in Europe, and also the second largest worldwide, after Canada, accounting for about a fifth of global production.

RAPE SEED OIL
Organic rape seed oil is produced from organic summer rape seed. This distinct crop variety is only rarely cultivated anywhere else in the world.

POTATO FLOUR
Finland is one of Europe's main producers of organic potato flour. Half of the organic potato flour produced in Finland is exported.

LIQUORICE
Finns love liquorice, and Finnish exports account for about half of the global market for organic liquorice.

SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS
Finland is the largest producer of organic shiitake mushrooms in Europe.

WILD PRODUCTS
The world's largest certified organic collection areas for wild berries, with an area of about 90 000 square kilometres, are in Northern and Eastern Finland. The most important berries are wild bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) and lingonberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*).



ORGANIC FARMING IN FINLAND

Finland is one of the northernmost countries in the world. This greatly affects farming. The growing season only lasts five months in southern Finland, and just two to three months in the north. Many local crop varieties have been developed specifically for the short growing season. Finland is the most northerly country to be self-sufficient in basic foodstuffs. The harsh climate also has advantages. The cold winters naturally restrict many pests, reducing the need for pesticides. The plant health situation is among the best in the EU. Finland is proud of its high-quality foodstuffs,

pure and safe agricultural inputs, and healthy farm animals. Natural conditions and the predominance of relatively small family farms provide a sound base for organic farming.

Finland has promoted conversions to organic production since 1990, and this has become an integral element of Finnish agriculture and agricultural policy. Thanks to the rapid development of the organic sector, a wide range of everyday organic foodstuffs can today be found in local supermarkets, and organic farming is well covered by agricultural research programmes and advisory services.



INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION

In Finland organic production is inspected and certified under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The production, processing, importing and marketing of organic products are controlled through the Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira and the Rural Departments of Finland's 15 regional Employment and Economic Development Centres.

Organic operators are registered in a centralised database kept by Evira. Certificates and other documents are issued both by the Rural Departments, and by Evira. The database also contains a wealth of statistical information on organic production, which is compiled as part of the Yearbook of Farm Statistics. Evira also maintains a database on organic seeds.

The Finnish Customs works closely with Evira to control organic products entering Finland. The municipal authorities control the marketing of organic products. All operators dealing with organic food, with the exception of wholesalers dealing only with the pre-packaged products and retailers selling to the final

consumer or user, are subject to verifications of compliance at least once a year. The inspected farms and companies bear the costs of the inspection system in full.



INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF FARMS

Evira operates the inspection system for organic farming through the Rural Departments of the Employment and Economic Development Centres, who inspect and certify production on organic farms. Evira provides regular training, coordination and auditing for inspectors and the Rural Departments.



INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIC FOOD AND FEED

Evira is responsible for inspections and certification of organic food and livestock feed. The municipal food control authorities oversee the marketing of organic products under the supervision of Evira.

Evira also controls imported organic products. The customs authorities carry out border controls for organic products entering the European Community.

ORGANIC LABELLING IN FINLAND

The "Luomu" logo used in Finland on certified organically produced foodstuffs tells consumers that products originate from organic operators, and that their production, processing or packaging have been controlled by the Finnish authorities.

Evira grants rights to use the logo in the labelling and marketing of organic agricultural products, foodstuffs, feedstuffs and alcoholic beverages.

Other organic logos, including the EU organic logo, are also widely used in Finland.

