

ORGANIC FARMING IN ROMANIA, PRESENT AND PROSPECTS

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ABSTRACT

In the last years, in Romania, organic farming has experienced a strong development; are becoming more and more in conversion organic operators or operators that are certificates- knew how to capitalize on the rich agricultural potential of Romania. In addition to the requirements of EU and national Regulations in the field continued a series of quality schemes developed and managed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Romania (PDOs, PGIs and TSGs).

The work paper is a synthesis which aims to highlight the organizational framework that governed this area in Romania, the main requirements imposed on operators of organic farming, a description of the requirements and quality schemes, the importance of compliance with the specific European Regulations.

INTRODUCTION

In Romania, in accordance with the article 27 of Regulation (EC) 834/2007, for the organic agriculture sector, have been designated as the competent authority the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR). The Authority work like as the General Directorate of Agricultural Policies and Strategies (the Department of Organic Agriculture and Processed Products) and the Direction of Agriculture of the County and the municipality of Bucharest. In each of these locations is a compartment for the implementation of policies in the field of organic agriculture.

In accordance with article no 1 of the Order of the Minister no. 181/2012 in Romania and in accordance with the provisions of article no. 27 of Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007, the check powers have been delegated to Control of Inspection and Certification Bodies (CB). This is made possible by the article 5 paragraph (2) of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 of European Parliament and of the Council (from 29 April 2004). According those the official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with the legislation on feed and food and animal health standards and animal welfare.

For obtaining approval as Inspection and Certification Bodies in Organic Agriculture (OA), M.A.D.R. check how compliance with the requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 and the Order of the Minister no. 181/2012. List of approved Inspection and Certification Bodies shall be published annually on the website of MADR. The Certificate of Approval is valid for 4 years and is awarded for their production, processing, distribution for the following product groups:

- plants and seaweed
- seaweed and seaweed products
- livestock and animal products
- aquaculture animals and products derived from aquaculture
- processed products for use as food
- processed products for use as feed

With the accreditation of Inspection and Certification Bodies according to SR EN ISO/IEC 17065: 2013, MADR together with the National Accreditation Body RENAR, will modify the legislation (in next future) so that there is a continues standing agreement between the accreditation and approval of Inspection and Certification Bodies.

The Quality Policies Service from Ministry MADR quality have been developed as PDOs schemes (foodstuffs using Protected Designations of Origin), PGIs (Protected Geographical Indication), TSGs (Traditional Specialties Guaranteed). These quality schemes are part of the Community Agrarian Policy and are under Regulations 1151/2012 for the systems in the field of quality of agricultural products and foodstuffs.

According to the EU legislation, PDOs include agricultural products and processed food and prepared in a given geographical area using recognized local practices, PGIs include agricultural products or foodstuffs related to a given geographical area and that at least one of the stages of production, preparation, processing and processing take place in that area, and TSG are produced with strong traditional character – that appear in composition or in the methods of production.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

In order to develop the work paper (in the synthesis), have been studying National Legislation, European and International Regulations in this field and we analyzed the practical results achieved. For to develop the practical study and interpretation of the obtained results the essential contribution give the first author as approved responsible for certification in the field of organic farming in the National Inspection and Certification Body for the organic food products[1].

For a good documentary, were studied all EC Regulations: Reg. (EC) No 834/2007, Reg. (EC) No. 889/2008, Reg. (EC) No 1151/2012 and the national legislation Emergency Ordinance 34/2000 (with additions and attachments in 2006), Ministry Order no. 181/2012- in terms of the field of Organic Farming and Quality Schemes (with the national legislation and Regulations related to) who treat topics related to products with Protected designation of origin (PDOs), protected geographical Indications product (IGPs) and products that fit the Traditional Specialties Guaranteed (TSGs)[2], [3].

The Quality Package is part of the Quality Policy-which is one of the 16 under-policies of Community in the field of agriculture. The Quality package includes: a new regulation concerning the quality Schemes PDOs, PGIs, TSGs and a new framework for Quality Optional Terms (a new Standard for all agricultural Products Marketing, a Standard based on the place of production as well as new guidelines regarding voluntary certification Schemes and Labeling of the products).

For a complete study were identified the occurring changes after the passage of the National Inspection and Certification Bodies to the new Standard: ISO/IEC 17065 SR/2013 (Standard that governs conformity assessment and establishes requirements for Bodies that certifying products, processes and services). The certification of products, processes and services is to provide confidence to all parties concerned that a product, process or service fulfils specified requirements.

The new Standard keeps the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 65 but they are also improved when they deem it necessary.

With the accreditation of Inspection and Certification Bodies according to SR ISO/IEC 17065/2013, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), on the basis of the collaboration with the National Accreditation Body RENAR, will change the laws-in the following period (2013-2014) to be a permanent accreditation and approval of the Inspection and Certification Bodies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The aim of certification of products, processes and services is to provide confidence to all parties concerned that a product, process or service fulfils specified requirements.

The new Standard keeps the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 65 but they are also improved when they deem it necessary.

To improve the Quality Schemes, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has used the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, the Regulation (EC) No. 1216/2007 of the Commission laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No. 509/2006 Council of traditional specialties guaranteed agricultural produce and foodstuffs, Regulation (EC) 1905/2006 of the Commission laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 of the Council on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs.

Based upon them have developed a series of Decisions and Orders of the national legislation: HG. 828/25 July 2007 regarding the establishment of the System of Protection of Geographical Indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs, Ministry Order No. 906/30 October 2007 that approve the procedure of registration and verification of documentation for obtaining protection of a Geographical Indication or a designation of origin for an agricultural product or a foodstuff, Govern Order no. 134/06 February 2008 on the TSGs of the agricultural products and foodstuffs with a Ministry Order no 160/14.03.2008-related to the approval of the procedure for registration and verification documentation for the acquisition of protection TGS, Ministry Order No. 181/2012 for approving the rules on the organization of the inspection and certification system, approval of the Control Bodies is to supervise them.

Approval by the MARD for the Control and Inspection Bodies (CIB) is always preceded by the accreditation of the CIB in accordance with European standard SR EN ISO 45011/1998, issued by a body authorized for this purpose.

Mr. Dacian Cioloș, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development: "our Geographical Indications are worth € 54.3 billion worldwide and represents 15% of the total European exports of food and beverage [4]. It shows their importance to the EU economy and the relevance of our efforts to promote and defend this system. Geographical indications are keys to generate local value added and employment. Geographical indications make agriculture viable in rural areas and the new Regulation-which recently entered into force, will strengthen further. About 60 percent of European sales of products with geographical indications were registered in the country where these products are produced, while 20% were exported in other EU countries and a further 20% were exported outside the EU. Exports outside the EU represent about 11.5 billion €, destination mainly in the USA (30%), Switzerland and Singapore (7% each), Canada, China, Japan and Hong Kong (6% each).

In 28 States (in which is included the study of EU countries) are registered today requests for obtaining protection for 54 products included at TGSs and 1,400 products included in the PGIs.

Based on the European Rules (EU) No 1151/2012 on the systems in the field of quality of agricultural products and foodstuffs could develop in the side of national legislation Ministry Order no 08/12 January 2013 – for approving private recognition Bodies of Inspection and Certification of agricultural products or foodstuffs and to monitor the activities of those private bodies, inspection and certification of agricultural products or foodstuffs which have gained the protection of geographical indications (PGIs) designations of origin (PDOs) and traditional faculties guaranteed (TSGs) and of the said regulation. These Regulations are in the process of change.

As a result of these policies is registered today within the MARD, the Direction of Organic Agriculture a total of 14 active CIBs in the fields of agricultural products or foodstuffs specific to organic farming and a total of over 23,000 applications for registration in the conversion phase (transition from conventional agriculture to the ecologic).

A situation of registered organic agriculture indicators for Romania is presented in the table below.

Table 1

Indicators	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of registered operators in organic farming	3409	3834	4191	3228	3155	9703	15544
The area cultivated in organic farming, crops on arable land (hectares)	45605	65112	86454	110014.4	148033.5	147581.55	174643.95
The area cultivated in organic farming, permanent crops (ha) pasture and hayfields	51200	57600	46006.5	39232.8	31579.11	78197.51	105835.57
Acreage in organic farming, permanent crops (ha) of orchards and vineyards	294	954	1518	1869.4	3093.04	4166.62	7781.33
Collection of spontaneous flora (ha)	38700	58728	81279	88883.4	77294.35	338051	1082138

Source: communication from the inspection and certification bodies (quote from website MARD)[5]

As a result of legislative changes and increasing interest in the certification process, in 2012, the total number of traditional products was 4291 (out of which the vast majority was cheese, meat products and bakery products).

In the segment of producers who are enrolled in the production sector of the "traditional products" are found today 1089 producers (247 individuals and legal persons 842).

In terms of geographical distribution, on the counties, the traditional products: the most traditional products are certified in the counties of Sibiu-682 products, Arges County-637products, Satu Mare County- 382 products. The smaller number of traditional products is certified in the counties of: Giurgiu County -12 products, Olt County-10 products, Gorj County-2 products.

There were also a number of reasoned requests for protection of the name: PGIs "Magiun de Topoloveni", "Carnati de Plescoi" and PDO "Novac afumat de Tara Barsei".

Changes that might occur in the inspection and certification of organic agricultural and food products:

A. *In the case of processing and certification processes appear some changes induced by SR EN ISO17065/2013:*

When this international Standard applies to the certification of processes: it replaces the "product" with "process (processes)", replace "production" with "progress", replace "the realized product" with "manufactured process", it replaces "to produce" with "to make", replace "the system of certification" with "the certification scheme" (mandatory for product certification) and on clarify that the certification of a product, process or service is an activity of «third party».

B. *EA-3/12 – Modifies induced by EA Policy for the Accreditation of Organic Production Certification*

The document outlines the EA Policy for accreditation bodies when processing accreditation to control bodies in the field of organic production are EA-3/12 – EA Policy for the Accreditation of Organic Production Certification

This official document is composed by three essential Chapters: Definitions, the Requirements for Accreditation Bodies evaluating Control Bodies for their operations in the

European Union, the Requirements for Accreditation Bodies evaluating Control Bodies for their operations in third countries.

B1. Short description of the scope of accreditation for EU and the third countries.

For the countries from European Union the Chapter Two is very important. This chapter present: the technical Assessors and Experts qualifications and training requirements, the all type of documents that to be submitted by control bodies applying for accreditation, the best description of the scope of accreditation, granting conditions for initial accreditation / reaccreditation, the conditions for the office and witness/control visit that be conducted for initial accreditation / reaccreditation, extension of accreditation scope to additional products categories, extension of accreditation scope to organic products certification for the purpose of equivalence in third countries, surveillance assessments, witness assessment for to be conducted during of one accreditation cycle, witness assessments- criteria for the selection operators to be witnessed and the information exchange between the accreditation body, Member State's competent authority and the scheme owner[6], [7], [8].

B2. Short description of the scope of accreditation for EU and the third countries.

The accreditation scope into EU countries shall be defined by the product categories as defined in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EC) no 834/2007.

The accreditation scope for the third countries is defined by the following product categories as set out in Annex II of Regulation (EC) no 508/2012 [9], [10]:

- a. Unprocessed plant products
- b. Live animals or unprocessed animal products
- c. Aquaculture products and seaweeds
- d. Processed agricultural products for use as food
- e. Processed agricultural products for use as feed
- f. Vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivation.

The accreditation scope shall indentify the standards applied in third countries.

In order to grant accreditation for a given product categories the Accreditation body shall assess that the Control body certifies against the Standards that is equivalent to the Regulation (EC) no 834/2007 and it's implementing rules.

CONCLUSIONS

- The Organic Agriculture is very important for Romania; It is an economic segment which is in a lot of spelling development and produce added value;
- In the European Union is given a special importance of organic agriculture sector growth-through the provisions of the Common Agricultural Policy, that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development together with other Romanian authorities have a very important role in the development of economy in the Horizon of 2014-2020;
- The Agricultural Specialist has a very important role in public information, awareness raising, training and preparation of all stakeholders of organic agriculture;
- Inspection and certification bodies, organic products have a very important role in the inspection and certification of these products;
- as a result of the introduction and application of SR EN ISO 17065/2013 will produce a development of certification schemes for agricultural products and traditional with geographical indications and protected designations of origin;
- Knowledge and application of the rules of organic farming leads to increase the added-value in agricultural products.

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