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ORGANIC FARMING AND THE GREENING OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY MADE WALLOON AGRICULTURE BECOME MORE ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY IN 2015

Philippe BURNY\textsuperscript{1,2}, Dacinia Crina PETRESCU\textsuperscript{3}, Ruxandra Mălina PETRESCU-MAG\textsuperscript{4}

\textsuperscript{1}Walloon Centre for Agricultural Research, Bâtiment Arthur Petermann, Rue du Bordia 4, 5030 Gembloux, Belgium, email: burny@cra.wallonie.be

\textsuperscript{2}Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, University of Liège, Passage des Déportés 2, 5030 Gembloux, Belgium

\textsuperscript{3}Faculty of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Babeș-Bolyai University; 30 Fantanele St., Cluj-Napoca, Romania, email: malina.petrescu@ubbcluj.ro

\textsuperscript{4}Faculty of Business, Babeș-Bolyai University; 7 Horea St., Cluj-Napoca, Romania, email: crina.petrescu@tbs.ubbcluj.ro

Abstract

In Wallonia, organic farming continues to increase its share of agricultural activities, the number of organic farmers exceeding for the first time 10\% of the total number of farmers in 2014, with 8.6\% of the total agricultural area. Meadows represent 83\% of the organic areas, general crops 15\% and vegetables 1\%. The number of cattle heads is still increasing, while poultry and laying hen recorded a significant progress during the last years. Organic products consumption is also increasing and the market share of organic products in food products reached 2.3\% in 2014. On the other hand, the implementation of the new Common Agricultural Policy, and particularly its green payment, obliges 50\% of Walloon farmers to practice crop diversification and 46\% to have at least 5\% of ecological focus area within their arable land in 2015, which represents more than 24,000 ha. So, organic farming and ecological focus areas do have today a significant share of the Walloon agricultural area, leading to a more sustainable agriculture.

Keywords: Wallonia, organic farming, green payment, ecological focus areas.