

A woman with short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a black jacket over green overalls, stands in a barn. She is leaning on a metal railing. In the background, several black cows are visible in stalls, and there is a large pile of hay in the foreground. The barn has a corrugated metal wall and a wooden door.

Organic farming

Lone Andersen, organic farmer

Chairwoman WP Organic Copa-Cogeca

EU Agricultural Outlook Conference

16/12/2020

copa*cogeca
european farmers european agri-cooperatives

My organic farm in Denmark

- * Converted to organic farming in 2009
- * 120 dairy cows
- * 90 acres of sandy soil
- * 8 km of natural fence and wild nature
- * Collaborate with plant breeders in the neighborhood
- * Using modern technology (e.g. for milking)



Challenges in converting

- * It can be difficult to sell your products
- * Very difficult to cultivate the soil and get a good crop
- * You need a more robust herd due to stricter medication requirements
- * Many rules, regulations and frequent controls



My advice



- *Check the market – can you actually sell your products?
- *Be patient and open for change
- *Feel safe with the frequent controls and many rules – it's a condition for organic farming
- *Get all the advice and counselling you can – by colleagues and consultants



What it is the actual situation?

Organic farms are on average **almost twice** as big as conventional farms

The EU is the second largest consumer of organic food in the world, with **€ 37.4 billion** in retail sales

Over the last ten years, organic farming has risen by more than **+65%** indicating a very dynamic and quickly rising sector

Premiums on producer prices for organic products reach up to **150%** in addition to conventional prices

8% of total EU agricultural land is under organic farming (2018)

%
OF AGRICULTURAL LAND UNDER ORGANIC FARMING (2018)



Yields on organic farms may be significantly lower, ranging between **40% & 85%** of yields in conventional farming

292,175 organic farmers in the EU (2016, Eurostat)

On average, organic farming increased species richness by about **30%**

3.2 million tonnes

of organic agri-food products were imported in 2019, under the principle of equivalence of production standards



Next Challenges for organic farming

Welcomed FarmToFork and Biodiversity Strategies



Target 25%: ambitious objective but not-impossible to be achieved

How?

- * Right incentive for both supply and demand
- * Public procurement
- * Promotion of organic products





Thank you for your attention !