



Organic production in Denmark

7% of Danish farmland is organically grown and 8% of food products sold in Denmark are organic.

Denmark has long traditions in organic production. In 1987, Denmark was the first country in the world to pass a law on organic farming and to introduce government inspection of the organic production chain. The tight inspection scheme ensures organic food quality at farms, in companies and in supermarkets.

The Danish grocery industry was among the first in the world to embrace the organic trend, as early as in the 1990s, which is why the Danish market for organic products is very mature today. Every Danish retail chain carries a wide range of organic products. This means that Danish consumers are not forced to visit special shops or farm shops to purchase organic products, as they are readily available in their local supermarket. Danish consumers primarily buy organic products from grocery stores, but also through subscription schemes, farm shops and private deals and specialty shops, as well as canteens and restaurants.

8% of the food products sold is organic

The organic market in Denmark has expanded throughout the financial crisis and continues to do so. Today, 8% of the food products sold in Denmark are organic. According to the latest statistics from the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Danish consumers purchased organic products averaging a value of 142 € per capita in 2010. This ranks Denmark second in the world, exceeded only by Switzerland.



100% increase in the organically farmed area by 2020

The Danish government aims at contributing to achieve a doubling of the organically farmed area in Denmark by 2020, which will mean that approximately 12 % of the Danish farmland will be organically farmed. In order to reach the goal, the government supports the development by subsidising for example farm conversions, new investments and organic market activities. The support is partly financed through the EU's Rural Development Programme.

New Nordic Cuisine

The New Nordic Cuisine currently represents one of the most important organic trends – among leading restaurants such as noma, crowned as the world's best restaurant in the last three years, as well as in Danish households when cooking dinner. New Nordic Cuisine is based on principles of simplicity, purity, animal welfare and sustainability, which tie in perfectly with the rules governing organic farming and production.



Organic food in public institution kitchens

The Danish government supports that a larger part of the food prepared in public institution kitchens becomes organic. A total of 500,000 meals are prepared daily in Danish public institutions such as hospitals, schools, kindergartens and nursing homes. More organic food in public kitchens is seen as an important factor in reaching a doubling in the organically farmed area by 2020.

Some of the largest Danish enterprises also offer their employees organic food in their canteens today.



Facts:

Organic Denmark

Organic Denmark is a Danish association of organic farmers, consumers and 130 food producers, representing 85% of organic production in Denmark.

The association was established in 2002 by merging eight existing Danish organic associations and aims to facilitate ways of creating more organic production and sustainable change.

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International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems

ICROFS, the International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems, established in 2008, has made Denmark a leading nation in research into organic farming, which has further promoted organic production.

<http://www.icrofs.dk/>

<http://www.icrofs.org/index.html>

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