



Source: AMS based on ADLO and MIB

Biological agriculture in Flanders is growing again

In past decades, biological agriculture has made its contribution to the general sustainability of agriculture. A number of its cultivation techniques has since been adopted on a large scale. This production method is supported by the Flemish government because of the conviction that biological agriculture will also play a role in the further sustainability of Flemish agriculture.

Since the introduction of government support in 1994, the biological agriculture area has multiplied six-fold up to 2007. In 2002 the area stagnated, to increase again from 2006. The area increased in 2007 to 3 836 ha. That is 17 % more than the year before. This increase runs parallel with considerable expansion in government support since 2000, both to biofarming directly and to the biological sector in the broadest sense. The Flemish bio-area (0.6 %) is lower than the European average of 3.9 % biological agricultural land (EU-25, 2005).

Demand exceeds domestic production

The consumption of biological foodstuffs exceeds the domestic production. In 2008, biological products achieved a market share of 1.3 % within the total family expenditure on food in Belgium. The annual expenditure on bioproducts was 27 euro per inhabitant in 2007 (Bioforum). With this, Belgium scores almost as high as the European average of 28.50 euro.

	1994	2000	2001	2002	2005	2006	2007
area under control (ha)	640	3 393	4 026	3 640	3 153	3 267	3 836
area new files (ha)	527	497	136	139	1 132	858	211
direct support (10 ³ euro)	.	420	464	486	809	808	992
indirect support (10 ³ euro)	.	133	865	1 665	2 158	2 798	2 301