

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ORGANIC AND CONVENTIONAL FARMING

Several trends have now emerged under the auspices of sustainable agriculture, some of which continue to use conventional tools (chemical control, artificial fertilizers), while other trends completely reject them and look for ecological solutions instead. At the international level, there have been many studies comparing the sustainability of organic and conventional farming (SZILÁGYI et al., 2018).

By **conventional farming**, we mean the industrial-like, mass-producing, energy-intensive, artificial, industrially-derived material and energy consumption agricultural system. The basic aspiration of the economies belonging to this circle is profit generation, and the result of this is independence, artificial regulation, the gradual exchange (substitution) of natural resources with artificial resources (ÁNGYÁN et al. 2004; MÉSZÁROS 2016).

**Organic farming** is a production system that produces high-quality, chemical-free food, taking into account environmental sustainability, such as natural systems, biodiversity, soil and water quality, and animal welfare (IFOAM).

Aspects of organic farming show some differences compared to conventional farming, which can be summarized as follows:

- the ecological farmer performs services and ensures the survival of goods whose value cannot be determined using the tools and calculation methods of traditional economics;
- proportionally more ecological farms are found in areas with unfavorable conditions than in more fertile areas of the given country;
- it can generally be accepted as true that the manual labor requirement of the entire organic farming system is greater than in the case of traditional farming;
- labor use is better distributed over time in traditional systems;
- organic foods are generally better sold on the market, the net income per hectare is often the same or higher than in conventional farming (ALVINCZ – KOLTAI 2009).

**CAPTIVATE** project, funded under the Erasmus+ program of the European Union, is dedicated to knowledge transfer and vocational training of farmers and agricultural advisors related to the current EU strategic lines, such as the Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy and Organic Action Plan. One of the CAPTIVATE's main objectives is that farmers better understand conditionality, eco-scheme and rural development regulations, they choose and participate in the certain schemes with more responsibility and awareness, carrying out the new CAP measures more effectively.

The article primarily provides farmers and consultants with basic information about the current situation of organic farming. Within the framework of the CAPTIVATE program, it provides information on the topic of sustainable and organic farming.

## References

Ángyán J., Menyhért Z. (szerk.) 2004: Alkalmazkodó növénytermesztés, környezet- és tájgazdálkodás. Szaktudás Kiadóház, Budapest, 560 p.

Alvincz J. – Koltai J. P. (2009): Az ökológiai gazdálkodás hatékonysági kérdései. Gazdálkodás. LIII. évf. 2. sz. 156-167. o.

Mészáros D. 2016: A mezőgazdaság fenntarthatóságát értékelő módszer fejlesztése. Doktori értekezés, SzIE, Gödöllő, 145 p.

Szilágyi A. – Podmaniczky L. – Mészáros D. (2018): Konvencionális, ökológiai és permakultúrás gazdaságok környezeti fenntarthatósága. Tájökológiai Lapok 16 (2) pp. 97-112

<https://www.ifoam.bio/why-organic/organic-landmarks/definition-organic>



**Funded by  
the European Union**