

Increasing organic farming cereal production for feed industry in Catalonia

Summary

In these last years, the ecologic production of monogastric animals has increased (poultrymeat, poultry farms of laying hens and porcine). This fact, has produced a increase of production of ecological feed in Catalonia (71.3% for the total production of Spain) (Magrama, 2013). Total production: 38.320 in 2012 (Magrama, 2013. Datos de producción de piensos 2012. Subdirección general de medios de producción ganaderos)

According to the rules of organic farming, In Catalonia, 992 hectares of barley and 70 hectares of corn have been produced (Magrama, 2014. Agricultura ecologica. Estadísticas. Subdirección general de calidad diferenciada y agricultura ecologica). According to CCPAE, only the 4% of the surface registered is used for the growing of cereals and grain legumes. The low fabrication of main raw materials for the production of ecological feed have caused significant imports outside the country, The corn is a clear example (This crop comes from Romania, Italy and France, in the case of winter cereals, theses come from others Communities of the country).

In order to better reflect this situation, current data of the sector have been studied. Statistics of organic farming for last 15 years facilitated by the food observatory and organic farming, the total area used for organic farming in 2015 facilitated by DARP and the municipality database facilitated by the Catalan organic agriculture production agency.

In addition, a diagnosis of the sector has been done with the actors involved using surveys conducted to the feed producers and the farmers. The global farmewok has been completed thanks to a visit to the sud of France. With this tour, the situation of the production sector of Europe and the structure organization and functioning of sud-west of France was Known.

Objectives

Implement a strategy for the promotion of the cereals destined to the production organic feed in Catalonia. The secondary aims are:

- 1.- Establish strategies for the supply the organic cereals to the major zones of Catalonia.
- 2.- Increase the area of extensive cereals according to standard organic agricultural.
- 3.- Improve the agronomic practices and give a technical answer to increase the yields and the quality of the cereals.
- 4.- Develop an economic and technical strategic to improve the production chain: farmers, planting, technical advice, feed industries for the creation a club of production.

Conclusions

In order to consolidate this emerging economic sector, the local organic production of cereals must be promoted. From different statistical studies and the information of this report, the proposed improvements have been established.

Different scenarios were established to apply the suggested improvements:

-A biggest opportunity for growth of different areas. Catalonia is segmented. It is necessary to work in areas that present lower yields, especially in winter cereals, where it is easier to change to ecologic.

-Improvement and research strategies. In areas where the yields are higher, It is necessary to apply improvement strategies and technical advice to improve agricultural practices and crop management. There is a scope for improvement of farming techniques and the productions.

-Adjust to the requirements of feed mills. Thanks to a technical advice the production can be better. This production must be linked to certification for the consumer can distinguish it. Structure the sector. It is necessary to apply an organization model to permit an integral management.

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Project website

Other project information

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