

ORGANIC ANIMAL KEEPING IN SLAVONIA AND BARANYA

EKOLOŠKO STOČARSTVO U SLAVONIJI I BARANJI

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ABSTRACT

Organic animal husbandry in Croatia has been regulated by National organic agricultural legislative since 2001, but due to lack of knowledge and irrational fear farmers are usually undecided to convert to organic animal keeping. The way how BIOPA association for organic agriculture can improve organic production through education and advisory service is described.

Key words: organic animal keeping, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs.

SAŽETAK

Od 2001. ekološko stočarstvo u Hrvatskoj regulirano je zakonskom legislativom. No zbog nedostatka znanja i iracionalnog straha stočari teško prihvaćaju ekološko stočarstvo. Izneseno je nastojanje udruge za ekološku poljoprivredu BIOPA da kroz edukaciju i sistem savjetodavne službe olakša tu preobrazbu.

Ključne riječi: ekološko stočarstvo, govedo, ovce, koze, svinje.

INTRODUCTION

Organic animal husbandry in the Republic of Croatia has been regulated since 2001 by the National organic agricultural legislative^[1], and since then subsidised not only by the regular agricultural subventions, but also by

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special subvention program for organic agriculture^[2]. Still, farmers are usually undecided to convert to organic animal keeping due to lack of knowledge, irrational fear, more complicated administration and irregular subsidy payments, and in spite of positive effects of organic production^[3]. "Biopa" farmers association for organic agriculture, can improve organic production through education, advisory service and other ways of assistance.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The number of animals within the "Biopa" association was recorded by "Biopa" advisory service personnel for the purpose of preparation for inspection and certification by "Bioinspekt" inspectors for years 2006 and 2007. The data for seven main species of animals use were sorted out: cattle (both milking and meat cows), sheep, goats, pigs, horses, poultry (mainly hens, but also ducks and geese) and bees. Two years data were compared, and differences were expressed as percentage of the category growth.

RESULTS

Table 1: Number of domestic animals within "BIOPA" association, years 2006-2007

Year	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Pigs	Horses	Poultry	Bee-hives
2006	64	1199	499	151	7	1382	30
2007	1295	2808	412	571	68	1304	40
% of growth	1923	134	-17	278	871	-6	33

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

A large growth of the cattle category from year 2006 to 2007 was mainly an outcome of the decision of "Belje" agricultural business to dedicate several hundreds of hectares for suckling cows – calves production. Horses growth was also very large, due to the enrolment of regional horse breed keepers associations into the organic agriculture register. Pigs and sheep keeping growth was also very large, especially in counties where local governments decided to

help with certain contribution for inspection and certification costs. The small growth of bees and even stagnation of goats and poultry are not really worrying, being mostly yearly variation of experienced growers of given animals.

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