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EUROPEAN REGULATIONS OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Organic agriculture is a priority for the development of the agrarian sector in Europe. The products of other countries that are exported to the European Union must be certified in accordance with its requirements.

The EU Regulations contain general regulations on the production, labeling and control of ecological products of plant and animal origin. They cover the areas of general organic management, crop production (including plant breeding), livestock (including beekeeping), aquaculture, processing and processing of food and feed, as well as packaging, storage, transportation and labeling of organic products. The practice of European countries shows that the adoption of such legislation stimulates the development of organic agriculture, improves the state of the environment, human health and promotes the development of rural areas [2].

The modern system of organic farming and animal husbandry includes not only the process of cultivation itself, but also the process of processing and labeling of manufactured products using such names as bio, eco, organic. All these words are synonymous and applicable to ecological farming [1].

According to the EU standard, the terms "ecological", "biological" and "organic" agriculture are virtually synonymous. In different countries, different variants are used to designate agricultural practices that conform to the principles of organic agriculture: "organic" – English-speaking countries, Ukraine; "Ecological" – Hungary, Denmark, Spain, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Sweden; "Biological" – Germany, Greece, Georgia, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Portugal, France; "Natural" – Finland.

The presence of a sign of organic products on the product label gives the consumer the opportunity to distinguish organic products from others. Organic certification differs from compulsory certification primarily in that it is not limited to the control of the final product – it includes monitoring of land and the entire production and processing process.

In the European Union, organic certification provides for continuous monitoring of the conformity of the production process and finished products with the rules of organic production. To this end, annual audits of documentation, audit of production and analysis of final products are carried out. Entrepreneurs who produce, process, pack, store or sell crop and livestock products grown in accordance with organic principles can pass certification. The certificate of conformity, and with it the possibility to use the label "organic" on the label, is issued for 18 months and is prolonged if the operator passes the annual inspection safely [2].

With the help of certification and organic marking, manufacturers provide convincing evidence that their farm and products meet all the requirements of organic farming. It is forbidden to specify, for example, "organic milk" on a product that has not been certified. Otherwise, certain sanctions will be applied and the product may be withdrawn from the market. Such strict rules allow the market to prevent and control unscrupulous self-declarations of producers, and the buyer - to be sure of the reliability of the marking and the quality of the products.

References

1. Что такое органическое сельское хозяйство? farming [Electronic resource]. – Режим доступа: <http://www.fao.org/organicag/oa-faq/oa-faq1/ru/> – Date of access: 03.03.2018.
2. European Council endorses new regulations for organic farming [Electronic resource]. – Режим доступа: <https://www.foodbev.com/news/european-council-endorses-new-regulations-organic-farming/> – Date of access: 10.03.2018.