



Organic Agriculture as a driver for Sustainable Agricultural Development

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1. Executive Summary

Kazakhstan's early stages of organic farming

Organic agriculture has slowly begun to flourish in Kazakhstan. The adoption of national legislation, the development of a certification system, the diversification of the cropping system, the educating of farmers and other project stakeholders in organic cultivation techniques, the establishment of marketing opportunities, and the development of organic standards were all urgently needed for the further development of organic agriculture in the whole country. In this respect, the APD project has assisted in the development of a new law on organic agriculture [On production and circulation of organic products] in accordance with international norms. Currently, more than 300,000 hectares of land have been devoted to the production of organic commodities; with roughly 30 producers/farmers are certified in accordance with international standards. [23]

In 2022, Kazakhstan exported organic products worth 35 million US \$. The main export positions of Kazakhstan are wheat, flax seeds, and soybeans. According to the ratings of FiBL and IFOAM, out of 123 countries, Kazakhstan ranks 9th in the export of organic products, 4th among exporting countries of organic wheat, and 6th in the export of organic oilseeds flax. Products are exported mainly to countries of the European Union.

Organic farming in Kazakhstan provides a tremendous amount of undiscovered development potential. More than 200,000 hectares of land have so far been verified by European certifying organizations as having been used for organic farming. The growth of organic agriculture in Kazakhstan and an increase in its share of agricultural exports can be facilitated by the creation and adoption of more effective farming technologies, the promotion of investments in this sector, the training of agricultural workers, and other actions.[22]

Organic agriculture shows several benefits, as it reduces many of the environmental impacts of conventional agriculture, it can increase productivity in small farmers' fields, and it reduces reliance on costly external inputs, and guarantees price premiums for organic products in local and foreign markets. Overall, organic agriculture thus provides promises for sustainable agricultural development, but its shortcomings need to also be considered.

This policy brief therefore concludes with a set of specific recommendations on what policy options could best address the current problems of organic agriculture and ensure the success of an organic agriculture development strategy in Kazakhstan.

The Strategic and Program documents for the development of organic production.

In the following strategic and program documents there are tasks for the development of production and turnover of organic products:

- The message of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan in September 2, 2019 "Constructive public dialogue - the basis of stability and prosperity of Kazakhstan" indicated that "We have a significant potential for the production of organic and environmentally friendly products in demand not only in the country, but also abroad";
- The message of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan K.-J.Tokayev from September 1, 2020 "Kazakhstan in a new reality: time for action" indicated that "I instruct the Government to begin to implement practical measures to improve the environmental situation. Long-term plans for the conservation and rational use of biological diversity should be approved";
- National project "Quality and affordable health care for every citizen "Healthy Nation", approved by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on October 12, 2021 № 725: measure 6. "Stimulation of domestic producers of organic agriculture in order to improve the health of the population, production of food products safe for human health" Task 1. "People's choice in favor of health";
- Concept of development of agro-industrial complex of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2021-2030 years, approved by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on December 30, 2021 № 960.: p.5. Basic principles and approaches of development;
- Roadmap for the development of organic agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, approved by the First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated May 25, 2022.

Regulatory context for organic agriculture

On June 27, at the plenary session of the Majilis [Parliament], deputies approved the first reading of the draft law "On production and circulation of organic products" and a package of related amendments. According to a member of the Majilis Committee on Agrarian Affairs, A. Khodzhanazarov, the draft law is aimed at ensuring the rational use of natural resources, providing assistance in the formation and development of the domestic market for organic products, and improving the competitiveness of organic products produced by domestic producers in foreign markets.

2. Introduction

The current state of organic agriculture in Kazakhstan

Organic agriculture in Kazakhstan is at the stage of active development and is gaining more and more recognition both at the national and international levels. Support from the government and international organizations such as BMEL, FAO, and UNDP is helping to expand the sector and strengthen its market position.

In recent years, Kazakhstan has been actively promoting the idea of organic farming. This is confirmed by the development of a new version of the law "On production and circulation of organic products". This document creates a legal basis for the formation of relationships in the system of production and circulation of organic agricultural products.

The main authorized state body, which coordinates in the field of organic production, is defined as the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan. This institution actively cooperates with international partners, organizing trainings and seminars for farmers, exporters, and other representatives of the agri-commodity sector.

In addition to legal support, various projects and initiatives are being implemented in Kazakhstan aimed at promoting organic production. For example, Kazakh organic products are presented each year at international exhibitions, such as Biofach in Germany.

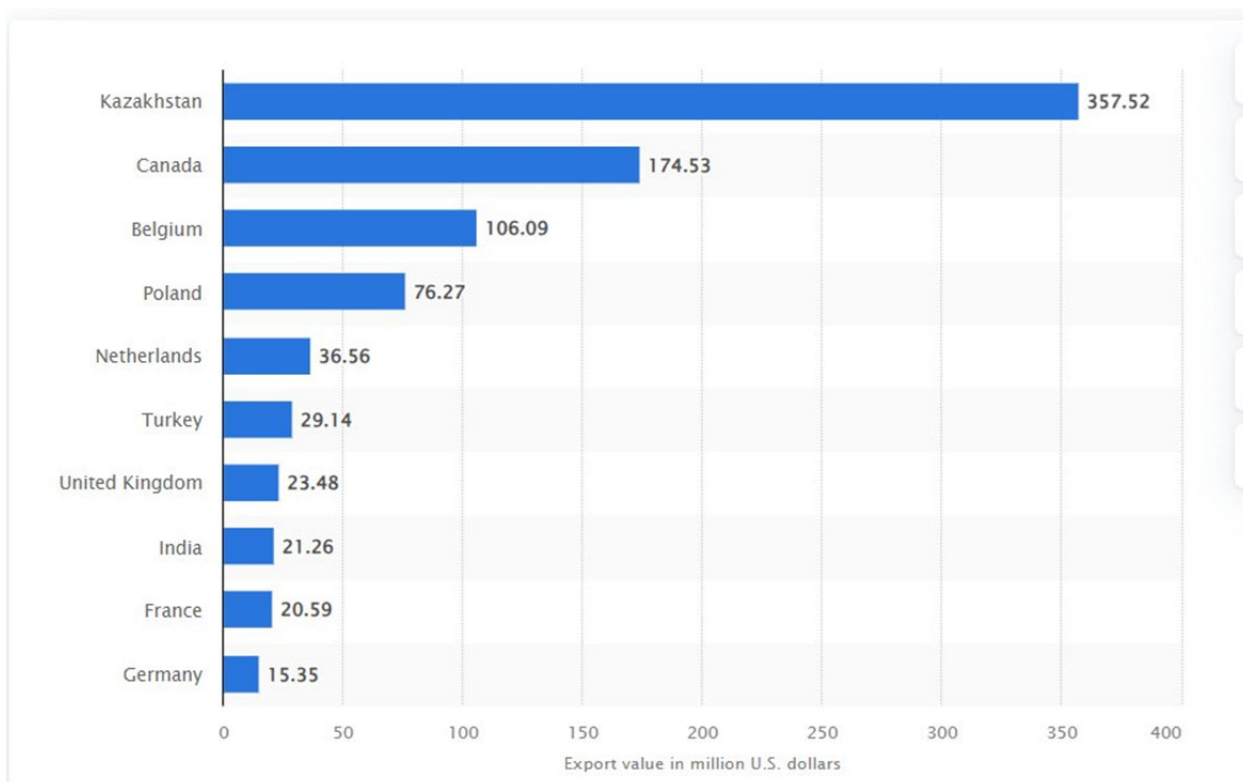
Nevertheless, despite all the achievements and initiatives, organic agriculture in Kazakhstan faces a number of challenges, such as the need for standardization, certification, and the training of specialists.

In general, organic agriculture in Kazakhstan demonstrates a positive development trend, and there is every reason to believe that this sector will continue to grow and develop actively in the coming years.

The law is in line with the rules and regulations of the international law of IFOAM and, thus, complies with international quality and control standards for organic products [21].

The adoption of the new law allows Kazakhstan to participate in the world organic trade market and has positive implications for the development of organic farming in Kazakhstan. Along with the adoption of the main law regulating the organic food market in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the government has also introduced new standards and rules for organic farming.

For farmers in Kazakhstan, organic products are still an unknown variable in the large realm of agriculture. Apart from the more obvious advantages of natural production, organic production is more complicated due to the extensive number of requirements for the growing process. Currently, Kazakhstan has more than 63 such producers, and the real organic pioneers are the farmers of the Kostanay region. Over 15 types of farm produce are exported from Kazakhstan to Europe: peas, duck wheat, lentils, flax, soybeans, etc. Globally known flax, which is actively purchased by Germany, Switzerland, and Italy, is also exported from Kazakhstan. Organic lentils are also very popular abroad, purchased in large volumes by Italy and Turkey. Exports are also made up of linseed in volume of 357.52 mil. USD. [28]



World linseed exports in 2022 (in mln, USD). [28]

2. Problem Description

Background of the problem

Current law

Why did the current law not work?

The need to develop a draft law "On production and circulation of organic products" is due to the fact that the regulations in force in this area do not meet the legitimate interests of domestic producers of organic products and do not comply with international and regional practices of organic production.

For example, the current law of the Republic of Kazakhstan, "On the production of organic products," provides for mandatory certification of final (organic) products. Certification of organic production and organic products is carried out in accordance with the requirements of four documents simultaneously: the law itself, the rules of production and turnover of organic products, approved by the order of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan from May 23, 2016 № 230, as well as the current two national standards (ST RK 3109 and ST RK 3111).

Drawbacks of the Law "On Production of Organic Products" and its by-laws:

- mandatory certification of organic products is provided for;
- the law contains certification requirements;

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- organics is something that complies only with the Standard of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- absence of the possibility of collective (group and PGS) certification;
- mandatory transitional (conversion) period even for virgin and fallow lands;
- there is a significant legal conflict on the duration of the transition (conversion) period;
- the institutional structure is not embedded in the National Certification System of the Republic of Kazakhstan (NCS) and the State System of Technical Regulation of the Republic of Kazakhstan (SSTR);
- producers certified by foreign bodies do not have the opportunity to sell their organic products in the domestic market in the status and labeled "organic", "bio", "eco";
- activities on supply, labeling and sale of organic products imported into the Republic of Kazakhstan are not subject to regulation by the current law;
- regulated mainly production issues, the circulation of products is not emphasized. Production conditions duplicate the requirements of standards;
- instead of the term "certification" the generalized concept of "confirmation of conformity" is used;
- there is no legal norm on the creation of necessary infrastructural resources for the effective functioning of organic production and circulation of organic products;
- there is a lack of information, organizational, methodological and advisory support of organic farms at the legislative level.
- the conceptual apparatus of the law does not correspond to the definitions established in international and regional standards;

New Law

The drafted law "On the production and circulation of organic products" proposes norms according to which the certification of organic production will be carried out depending on the demands and preferences of the sales market, in compliance with the requirements of the selected (applicant-producer) standard of organic production.

At the same time, the draft law "On production and circulation of organic products" provides for the possibility of forming a national system of PGS (system of joint guarantees), according to which domestic small farms, peasant farms, and personal subsidiary farms (if the conditions of the system are PGS) will be officially considered producers of organic products for the local market.

The drafted law "On production and circulation of organic products" provides for the provision of information, organizational, methodological, and advisory support to producers of organic products in accordance with the results of scientific, scientific, and technical projects and programs financed from the state budget and other sources.

The drafted law "On production and circulation of organic products" regulates the issues of the transition (conversion) period from conventional to organic production. For example, it is established that virgin and fallow lands (more than 3 years) will be introduced into the turnover of organic crop production without a transition (conversion) period. At the same time, it is specified that the duration of the transition (conversion) period will be established in accordance with the rules of the selected standard of organic production.

National Standards:

Kazakhstani exporters of organic products to the EU market face the following problem: the degree of recognition of Kazakhstani regulations by importers, mainly by official EU bodies. This is the case if Kazakhstani organic production was certified by a Kazakhstani certification body, unrecognized by the official EU bodies. The fact that national standards are developed on the basis of European regulations and directives does not play a role here; these documents (ST RK) are not equivalent to European legislation.

Currently, «de jure» EU official bodies can recognize the equivalence of national documents in the field of organic production in third countries, but "de facto" they do not do so. From 2021, the EU official bodies will have the possibility at the legislative level not to recognize national documents of third countries in the field of organic production. The EU is currently in the process of revising its organic legislation. The new regulation is EU 848/2022. Indeed, it will set strict requirements for imports.

It can be clearly stated that there are the following systemic problems in the production and circulation of organic products: [23]

1. Inconsistent institutional structure of production and circulation of organic products, as a consequence of interdepartmental disagreements between the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Standard on key provisions of industry development;
2. Lack of appropriate analysis of the work done within the "first wave" of organic production development;
3. Lack of a comprehensive plan for the development of organic production, ensuring the transition from a situational approach to a systemic approach;
4. Weak information and image support for organic production;
 - 4.1 Lack of a single Internet portal for organic production in Kazakhstan;
 - 4.2 Absence of the Register of Organic Producers;
 - 4.3 Lack of a traceability system for organic products;
 - 4.4 Lack of organizational and administrative measures to prevent pseudo-eco-labeled products from entering the food market;
5. Lack of a national system of certification of organic production and organic products, as a consequence of the lack of a national certification body and the market for consulting services in this area;
6. Non-conformity of the legislative and regulatory framework in the field of production and circulation of organic products in Kazakhstan with the requirements and norms of the basic standards of IFOAM;
 - 6.1 Lack of analysis and assessment of the scientific and technical level of ND on standardization, operating in the field of production, and circulation of organic products;
 - 6.2 Non-recognition of Kazakhstani regulations in the field of production and circulation of organic products by importing countries;
 - 6.3 Presence of legal conflict between the Environmental Code and the law "On production of organic products";

- 6.4 Presence of regulatory collision between the rules of production and circulation of organic products and the standard ST RK 3111-2017, Organic Products Requirements for the production process;
- 6.5 The list of authorized means used in the production of organic products is not suitable for use for the purposes of certification of organic production;
7. Lack of a system of state supervision (control) in the field of production and circulation of organic products;
8. Weak research and technological and educational support for the production of organic products;
 - 8.1 Lack of scientific, technological, and educational bases to support production and turnover (transportation, storage, processing, packaging, certification, sales, and export) of organic products;
 - 8.2 Lack of technical and technological specification of organic production, containing systematized and structured information and related materials necessary for organic production;
 - 8.3 Lack of a unified register of organic technologies and agro-techniques taking into account agro-ecological zones;
 - 8.4 Lack of a procedure for assessing the suitability of land (soils) and establishing zones of production of organic products and raw materials;
 - 8.5 Inconsistency of the content of disciplines on the organization and conduct of organic production;
 - 8.6 Lack of a unified module of trainings and seminars on various aspects of organic production;
 - 8.7 Weak work of the secretariat of technical committees on standardization and low competence of authorized representatives-members of this advisory body;
9. Lack of financial tools to support the production and circulation of organic products;
10. Lack of qualification requirements for candidates for inspectors and experts-auditors of certification of organic production and organic products, formed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Why is the trend towards organic products so difficult to take root in Kazakhstan?

Kazakhstan is among the top ten leading importers of organic products in the EU countries. But things are not so rosy in the domestic market with food certification.

One of the most common examples of "greenwashing", which is increasingly common on the shelves of Kazakhstan, is "pseudo-organic products".

In order to give its products the true status of "organic", the manufacturer needs to ensure that the conditions and methods of production of these products comply with the standards established by regulations, so that an accredited certification body can issue a certificate proving the quality and naturalness of the product.

National Accreditation Center (NAC) in the Committee for Technical Regulation and Metrology of the Ministry of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan (KTRM MIT RK) has successfully implemented a scheme of accreditation of bodies for certification of

organic products, in the staff of NAC to date has qualified personnel to carry out work on accreditation of potential applicants for the implementation of works on certification of organic products.

In 2021, the first organic certification body was accredited, which meets the requirements of national standards for organic products. It is possible that the fight against greenwashing in Kazakhstan is complicated by the lack of its own national certification system for organic producers.

At the same time, experts of the National Accreditation Center of the Committee for Technical Regulation and Metrology of the RK note the active spread of the trend of greenwashing (greenwashing, similar to whitewash - "bleaching", sometimes "green camouflage") in Kazakhstan. Companies label product labels with Bio and Organic stickers, although the products have not been certified and it has not been proven that they are environmentally friendly.

Strictly speaking, the types of labeling "Bio", "Eco", etc. often found on store shelves are actually illegal, as the use of labeling is strictly regulated by the relevant standard of the Republic of Kazakhstan and allows the use of a particular mark only in the presence of the relevant certificate. It should be recognized that despite the existence of standards on labeling of organic products (ST RK 3109) and on the requirements for the production of organic products (ST RK 3111), control over these offenses is not yet strictly implemented, and consumers are still often faced with products with false labeling.

It is also important that at the height of greenwashing of domestic goods, obtaining a certificate of Organic does not actually give advantages to the Kazakh producer, because the consumer can not determine and is not sure whether the sticker Organic, Bio that the goods are organic.

State authorities in the country actually does not check and control the compliance of eco-labeling. This became known during the discussion of the problems of organic production in the Republic of Kazakhstan at the meeting of the project office Organic at the site of NPP "Atameken".

Regulatory support

➤ **Government Strategy and Green Economy Concept:**

"Strategy Kazakhstan-2050"—according to which Kazakhstan should become a global player in the market for environmentally friendly agricultural products.

The government strategy highlights the "levers" that policymakers can use to support organic farming on its way to achieving its target. It is crucial for developing a sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural sector.

Concept for "Green Economy": Concept "Green Economy" is one of the important tools to ensure sustainable development in the country. Kazakhstan has prerequisites for organic production. The concept for the transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a "green" economy has been developed. In addition, the National Project for the Development of Agro-Industrial Complexes for 2021–2025 was approved, which provides for the creation of conditions for the development, production, and circulation of organic agricultural products.

➤ **New Law and Road Map:**

New Law: At present, a new version of the Law "***On production and circulation of organic products***" is drafted and under consideration by the Parliament. The draft law will cover not only the issues of organic production but also regulate its circulation.

New Law on Production and Circulation of Organic Products (Draft Law)

The organic market has expanded internationally along with the concerns of individuals about environmental degradation, resource depletion, food quality, and safety. Ecologically produced organic production rules forbid the utilization of pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, and GMOs and protect biological systems and biodiversity.

In Kazakhstan, a new law on "Production and Circulation of Organic Products" has been drafted, which ought to supplant the current law on organic production, which was adopted on November 27, 2015. [16]

The implementation of the current (old) law has demonstrated that it needs further improvement. The domestic market for organic production requires additional support from the government. Organic products are only locally produced and are being exported mostly to EU countries and China.

As per FiBL and IFOAM statistics, in 2019, Kazakhstan was positioned 9th for organic products exported into the EC countries and sharply declined to the 17th spot in 2020. As a result, Kazakhstan's organic production land area decreased by 50%, from 229,463 ha in 2019 to 114,886 ha in 2020.

The vital impetus and urge for the advancement of the new, upgraded law has been the need to adjust it better with best global practices and address the interests of local organic producers. The improvement of the law was foreseen in the public strategy «Concept of Developing the Agro-Industrial Sector of Kazakhstan for 2021–2030.» [16]

Road Map: The Ministry of Agriculture has started to prepare proposals for the "***Roadmap for the Development of Organic Agriculture in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2024-2025***".

The Analytical Center for Economic Policy in the Agroindustrial Complex (ACEP) under the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan provided a Regulatory Impact Analysis of the introduction of new regulatory instruments and/or requirements or tightening of regulation in terms of state control over the circulation of organic products.

Currently, the roadmap for the development of organic agriculture for 2024–2026 is being formed, and work is underway to update national standards. In addition, the members of the Senate of the Parliament initiated a new version of the law "On the production and circulation of organic products". The main innovation of the bill is that only the production process of organic products will be subject to certification. In addition, the new draft law proposes group certification for small farms.

Currently 19 certification bodies are accredited under EU regulations to work in Kazakhstan. But 8 of them are actually working. All operating certification bodies certified 50 operators across Kazakhstan.

What regulations must farms comply with?

No farmer is allowed to do just as they wish on their farms. The legal requirements within the EU are rigorous when gauged by international standards. They require all farmers to comply with standards regarding environmental conservation, animal welfare, occupational health and safety, and consumer protection.

Research, support, and legal provisions have in recent years brought about great progress and corrected many unwelcome developments. In addition to this, farmers are required to work in accordance with “organic agricultural practice”, to which reference is made in EU 848/2022. It is taken to refer to a body of regulations that are based on scientifically robust findings and that have proved in practice to be appropriate for increasing animal welfare and improving environmental conservation. A large number of farmers take part voluntarily in so-called agri-ecological and climate programs.

National Standards

In 2017, three national standards were adopted, which came into force in 2018, to regulate organic production and labeling. The activities of the national certification bodies will be regulated by the above laws, by-laws, and the following national standards:

- ST RK 3109-2017: Organic Products. National label for the conformity of organic products. Technical requirement and procedure for labeling organic products;
- ST RK 3110-2017: Conformity Assessment Requirements for bodies for confirmation of conformity of production of organic products and organic products;
- ST RK 3111-2017: Organic products. Requirements for the production process.

The significance of national legislation in the area of organic agriculture

To foster exports

Local producers have been marketing their goods overseas, mostly to countries in the EU, since the early 2000s. Products originated in accordance with EU regulations and are under supervision by external certification bodies recognized by the EU.

Here a question can be raised: why are national laws and regulations necessary if Kazakh producers are able to effectively produce and export organic goods in accordance with EU requirements? Would it not be simpler to accept international standards as the national standard?

Adoption of the law may support and promote the development of institutions and a legal framework for organic production that are compliant with international standards and where competent authorities have the authority to exert control over production.

Foreign clients may use the national legislation as an extra assurance that products are sourced from a controlled market rather than an "uncontrolled" market. Adoption of national law therefore indirectly assists in the growth of exports.

➤ *To diversify the local market*

The regulation controlling organic cultivation is a tool for diversifying the local market and meeting consumer needs in the region. International experience demonstrates that national regulations for organic production are necessary in all nations in order to accommodate a country's particular geographical and climatic conditions as well as organizational constraints. 96 different countries now have laws regulating organic farming, according to statistics from FiBL and IFOAM from 2021.

It is important to include some exceptions at the beginning of the development of organic agriculture in order to promote and stimulate production and the growth of the local market.

Prior to becoming more challenging and restricting any exceptions, standards in nations with grown-up organic production systems allowed for such exclusions.

Laws should not excessively limit local producers because Kazakhstan continues to promote organic production, which could occur if international standards are implemented directly. Local farmers won't be motivated to switch to organic farming methods if the Kazakhstan national law doesn't include specific exceptions. [16]

"On the development of a new version of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On production and circulation of organic products", harmonized with the provisions and norms of international and regional documents and standards".

Furthermore, national standards allow more specific regulation of the production of certain agricultural crops or products specific to or of particular importance for the country's organic sector, which may not be addressed in foreign rules.

Authorized bodies in the organic sector to strengthen the institutional framework are:

- MoA: an authorized agency in the sphere of organic production that coordinates the activities of other agencies;
- Committee for Technical Regulation and Metrology of the Ministry of Trade and Integration (CTRM)
- Sanitary and Epidemiological Control Committee of the Ministry of Health;
- Consumer Protection Committee of the Ministry of Trade and Integration;

Trends in the development of organic agriculture in the EAEU

Eurasian Economic Union

The relatively low volumes and growth rates of organic production in the EAEU member states are the result of the lack of legal regulation in this area. Armenia legislatively started regulating organic agriculture back in 2008. In Kazakhstan, the corresponding law was adopted only seven years later—in 2015, in Belarus and Kyrgyzstan—in 2019, and in Russia, it came into force on January 1, 2020.

The five Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) members of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Russian Federation have seen a rise in interest in developing organic agriculture in recent years. This kind of farming supports profitable farming production and the

growth of high-margin agricultural output. This sector is seen as an addition to traditional agriculture, and it is being promoted in line with a global movement toward the production of nutritious, healthful food. Additionally, the growth of organic agriculture supports EAEU members' efforts to increase agricultural exports, foster the development of resilient and diversified agricultural systems, increase the profitability of small farms, and lessen farmers' reliance on high-cost inputs and resource-intensive practices.

Each member state promotes organic agriculture in accordance with its own perspectives and interests, using the expertise of developing countries that have successfully developed market niches for organic goods.

The demand for organic products generated by EAEU members creates enormous opportunities for EAEU producers. Based on national study findings, the issues that EAEU members are confronting are similar:

- The local market for organic products is underdeveloped.
 - The requirement to serve global markets.
 - A lack of comprehensive official assistance to encourage organic agriculture and weak banking institutions
 - The absence of official data that accounts for the export and manufacturing of organic goods
 - The absence of land classification systems.
 - The firm position adopted by large agribusinesses in Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Russia maintains its own interests, occasionally at the expense of organic agriculture development.
-
- Low understanding of labeling standards as well as the benefits of organic products for both customers and the environment.

The following characteristics of organic production may be found in EAEU member nations:

- Small farmers and their groups (cooperatives) are important producers in Armenia, Belarus, and the Kyrgyz Republic.
- Although small-scale businesses make up the majority of producers in Kazakhstan, large agricultural companies seem to be responsible for the majority of the country's production.
- Medium-sized enterprises and the organic divisions of large agro-firms dominate the organic production sector in Russia.

Kazakhstan has been involved in the harmonization of organic legislation within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Recently, the Eurasian Economic Commission (operative body of EAEU) approved the roadmap for the development of a common market for organic agricultural products in the EAEU. One of the key objectives of this roadmap is the unification of organic legislation, including the requirements for the production and labeling of organic products, in order to provide mutual recognition of organic certificates of member states in the common market of the EAEU. However, the ongoing geopolitical crisis in the region may affect the integration processes within the EAEU.

Currently, organic production in Kazakhstan is export-oriented. The concept of organic production is quite new for consumers, and the domestic market is not well developed. Therefore, there is a high risk of greenwashing, that is, green laundering.

The organic production standards adopted at the national level by the members of the Eurasian Integration Association also take into account the main regulatory provisions of the international

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Codex Alimentarius standard. At the same time, for the purposes of international recognition, it is important to confirm the compliance of national standards with the general goals and requirements of organic standards (Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards, COROS), as a result of which, in accordance with the general principles of organic agriculture, they are included in the family of standards of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). [17]

In general, these steps are aimed at improving the competitiveness of manufactured products, saturation of the common agricultural market, and the development of mutually beneficial cooperation between partners in the EAEU.

➤ *Organic policy profile*

Organic farming is not subject to a specific policy by the Ministry of Agriculture in Kazakhstan. However, the Ministry recognizes the potential of organic farming in generating foreign exchange and features it in its strategic plan. The Ministry of Agriculture has no extension officers trained in organic farming, while some public research institutes:

In Kazakhstan, institutional and organizational support for the development of organic agriculture was formed by ministries, committees, and national agencies.

- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
- Ministry of Trade and Integration (MTI)
- Ministry of National Economy (MNE)
- Committee for Technical Regulation and Metrology (CTRM)
- Kazakhstan Institute of Standardization and Metrology
- National Center for Expertise and Certification (NCECC)
- Technical Committee 100 (TC 100)
- "QazTrade" - Trade Policy Development Center

All these institutions/institutions in Kazakhstan make a great contribution to the development of organic agriculture.

Existing national agencies promote the development of organic agriculture in Kazakhstan.

Facilitating agencies such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Center for Support of Organic Production, Project Office ORGANIC at "Atameken" the Union of Organic Producers of Kazakhstan, KazFOAM, "Qazaq Bio Control," and the public association "Association of Organic Farming" are the drivers of organic farming in Kazakhstan. They undertake to organize farmers into groups, link producers with buyers, provide policy support and training opportunities, and link producers to certifying agencies.

➤ **Ministry of Agriculture**

Institutional drawbacks:

The Ministry of Agriculture does not have a specialized structural subdivision for the development of organic agriculture, but there is a structural subdivision - the Division of Certification of Agricultural Products of the Department of Agrifood Markets and Processing of Agricultural Products, which determines the strategy and conducts a unified state policy in the

field of certification of organic production, is engaged in regulatory support in the field of organic production and determines the international agenda of the Ministry in the production of organic products.

Moreover:

- There is no specialized structural subdivision in the Ministry of Agriculture;
- There is no reliable information on organic production in Kazakhstan;
- Lack of information and analytical support on the development and promotion of exports of domestic organic products;
- No statistical reporting on production and turnover (certification, processing, storage, sales, domestic consumption, export and import) of organic products;
- Lack of systematic work on popularization of technologies, methods, means (substances) and practices of organic production and promotion of organic products;

The lack of a specialized organizational department in the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the issues of organic agriculture is a limiting factor in the implementation of public policy, as well as the implementation of inter-sectoral coordination in the field of production and turnover of organic products.

➤ **National Certification Body (JSC National Certification Body)**

The National Accreditation Center (NAC) is the only national accreditation body in the field of conformity assessment defined by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In May 2022, the NCA was accredited conformity assessment body whose activities are directly aimed at certification of organic production and organic products.

Accreditation of bodies for confirmation of conformity to standards of organic production and organic products will initiate the development of the domestic organic market, and will allow a large number of farmers to start organic production, which will have a positive impact on the development of this area in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

To date, the "National Centre for Accreditation" (NCA) is implementing activities to popularize certification in the field of organic production and organic products, which are designed to introduce in the activities of not only the principles of health, but also the preservation of the environment.

Drawbacks:

- There is no expert auditor for confirmation of conformity of organic production - How without an expert auditor in the direction of the JSC "NACECS" was accredited?
- there are training centers at "KazStandard" and "National Accreditation Center" on organic farming, but they do not have a curriculum and program for training and advanced training of expert auditors on inspection and certification of organic production and advanced training of lecturers;

Technical Committee for Standardization № 100 "Organic Products"

According to the conclusion of B. Bulashev - Chairman of the Technical Committee for Standardization № 100 "Organic Products" to date, the Technical Committee for Standardization № 100 "Organic Products" (TC 100) is essentially an information, organizational, methodological and advisory center in improving the legislative and regulatory framework for organic production and dissemination of knowledge.

At the same time, TC 100 is an active participant in the formation and development of processes occurring in the field of production and turnover of organic products.

TC 100, which is part of the infrastructural system of organic production, is involved in the work on the formation of effective infrastructural resources in this area.

Technical Committee 100 is:

- 1) an elaborator of the Concept of the draft Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On production and turnover of organic products";
- 2) developer of the draft of the new version of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On production and turnover of organic products";
- 3) author of the Roadmap for the development of organic agriculture in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2021-2023 years, approved by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on May 25, 2022 № 17-13/2738;
- 4) initiator and developer of national standards in the field of production and turnover of organic products (2017-2024);
- 5) developer of educational author's course "Standardization and certification of production of organic products" for undergraduates studying on OP 6M073200 "Standardization and certification" Kazakh Agro-Technical University named after S. Seifullin;
- 6) the author of the advanced training course "Organic Agriculture", Part I-"Organic Farming" (2021);
- 7) author of the training program "Technologies for improving soil fertility in organic farming" (2020);
- 8) organizer of a series of webinars on the topic: "Technologies for improving soil fertility in organic farming" (2020);
- 9) organizer of a series of webinars on the topic: "Features of agrotechnics in organic farming" (2020);
- 10) author of a series of review articles on the topic: "The role of scientific and educational institutions of agricultural profile in staffing and technological development of organic agriculture in Kazakhstan" (2021, website and Facebook NCA);
- 11) developer of practical tasks and tests for the examination to confirm the compliance of personnel (inspectors) on the process of organic production (2018,).

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Almost 50% of activities are implemented (or are in the stages of implementation) at the expense of international technical and financial support of the Project "German-Kazakh Agrarian Policy Dialogue" (APD) and FAO Office for Relations and Partnership in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Along with the development of the Concept of the draft Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Production and Circulation of Organic Products", Technical Committee -100 actively participated in finalizing the Concept of the model law "On Organic Agriculture", developed by the Standing Commission on Agrarian Policy, Natural Resources and Ecology of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS member states. At present it participates in the expertise of the draft model law itself.

Technical Committee-100 also forms a position on the draft Agreement on the procedure for recognizing organic products within the EAEU, aimed at creating a common market for organic agricultural products within the EAEU¹.

Separately it should be noted that the members of Technical Committee-100 in the framework of the draft national standards (NSS) for 2023 will develop drafts of 7 national standards, including drafts of 4 national standards in the field of production and turnover of organic products:

1. ST RK² "Production of organic products. Terms and definitions";
2. ST RK "Conformity Assessment. Requirements for bodies on confirmation of conformity of organic production";
3. ST RK "Organic Products. Requirements for the process of production, processing, labeling and sale";
4. ST RK "Organic Products. Production and turnover of organic products".

On the initiative of Technical Committee-100 on the basis of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of republic of Kazakhstan "Atameken" the Project Office "ORGANIC" was established to provide methodological and practical assistance to the development of Organic Agriculture in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

On the initiative of Technical Committee-100 on the basis of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of RK "Atameken" the Project Office "ORGANIC" was established to provide methodological and practical assistance to the development of Organic Agriculture in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Technical Committee-100 is also the developer of the Regulations on the Project Office "ORGANIC" and its Work Plan for 2023.

Technical Committee-100 actively implements the Scientific and Technical Assignment within the framework of implementation of the Program-targeted financing of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the scientific direction: "Organic Agriculture" (2021-2023):

- monitoring (analysis and assessment of scientific and technical, organizational and practical level) of standardization documents, operating in the field of organic production, according to the results of which 4 ST RK are being developed at the expense of the Republican Budget;
- developed the Concept of the procedure for assessing the suitability of land (soil) and the establishment of

¹ Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU or EEU) is an economic union of five post-Soviet states located in Eurasia.

² Standard Republic of Kazakhstan

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organic production zones;

- developed a Roadmap for the development of organic agriculture in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2022-2023;
- developed the Concept of formation and functioning of the Register of organic seeds of agricultural crops in the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- developed the Concept of the system of traceability of organic products throughout the life cycle of products on the principles of "from field to table" and "from farm to fork";
- developed the Concept of formation and functioning of the PGS-Qazaqstan program;
- developed a proposed professional standard "Organic Production";
- compiled and justified SWOT-analysis of the market of organic products.

Institutional drawbacks / challenges:

1. There are no mechanisms for financing the activities of Technical Committee-100 on a systematic basis.
2. Technical Committee-100 is not involved in the development of the Program for training and advanced training of expert auditors to confirm conformity of organic production and Curriculum for the course: "Advanced training of expert auditors to confirm conformity of organic production process.
3. Technical Committee-100 is not involved in the analysis and systematization of documents on standardization in the field of organic production.
4. Technical Committee-100 does not receive any operational and other information (draft standards, draft strategic and program documents, letters, appeal of business and other stakeholders on organic production, etc.) related to any aspects of organic production from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Committee of Technical Regulation and Metrology of the Ministry of Trade and Integration and the Republican State Enterprise "Kazakhstan Institute of Standardization and Metrology" (KazStandard). [29]

► **Organic Project Office (OPO) in the National Chamber of Producers "Atameken".**

In Kazakhstan on the initiative of public organizations, certified producers of organic products and scientific and educational community established Scientific, technological and practical center to support organic production - Project Office "ORGANIC", which operates on the basis of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan "Atameken".

The purpose of the Project Office "ORGANIC" is to create favorable legal, economic, technological, social conditions and information environment for the development of organic production in Kazakhstan and the implementation of entrepreneurial initiatives.

The mandate of the OPO is to submit proposals or recommendations to the government on the development of the organic sector in Kazakhstan.

Institutional drawbacks:

Project Office "ORGANIC" is a center to support organic production, is managed only collegially and even though it is a targeted platform where all stakeholders can discuss and make recommendations and still there is no office and permanent staff, advisors as well.

Even though one of the goals of the Project Office "ORGANIC" is to support the Scientific, technological and practical center to support organic production there is no scientific, technological and educational support of organic production.

► Union of Organic Producers of Kazakhstan

The Union of Organic Producers of Kazakhstan, "Qazaq Organic Union," was established in 2018 to protect the rights and interests of its members and promote organic products in the market. Also, to promote understanding of the European certification system and to assist Kazakhstan companies in entering the international market.

Institutional drawbacks:

Even though one of the goal of the "Qazaq Organic Union" is to promote organic production there is no European certification system and technological and educational support of organic production.

► Qazaq BioControl

Qazaq BioControl is one of the first certification bodies in Kazakhstan. Its aim is to control compliance with the quality and safety of organic products and issue certificates for the realization of products in the domestic market.

The company "QazaqBioControl" was opened to give confidence in the quality of organic products, their safety, and compliance with the labeling that guarantees compliance with the necessary requirements and standards of production.

In the field of organic agriculture, "QazaqBioControl" takes into account and follows the four principles of the International Federation of Organic Movements (IFOAM):

"Qazaq Bio Control» Services:

- Organic Certification: Certification of organic production processes according to ST RK 3109-2017 and ST RK 3111-2017 standards
- Surveillance services - inspection of cargoes during loading and unloading, weighing of cargoes, taking samples for laboratory tests, and sealing of cargoes.
- Sampling and Analysis: Sampling of soil, green mass, and food products and sending them to European laboratories for testing for pesticide residues and other indicators
- Consulting according to international standards: - Provide full consultation on organic production according to European Union standards (Regulation (EU) 848/2018, Regulation (EU) No. 834/2007, Commission Regulation (EU) 889/2008).
- Clarification on standards: Explain in comprehensible language the requirements of Kazakhstani standards (ST RK 3109 and ST RK 3111) and laws in the field of the organic production process. [24]

Institutional drawbacks:

"Qazaq Bio Control" LLP has not enough prerequisites for accreditation in the EU: less technical knowledge in organic farming of the expert auditors to do inspection, audit and instruction of operators/organic farmers, less English language skills of the staff, less knowledge of EU legislation and procedure in this matter, not enough partnerships with EU accreditation bodies, etc. But for this purpose it is necessary assistance from state bodies and state-owned enterprises to the national bodies for confirmation of conformity of organic production in passing accreditation and inclusion of national accreditation bodies in the List of recognized management and control bodies of the EU.

KAZFOAM

The Kazakhstan Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements is the first organization operating in the field of organic agriculture since 2010.

- The mission of KAZFOAM is to initiate, integrate, develop, and support the organic movement in Kazakhstan in all its dimensions.
 - Objectives of the Federation: To establish a platform for the organic movement of Kazakhstan;
 - Development, advocacy, promotion, and protection of international principles of organic agriculture;
 - Advocacy and promotion of the transition to organic farming principles;
 - Promoting the development of the organic market [25]

Institutional drawbacks:

- Weak research and technological and educational support of organic production;
- Lack of international cooperation
- Lack of cooperation with IFOAM International

Republican public association "Association of Organic Farming" in Kostanay region

- The founders of the association are scientists and agricultural producers in Kostanay and the North-Kazakhstan region. It is a member of the Central Asian Organic Movement, "Coalition for a Green Economy". It promotes the organic certification of 150 thousand hectares of sown areas, three oil refineries, and a flour and cereal complex.

Institutional drawbacks:

Association of Organic Farming is to promote organic production there is no European certification system and technological and educational support of organic production.

- Weak research and technological and educational support of organic production;
- Lack of international cooperation
- Lack of cooperation with IFOAM International

BMEL project "German-Kazakh Agrarian Political Dialogue".

- The project "German-Kazakh Agrarian Political Dialogue" (APD) has been implemented since 2009 with the support of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Germany on the basis of the resolution of the German Bundestag.
- The aim of the APD project is to support the development of political and economic cooperation in the agricultural sectors of Germany and Kazakhstan.
- The thematic areas of the project are coordinated with Kazakh partners, and as a result of a joint decision, relevant issues for cooperation are identified. One of these thematic areas includes organic agriculture.

Education, Training, and Extension

Weaknesses exist at the level of both universities and agricultural support call centers. The government has made extension services a free service to encourage improved management by smallholders. Stakeholders expressed concerns about the capacity of extension centers to serve the needs of modern farms. To fill that gap, a German-Kazakh Agrarian Policy Dialogue (APD) project is providing extension support for innovative organic farming methods. Training is targeted at giving farmers, researchers, and students the skills and knowledge to manage new technologies coming from abroad. Experts from Germany and EU countries are delivering training courses on organic crop production topics.

The private sector (farmers and organic producers association) in Kazakhstan is, however, taking the lead to support and enhance the development of organic agriculture.

Research and extension

- Agricultural extension services and institutions that are generally not adapted to the requirements of organic methods and marketing
- Low levels of investment in ecological agricultural research, organic farming experimental research, and laboratories.

In order to develop organic agriculture, national research think tanks have to further strengthen research in the field of organic production.

- Carry out a comprehensive assessment of agricultural lands regarding their suitability for organic production at regional and local levels;
- Determine the number of farms in all soil-climatic zones and agricultural areas suitable for organic production;
- Development of fertilizer system for organic farming with the involvement of renewable sources of mineral nutrition of plants;
- Development of crop rotations and soil treatment systems, integrated systems of fertilizer application, bio-fertilizers, plant protection systems, technologies for growing organic products; [25]

➤ *Universities*

The most important factor in the development of organic agriculture is the training of specialists who could not only work as producers, but also bring innovative and economically sound techniques in organic agriculture and conduct scientific research in this area.

To ensure positive results in this direction in the curricula of agrarian universities it is necessary to include training of specialists (agronomists, animal engineers and veterinarians) in the field of organic agriculture, which would provide knowledge acquisition not only in theoretical, but also practical, including internships in foreign organic farms, research institutes and universities. An integral part of the effective implementation of training programs on organic agriculture will be the creation and use in the educational process of experimental sites on the basis of following universities in Kazakhstan.

- Kazakh National Agrarian Research University" (KazNAIU)

Drawbacks:

Lack of curriculum and programs for training and advanced training of auditors-experts on inspection and certification of organic production and advanced training of lecturers;

- Lack of international joint educational programs of higher and postgraduate education with relevant competencies (learning outcomes) in the field of organic production;
- Lack of professional standard "Production and circulation of organic products";
- Kazakh Agro technical University named after S. Seifullin.
- North-Kazakhstan University named after M. Kozybaev

Implemented in domestic universities of educational programs on organic farming

In Kazakhstan, several universities implement educational programs on organic farming. The first educational program "Organic farming" was developed by the faculty of NAO Kazakh Agrotechnical Research University named after Seifullin and North Kazakhstan University named after M. Kozybaev relevance of this educational program is that the market in the country requires environmentally safe products, so it requires an increasing number of specialists using environmental technologies in agriculture, which is one of the priority tasks to promote this direction in the world, including in Kazakhstan.

The peculiarity of the educational program "Organic farming" lies in the needs of the labor market in specialists of a new formation, capable of ensuring environmental conservation and sustainable production of safe crop production.

➤ **Research Institutes**

- Development of scientific research in the field of organic agriculture. A strategic factor in the development of organic agriculture is an active activity in the field of scientific research and innovation.

If the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan decided to recognize organic agriculture as a priority area, the Ministry could act as a state customer of the program of scientific research in the field of organic agriculture. Additionally, state programs that provide for measures to increase the production of organic products, may also contain an indication of funding for research in this area.

Identify priority areas of research topics in the field of organic agriculture and include projects in the research programs of organizations. Ensure implementation of the results of scientific research;

Kazakh Research Institute of Agriculture and Crop Production.

The Institute is a major scientific center in the field of agriculture and crop production in the southeast of the country and they have a laboratory for Organic Agriculture.

Drawbacks:

Weak research and technological support of organic production, as a consequence:

- Underdevelopment of technologies and lack of practical experience in the production and circulation of organic products;
- lack of tools in organic farming to protect against plant diseases and pests;
- lack of specialists who know how to work with biopreparations;

There is argue that between science and small and medium agricultural producers. Large agricultural holdings can afford their own research. Small and medium producers, use the achievements of state researches. The issue of establishing interaction between state science&research and farmers, unfortunately, does not work very well. It is necessary to adapt the achievements of modern science&research for farmers. This will make it possible to produce organic products.

Subsidies: Any farmer producing organic products as a subject of agro-industrial complex has the right to receive subsidies to reimburse part of the costs of investment investments (purchase of machinery, equipment and other fixed assets).

- lack of technical and technological specification of organic production taking into account soil-climatic, economic conditions and peculiarities of agro-ecological zones of Kazakhstan;
- there is no dissemination of knowledge, technologies, practices in the field of organic production and carrying out accurate and individual consultations for interested subjects of agro-industrial complex.

➤ **Research - Experimental Stations**

- 6 Agricultural Experimental Stations along the country are involved in the promotion of organic farming.

Taking into account the experience of the European Union, USA, Australia, it is possible to propose the following measures to stimulate and support producers of organic products in the Republic of Kazakhstan:

Building of a positive image of organic agriculture by conducting:

- Systematic and long-term awareness campaign addressed to producers, potential buyers of organic products, as well as representatives of government agencies of different levels;
- Educational activities for different target groups;
- Scientific and scientific-practical international conferences;

Outreach visits to successful organic farms in regions and EU.

A very effective way of convincing representatives of agricultural enterprises, farmers, governmental bodies that make decisions is to invite them to organic farms, including foreign ones, to get their personal experience about the benefits of organic agriculture "healthy to food". This approach, when those who influence the process and (or) decision makers can experience the benefits of organic agriculture is very effective in combination with scientific research in favor of organic agriculture.

Political support

- little interest by government and by established agricultural sciences,
- political domination by non-organic farming

Economic support

Develop normative and legal acts, including provisions on the rules of certification of technological production and organic products, on mechanisms of economic and financial support of farms engaged in the production of organic products.

➤ The use of chemical inputs is still supported in the form of initiatives to encourage increased use and in some cases subsidization.

3. Policy recommendations

This policy brief concludes that organic agriculture can provide important contributions to sustainable agricultural development. To get the most out of an organic agriculture strategy, Kazakhstan government and Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan should:

1. Contribute to capacity building of organic farmers, Organic producers' Associations and students and teaching staff in Universities.
2. Promote the development and integration of organic markets.
3. Help in developing domestic organic markets.
4. Concentrate policies on regions where organic agriculture has the most potential.
5. Support research on organic agriculture in country.

It should be taken into account that organic agriculture cannot fully develop without research and technological support. All regulations in force in the field of organic production, and procedures existing in this area, are the results of research and development work by international and national research institutes.

Main legal acts and standards on organic production In order to implement the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On organic production" of 2015 (hereinafter referred to as the Law or Organic law), the following implementing regulations and standards were developed and adopted: Rules "On the organic production", approved by the Order of the Minister of Agriculture dated May 23, 2016 No. 230 (hereinafter referred to as the Rules on organic production). Rules "On maintaining the register of producers of organic products", approved by the order of the Minister of Agriculture dated December 18, 2015 No. 13/1102.

The list of permitted inputs used in the production of organic products, approved by the order of the Minister of Agriculture dated May 23, 2016 No. 231 (hereinafter referred to as List of permitted inputs).

- National standard ST RK 3109-2017 "Organic products. National mark of conformity for organic products. Technical requirements and procedure for labeling of organic products" (hereinafter referred to as the Labeling Standard).
- National standard ST RK 3110-2017 "Conformity assessment. Requirements for bodies conducting the conformity of organic production and organic products" (hereinafter referred to as the Certification Standard).
- National standard ST RK 3111-2017 "Organic products. Requirements for the production process" (hereinafter referred to as the Organic Production Standard).

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As recommended by international consultants, the process of conversion to organic production should begin with studying the provisions, norms and requirements of organic standards.

Kazakhstan producers of organic products are focused on the EU market, so it is logical to study and comply with the European legislation in the field of production, certification and import into their territory: Council Regulation (EC) No. 848/2002, and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1235/2008.

Policy support

There are many best practices and lessons on organic agriculture development in both developing and developed countries. However, each country has its own peculiarities in terms of climatic conditions, geographical location, natural resources, as well as culture, traditions, democratic values and so on. All these hinder the development of organic agriculture.

All this together can form a certain mechanism applicable only in a particular country. Thus, for effective implementation and subsequent sustainable development of organic agriculture in the long term, Kazakhstan can consider three main options (listed below):

1. In close cooperation with international organizations (German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, FAO, UNDP, WHO, IFOAM, FiBL and others implementing agricultural projects) - attracting additional investment and resources - funds, knowledge, skills, technologies, etc.
2. Consistent implementation of organic agricultural development: educational and institutional development.
3. Regulatory and legal support of the process of implementation of organic agricultural development at all levels of management (Law, Roadmap, Concept of industry development, national standards).
4. Low level of state funding for research and development work in the country, it is necessary to create and maintain a Unified Register of organic technologies and agricultural practices. This approach will facilitate the work of farmers who decided to switch to organic production.

In November, 2023 Union of Organic Producers of Kazakhstan together with the profile Technical Committee for Standardization № 100 "Organic Products" in the framework of the National Standardization Plan for 2023 completely revised all standards in the field of production and turnover of organic products.

As a result, the following standards have been developed:

1. ST RK "Production of organic products. Terms and definitions";
2. ST RK "Conformity assessment. Requirements for bodies on confirmation of conformity of organic production";
3. ST RK "Organic Products. Requirements for the process of production, processing, labeling and sale";
4. ST RK "Organic Products. Production and turnover of organic products".

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Currently, all of the above standards have passed NTS NOS and STC of the authorized body in the field of standardization.

During the development of standards received useful and detailed suggestions from KTRM MIT RK, SPE RK "Atameken", TOO "QAZAQ BIO CONTROL" and experts KazStandard, which were aimed at improving the quality of standards.

All suggestions of stakeholders were taken into account, consensus was reached.

Approval and enactment of standards in the field of production and turnover of organic products will contribute to the solution of many systemic problems existing in the production of organic products and certification of production.

Standards are developed taking into account European norms and Kazakhstani practice and reality: completely revised conceptual apparatus; detailed activity of bodies to confirm the conformity of production of organic products; revised requirements for the production process, labeling; camels, red deer and rabbits added to the list of organic animals, etc.

All standards are to be put into effect from July 1, 2024.

State support

- Support for research and dissemination of organic products
- Support for the development and utilization of organic inputs
- Support for certification
- Support for organic vocational training and academic programs
- Payments for conversion and maintenance of areas for organic production
- Support for agro ecological practices compatible with organic production
- Tax incentives for operators of organic production
- Support for investment in organic farms
- Support for companies processing, developing and marketing organic products
- Prohibition of the use of agrochemicals in vulnerable areas
- To provide information support for the development of organic agriculture, including an information campaign in the media aimed at popularization of organic methods of agricultural production and safe and healthy organic products, as well as dissemination of experience of Kazakhstani organic farms.

For the development of the high-standard Road Map it is necessary to involve all interested parties.

- These are producers and exporters of organic products;
- Experts of authorized bodies in the field of production and turnover of organic products;
- Inspectors (national, foreign) certification bodies;
- Scientists of research institutes and universities of agrarian profile;

- authorized representatives-members of technical committees on standardization of organic production and organic products;
- Specialists of trade unions and associations in the agro-industrial complex;
- Specialists of consumer protection organizations;
- Specialists in environmental protection organizations;
- specialists of the quasi-governmental sector; consultants of international organizations (FAO, WB, etc.).

4. Conclusions

Based on the above conclusions and findings, the authors have made the following recommendations.

First, domestic organic producers in Kazakhstan should raise public awareness of the benefits of environmentally friendly products. Consumers should be able to distinguish between pseudo-labels and special marks (approved at the legislative level).

Secondly, there is no register of organic producers in Kazakhstan and, in fact, the state does not provide adequate support to them. With that being said, according to the survey, many respondents trust domestic producers for the most part due to the proven benefits of natural products. The "Qazaq Organic Food" State Program is gathering pace, so the communications and outreach policy to promote organic products must be arranged in such a way as to allow the local public to become familiar with domestic producers and trust them just as they would trust foreign producers.

Thirdly, when assessing the capacity of the organic foods market, the authors have revealed that primary consumers are upper income families with children. Hence, the awareness-raising policy must emphasize the benefits of consuming organic products on a daily basis.

Currently the local situation in Kazakhstan with the certification of organic products is that it takes at least 3 years to get certified in the EU. A total of 19 companies have been accredited by the EU to grant certification to producers of organic items in Kazakhstan. The nearest laboratory that meets international standards is located in Chisinau and Kiev, with 90% of organic exports from Kazakhstan certified by Ukrainian partners. Therefore, establishing own certification authority is a key issue for the development of organic agriculture in Kazakhstan.

The Potential and prospects for the development of organic agriculture in Kazakhstan.

Taking into account that organic agriculture is an important sector of the economy that has the potential to make a tangible positive contribution to:

- (a) Improving the health of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, preserving biodiversity, reducing the amount of chemicals introduced into the environment, preserving and restoring soil fertility, reducing ground and surface water pollution, reducing the negative impact of agriculture on the climate, while at the same time being a tool for adapting agricultural production to climate change.

- (b) to the analyze the possibility of revising the planned indicators of growth of the share of organic land in the total area of agricultural land. Since even if the forecast indicators of the National Strategy of Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Kazakhstan for the period up to 2030 are achieved.
- (c) Biological control substances that are authorized abroad are not registered in Kazakhstan and are therefore prohibited for use. And domestic remedies that can potentially be applied are not authorized by inspectors of foreign certification bodies. It is necessary to go through the approval procedure with independent organizations authorized to allow biological control agents for use in organic agriculture according to EU standards.

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Operational partner of the APD is the National Agrarian Research and Education Center.

NANOC is a scientific and educational center, a single operator of sustainable interaction of scientific and educational institutions of the agrarian sector of Kazakhstan with the state and business.

The Government Decree No. 659 of August 22, 2015 established NANOC “National Agrarian Scientific and Educational Center” to promote innovative development of the agro-industrial complex of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

NANOC partners: International Center for Agricultural Research in Arid Zones, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), AVRDC - World Vegetable Center, International Potato Center (CIP), International Water Management Institute (IWMW).

Profile of “NANOC”

“NANOC” carries out the following activities:

- Enhancement of scientific and personnel potential of the agro-industrial complex.
 - Protection of rights and interests of subsidiary organizations.
 - Interaction with state authorities.
 - Management of legal entities whose shareholdings are transferred to the Company in order to increase competitiveness and economic efficiency of the agricultural industry, develop agrarian resources and standards, stimulate investment and innovation activity in the agrarian sphere.
 - Stimulation of joint research and development activities of pedagogical staff, students.
 - Development of international cooperation in the field of experimental and design works, fundamental and applied research of innovative nature in agro-industrial complex, their commercialization and implementation in the Republic of Kazakhstan.
 - Promotion of domestic experimental and design works, fundamental and applied research in the agro-industrial complex on foreign markets.
- Implementation of international standards in the activities of NANOC and its subsidiaries.
- Attracting domestic and foreign investments into the agricultural sector.
 - Development of activities to stimulate agricultural producers introducing modern production technologies.
 - Raising the level of Kazakhstan agrarian science and education to international quality standards.
 - Promotion of Kazakhstan agrarian scientific products (varieties, breeds, technologies, etc.) on world and regional markets.
 - Creation of effective system of introduction of modern scientific developments and innovative technologies into production.
 - Creation of a network of regional experimental centers and centers of knowledge dissemination.
 - Ensuring the use of budgetary funds and creation of a system of co-financing of scientific developments at the expense of extra-budgetary funds.
 - Creation and development of agrarian science and education infrastructure at the world level and ensuring its proper functioning.

POLICY PAPER

The objectives of the “National Agrarian Scientific and Educational Center”:

- Integration of science and education with production;
- shifting the focus from academic results to implementation in production and commercialization of scientific developments.

