

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

**Organic-Sector data to mark the beginning of BIOFACH 2019
With 10,91 Billion € and 109.863 additional organic hectares
organic costumers and farmers are bringing clean water,
bees and strong farms
BÖLW demands: “Utilise organic to make agricultural and economic policy fair for
generations to come”**

Nuremberg/Berlin, 13-02-2019. “In Germany in 2018 **almost five farmers per day converted their farm to organic agriculture**. Also on the new organic acreage, the equivalent of more than **150,000 football pitches**, are organic farms scoring points for the protection of soil, water, animals and the climate“, declares Peter Röhrig, director of Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft (BÖLW – the German Association of Organic Farmers, Food Processors and Retailers), at the press conference presenting the latest data on the German organic sector at the beginning of BIOFACH. How much organic is actually contributing towards the environment and society, is comprehensively documented in the new study^[i] by the federal Thünen institute. (Thünen-Report 65)

According to current BÖLW-estimates the organic acreage in Germany in 2018 increased by **109,863 ha (+ 8.0 %)** to a total of **1,483,020 ha**. This means **8.9 % of the total agricultural land in Germany is cultivated by organic farmers**. “Organic provides more farmers, their employees and families with a perspective for the future“, is Röhrig’s summary of the sustained strong conversion dynamic.

At the end of 2018 nearly **12 % of all farms were organic farms** – a total of **31.122 farms**. Last year 1,727 opted for a new start in organic agriculture. At the same time a large number of farms had to close up shop – in 2018 alone, the number of farms in Germany decreased by around 3,100 to 266,690.

“**Customers invested nearly 11 Billion €^[ii] in organic food** and supported the transformation towards an agriculture and diet considerate of future generations“, thus comments the BÖLW director the strong demand for organic at the grocery till. “More and more people want to support local farmers as well as climate protection, bees and hares, humane animal husbandry and the health of their families and the environment.“ According to calculations by the “Working Group Organic Market” **the surplus in turnover reached with organic food and drinks surmounted to 5.5 %** and a **market volume of 10.91 billion € (10.34 billion € in 2017)**.

BÖLW Chairman Felix Prinz zu Löwenstein appeals to the German Federal Government to act decisively now, in order to stabilise the organic dynamic. The development of Organic market and organic farms, food processing enterprises and retailers needs happen in step with one another. This guarantees that society and the environment benefit best from **the services organic farming and organic food provide**. “For more enterprises to make use of the chances organic offers, for nature, the environment and enterprises to benefit and for the Federal Government to

reach its environmental and climate goals, **agricultural and economic policies need to be coherently and decisively attuned to one another**", demands Löwenstein.

3090 characters, publication free of charge, press contact for further information & interviews: Joyce Moewius, BÖLW press officer, ++49 30 28482307. Visit our website on www.boelw.de.

The German Association of Organic Farmers, Food Processors and Retailers (BÖLW) is the political umbrella organization of the organic food sector in Germany. The members of BÖLW are: Assoziation ökologischer Lebensmittelhersteller, Bioland, Biokreis, Biopark, Bundesverband Naturkost Naturwaren, Demeter, Ecoland, ECOVIN, GÄA, Interessensgemeinschaft der Biomärkte, Naturland, Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Ökologisch engagierten Lebensmittelhändler und Drogisten, Reformhaus@eG and Verbund Ökohöfe.

^[i] BÖLW-PM (2019): „Umfassende Studie: System Ökolandbau ist klarer Punktsieger bei Umwelt- und Ressourcenschutz“ <https://www.boelw.de/news/umfassende-studie-system-oekolandbau-ist-klarer-punktsieger-bei-umwelt-und-ressourcenschutz/>

^[ii] Figures of organic turnover were calculated by the „Working Group Organic Market“. The „Working Group Organic Market“ consists of the following people/organisations: Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (AMI), bioVista, Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft (BÖLW), Gesellschaft für Konsumforschung SE (GfK), Prof. Dr. Ulrich Hamm (Universität Kassel), Klaus Braun Kommunikationsberatung, Prof. Dr. Paul Michels (Hochschule Weihenstephan-Triesdorf) and The Nielsen Company (Germany) GmbH. The „Working Group Organic Market“ is coordinated by AMI.