

# EU ORGANIC FARMING AND THE WORLD MARKET

The global world market for organics expanded more than threefold between 2000 and 2012<sup>1</sup>.

## Why does the EU import organic products?

Demand for organic products in the EU outstrips supply.

Some products cannot be produced everywhere because of climate or geography.

## What kinds of products are imported?

Coffee, cocoa, rice, honey, fruits and vegetables...

## Where does the EU import from?

The EU currently imports from 11 countries with rules considered equivalent to those of the EU: Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Tunisia, Switzerland, USA, Canada, Japan.

In addition, the EU imports from more than 130 other countries around the world based on certification by Control Bodies recognised by the EU for that purpose.

Each consignment must be accompanied by a certificate of inspection issued by the Control Body or authority.

The EU regulates production and processing of organic goods within the EU, as well as the conditions for importing goods from elsewhere to be marketed in the EU.

In the European Union, the share of organically managed land is 5.6 percent. In the other regions, the share of organically managed land is less than one percent<sup>2</sup>.

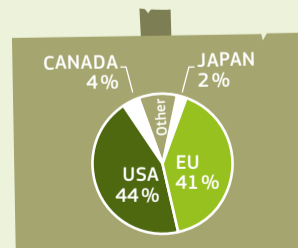
## What does the EU export?

The EU produces a variety of food, in particular high quality products to meet demand by other countries. These are increasingly organic and include quality cheeses, wine, spirits and baby food.

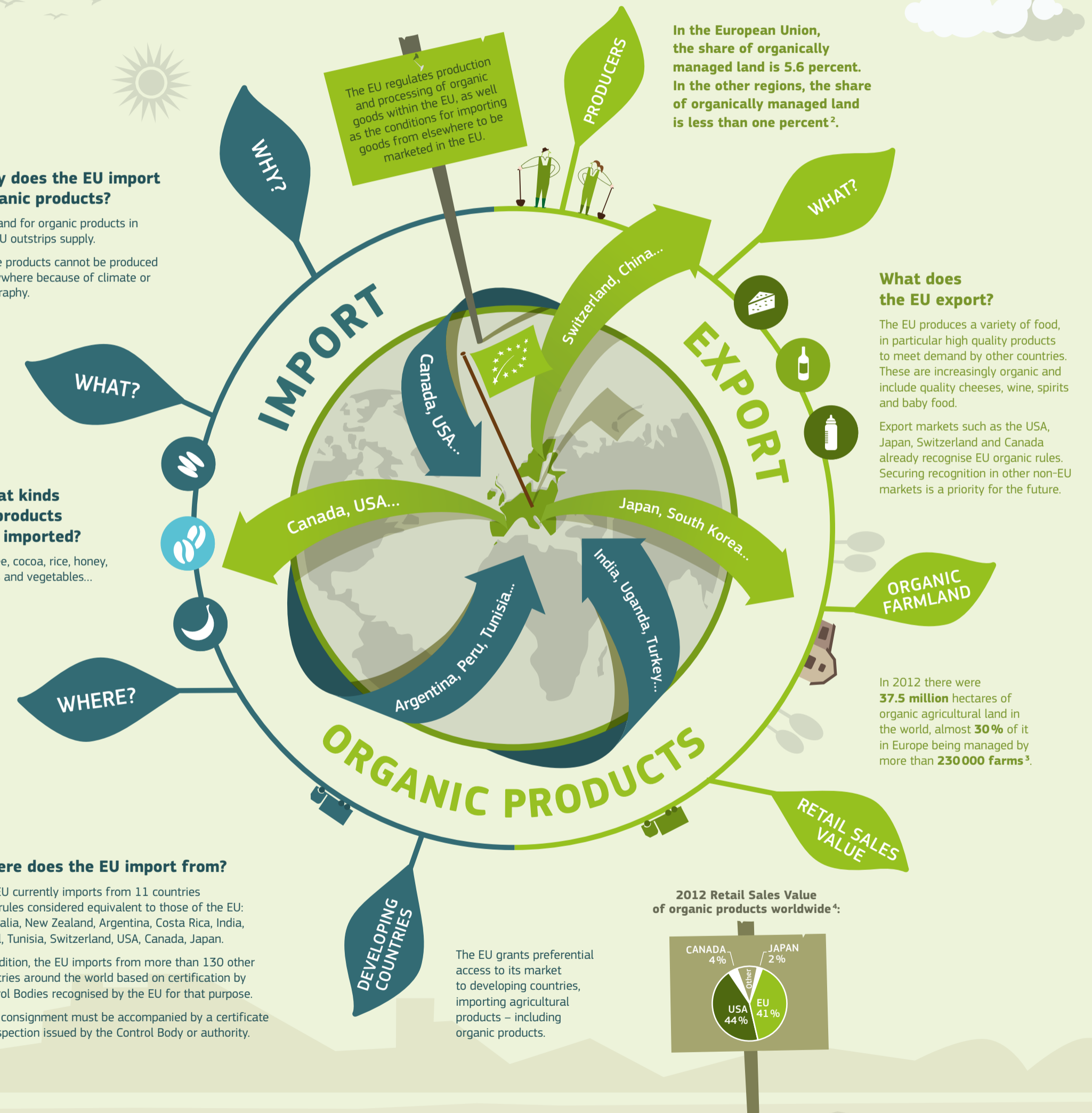
Export markets such as the USA, Japan, Switzerland and Canada already recognise EU organic rules. Securing recognition in other non-EU markets is a priority for the future.

In 2012 there were **37.5 million** hectares of organic agricultural land in the world, almost **30%** of it in Europe being managed by more than **230 000 farms**<sup>3</sup>.

## 2012 Retail Sales Value of organic products worldwide<sup>4</sup>:



The EU grants preferential access to its market to developing countries, importing agricultural products – including organic products.



You can buy organic products bearing the EU logo from outside the EU, safe in the knowledge that producers have passed inspections throughout the production process and trade operations.

1. Organic Monitor  
 2. FiBL-IFOAM survey on organic agriculture worldwide 2014  
 3. European Commission  
 4. FiBL-IFOAM survey on organic agriculture worldwide 2014