ANNALS OF THE POLISH ASSOCIATION
OF AGRICULTURAL AND AGRIBUSINESS ECONOMISTS

ROCZNIKI NAUKOWE
STOWARZYSZENIA EKONOMISTÓW ROLNICTWA I AGROBIZNESU

Received: 08.11.2024
Acceptance: 10.12.2024
Published: 16.12.2024

JEL codes: Q17, Q56, F14, E31, Q18

Annals PAAAE • 2024 • Vol. XXVI • No. (4)

DOI: 10.5604/01.3001.0054.8685

JAROSŁAW GOŁĘBIEWSKI[1]

Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland

CHANGES IN THE IMPORT OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION BETWEEN 2018 AND 2023

Key words: import of organic products, trade policy, sustainable agriculture, market trends, European Union

ABSTRACT. Food produced through organic systems is becoming increasingly popular among consumers and farmers worldwide. Growing demand is the primary driver of the organic food market's development, contributing to the introduction of new products. This article aims to analyze changes in the import of organic products to the European Union (EU) between 2018 and 2023. The study employs data analysis, legal regulation review, and literature examination. It focuses on key trends, regulations, and external factors affecting the organic products market. The analysis includes import directions and identifies the largest suppliers of organic products. The findings reveal an increase in organic product imports, supplier diversification, and shifts in import structure. Importing organic products into the EU ensures the diversity and availability of food meeting the highest quality standards, preferred by many consumers. This is crucial in the context of exploring methods to achieve sustainable development. The article provides insights for policymakers and market participants, highlighting challenges and opportunities for growth within the framework of sustainable agriculture.

[1] Corresponding author: jaroslaw_golebiewski@sggw.edu.pl

INTRODUCTION

The significance of products derived from organic production systems is steadily increasing. The global market for organic agricultural and food products is generating substantial revenues and, as noted by Kathryn Boys et al. [2022], is developing dynamically. The area of land designated for organic farming is expanding, accompanied by growth in the number of producers and sales outlets for these products [IFOAM 2021]. This trend is also evident in the rising volume of organic food imports and their growing sales through major retail chains, hypermarkets, and discount stores. The import of organic products into the European Union (EU) plays a critical role in ensuring the diversity and availability of food that meets the highest standards of quality and sustainability.

The increasing demand for organic products among European consumers stems from both heightened health awareness and environmental concerns [Sadiq 2020, Parashar et al. 2023]. Between 2018 and 2023, this sector experienced dynamic changes driven by new regulations and global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to align with EU strategies like the Green Deal [Dudek and Śpiewak 2022, ECA 2024].

The literature highlights that EU policies on organic agriculture have significantly influenced import structures. Brexit in 2019 introduced uncertainty regarding organic certification for exporters and importers across Europe [Lampkin et al. 2023]. The implementation of Regulation 2018/848 [Official Journal, L 150, 14.6.2018], concerning organic production and labeling, marked a milestone in harmonizing trade and control standards for organic products within the EU.

Moreover, studies reveal that major exporters of organic products, including Latin American countries (e.g., Ecuador, Peru) and regions in North Africa, had to adapt their production and certification systems to comply with these regulations [Willer et al. 2024]. The growing influence of consumer preferences on import directions and structures has also been emphasized. Products such as tropical fruits, nuts, and coffee have emerged as some of the most frequently imported categories [Yang and Panjaitan 2021]. At the same time, increasing ecological awareness and higher quality expectations among consumers are pressuring importers to ensure full transparency throughout the supply chain [Fritz 2022].

This study aims to analyze changes in the import of organic products into the EU between 2018 and 2023, with a particular focus on trends in import structures, the geographical origins of products, and the impact of EU regulations on international trade. The findings will provide valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders in the organic market, highlighting opportunities for further development in the context of sustainable agriculture.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This study employed a comparative analysis and synthesis of scientific literature to examine changes in the import of organic products to the EU between 2018 and 2023. Diverse data sources and analytical methods were utilized, with a focus on geographic, temporal, and product-specific dimensions. Primary data were obtained from the TRACES database (TRAde Control and Expert System) [EC 2018-2023], which provided detailed information on the volume and value of organic product imports to EU countries, as well as their structure and geographic origins. Regulatory documents, including Regulation 2018/848 – establishing rules for organic production, certification, and labelling within the EU market – were also considered.

Additional insights were derived from industry reports published by FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture) and IFOAM (Organics International). These reports offered valuable insights into global trends in the organic product sector, changes in regulations, and evolving consumer preferences. Quantitative data were analyzed to evaluate the volume of organic product imports and to identify key trends and structural changes in the market. Special attention was paid to market dynamics, consumer behavior, and the influence of global challenges on international trade.

The analysis encompassed three primary dimensions: geographic, temporal, and product-specific. It considered EU countries as the main importers and examined key exporting regions such as Latin America, North Africa, and Asia. By focusing on data from 2018 to 2023, the study assessed the impact of new EU regulations and global trade disruptions on the organic product market. This methodological approach allowed for a detailed examination of changes in organic product imports to the EU and facilitated the identification of factors driving the market's evolution.

IMPACT OF EU REGULATIONS ON THE IMPORT OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

Regulation 2018/848, which came into effect on January 1, 2021, replaced the previous rules governing organic farming (Regulation 834/2007). The new regulation aims to enhance consistency and transparency in the organic products market by harmonizing organic standards across all EU member states. It introduced more detailed rules for production and certification processes and limited exceptions to organic principles, which previously allowed non-standard practices [Official Journal, L 150, 14.6.2018]. A key element of the regulation is the requirement for equivalent certification standards in third countries, meaning that organic products imported from outside the EU must meet

the same standards as those produced within the EU. This approach has eliminated many barriers caused by differences in certification between countries.

As highlighted by Deepak Kumar et al. [2023], organic farming certification ensures quality, food safety, and product traceability at both the national and export levels. Studies indicate that countries such as Ecuador and the Dominican Republic quickly adapted to the new requirements due to their advanced certification systems, already aligned with EU standards. However, for exporters in regions like South Asia, adaptation was slower, resulting in a temporary decline in exports [Willer et al. 2024].

The regulation has significantly influenced the certification systems used by countries exporting organic products to the EU. Exporters were required to invest in enhanced procedures to ensure compliance with EU quality standards. These efforts included implementing independent certification audits conducted by approved bodies and training producers to reduce the risk of non-compliance [Siligato et al. 2024]. A notable example of successful adaptation is the organic coffee export sector in Ethiopia, where the adoption of advanced product traceability systems significantly enhanced trust among European importers [AICS 2024]. Similar achievements were observed in Latin America, where governments in countries such as Peru and Colombia supported exporters through programs subsidizing certification costs [Binder and Vogl 2018, Chaparro-Africano and Naranjo 2020].

The EU's trade policy on organic products is strongly shaped by the European Green Deal and the "Farm to Fork" strategy. These initiatives aim to increase the role of organic products in ensuring food security, reduce agriculture's environmental footprint – including that of international transportation – and promote sustainable production in exporting countries. Non-EU exporters are now required to adopt sustainable transportation and storage practices to meet the requirements of the Green Deal. For instance, bananas exported from Ecuador are increasingly being transported using more energy-efficient methods [FAO 2024]. Additionally, the "Farm to Fork" strategy prioritizes the import of products with a low environmental impact, favoring countries with advanced organic farming systems.

While these regulatory changes are seen as steps toward greater sustainability, they also pose challenges. The costs associated with adapting to the new rules may disadvantage smaller producers, particularly in developing countries [Hruschka et al. 2024]. Certification requirements tend to favor larger exporters, further exacerbating disparities in market access [ECA 2024, Sacchi et al. 2024].

MARKET DYNAMICS AND FACTORS DRIVING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC PRODUCT TRADE

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted vulnerabilities in global supply chains, particularly for organic products, which depend on precise transport and storage systems. At the onset of the pandemic, delays and rising transportation costs reduced the availability of certain products. In 2020, organic product imports declined by 5% compared to 2019; however, the market quickly rebounded due to increased consumer demand [EC 2021]. The pandemic also reshaped consumer preferences, sparking greater interest in organic products perceived as healthier and safer [Cramarenco et al. 2023, BRC 2024]. Consumers began paying closer attention to product origin and quality, leading to a surge in demand for certified foods.

Beyond COVID-19, other global events have significantly influenced the organic product market. Notably, the conflict in Ukraine – a key supplier of organic grains to the EU, accounting for over 40% of such imports in 2021 [EC 2018-2023] – resulted in export restrictions following the outbreak of war in 2022. This disruption forced the EU to seek alternative suppliers, underscoring the critical need to diversify supply chains to ensure market stability [IFOAM 2022].

The structure and market determinants of organic product imports differ markedly from those of conventional products. Organic imports are dominated by tropical fruits, grains, coffee, and tea, all of which require rigorous certification processes. In contrast, conventional imports are primarily composed of feed grains, vegetable oils, and meat, which are imported in larger volumes and face less stringent regulations. Between 2020 and 2023, organic product imports exhibited greater resilience to disruptions, such as those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to conventional imports. Organic imports are also more reliant on developing countries, including Ukraine [FiBL 2024], which supply tropical fruits, grains, and spices. Conversely, conventional products are predominantly sourced from countries with highly developed agricultural systems, such as the United States and Brazil.

Consumers of organic products tend to exhibit higher environmental awareness. According to Sigrid Denver et al. [2023], many EU buyers choose organic products for their lower carbon footprint, environmental benefits, and enhanced food safety. While conventional products remain less expensive, they are losing appeal among younger consumers, who are increasingly willing to pay premium prices for organic alternatives [Gundala and Singh 2021].

TRENDS IN ORGANIC PRODUCT IMPORTS – ANALYSIS RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Between 2018 and 2023, the import of organic products into the EU fluctuated but generally exhibited a downward trend (Table 1). The total volume decreased from 2.71 million tons in 2018 to 2.48 million tons in 2023, marking an 8.5% decline. This trend may be attributed to increased domestic organic production and adjustments in EU trade policies. Raw materials, the largest category, experienced a significant reduction, decreasing from 1.5 million tons in 2018 to 1.08 million tons in 2023. Notably, imports of beet and cane sugar fell by 33.8%.

Conversely, products such as unroasted coffee and tea maintained stable levels, reflecting consistent consumer demand. Soy imports displayed unique dynamics, with

Table 1. Organic imports in the EU in 2018-2023 by product category

Category	Import [tons]					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Commodities						
Total, including:	1,503,276	1,503,220	1,338,322	1,267,125	1,250,966	1,079,578
– oilcakes	257,056	298,120	231,797	208,867	223,028	175,880
– soybeans	104,794	130,259	137,308	126,837	191,898	158,105
– unroasted coffee, tea in bulk	118,058	132,192	138,423	144,733	145,263	139,856
– beet and cane sugar	162,329	210,206	189,831	162,694	145,651	107,479
– cereals, other than wheat and rice	224,792	188,554	111,371	113,059	120,743	104,657
Other primary						
Total, including:	969,254	1,094,970	1,182,908	1,250,892	1,176,040	1,122,017
– tropical fruit, fresh or dried, nuts and spices	660,778	772,391	843,237	902,643	872,234	851,498
– vegetables, fresh, chilled and dried	125,592	146,453	147,425	137,855	109,298	112,274
– fruit, fresh or dried, excl. citrus & tropical fruit	132,493	122,814	131,934	142,648	118,967	98,311

Table 1. Cont.

Category	Import [tons]					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Processed (including wine)						
Total, including:	188,480	190,482	198,437	212,395	196,662	181,385
– preparations of vegetables, fruit or nuts	52,591	54,963	56,319	62,435	61,136	61,610
– fruit juices	88,206	85,013	76,052	84,632	80,284	60,099
– olive oil	30,083	33,581	47,196	44,570	36,757	45,979
– wine, vermouth, cider and vinegar	16,953	16,167	16,992	17,320	15,133	10,674
Food preparations						
Total, including:	27,652	34,272	44,425	97,775	62,571	62,747
– food preparations, not specified	16,399	20,432	29,304	37,758	31,926	28,427
– pet food	1,748	3,031	706	39,008	13,123	17,457
– infant food and other cereals, flour, starch or milk preparations	3,257	3,540	4,886	6,878	6,394	5,633
– soups and sauces	3,904	4,345	5,745	7,635	5,206	5,107
– pasta, pastry, biscuits and bread	1,873	2,334	3,159	5,226	4,685	4,672
Others						
Others products	21,966	25,772	30,011	44,761	40,967	33,592
Grant total	2,710,628	2,848,716	2,794,103	2,872,948	2,727,206	2,479,319

Source: [EC 2018-2023]

growth observed up to 2022, followed by a decline in 2023. Other raw materials, despite initial growth from 2018 to 2021, also saw a decrease in imports by 2023. Tropical fruits, nuts, and spices remained relatively stable, with volumes around 850,000 tons. However, imports of fruits other than citrus and tropical varieties declined by 25.8%, possibly due to increased local production or shifting consumer preferences.

Processed products showed relative stability during the analyzed period. A marked reduction in fruit juice imports (31.8%) contrasted with growing interest in olive oil, whose imports increased steadily over the study period.

The most dynamic changes were observed in the processed food category. Imports more than doubled in 2021, peaking at 97,800 tons, before stabilizing at around 62,000 tons. A particularly notable increase was recorded for pet food, likely reflecting growing ecological awareness among pet owners. Additionally, soups, sauces, and flour-based products gradually gained popularity, indicating rising demand for organic processed foods.

The data presented in Table 1 indicate varied dynamics across different categories. The overall decline in organic product imports may be attributed to local initiatives promoting organic production within the EU and shifts in consumer preferences. In contrast, the stability or growth observed in categories such as olive oil and processed foods reflects an increasing consumer interest in these specific products.

Latin American countries (e.g., Ecuador) and North African countries (e.g., Tunisia) remained the dominant exporters of organic products to the EU. Additionally, the data in Table 2 underscore the growing significance of Asian countries in supplying tea and spices. For example, in the case of coffee and tea, key suppliers continued to include countries with traditionally well-established organic agriculture sectors, such as Ethiopia and India.

Table 3 highlights the top 10 EU countries importing the largest volumes of organic products from non-EU countries. These leading importers dominated the total EU organic imports between 2018 and 2023, with their combined import volumes accounting for 89% to 96% of total imports, depending on the year. Despite an overall decline in total imports, their significance within the import structure remained consistent.

Table 2. Countries with the highest volume of exports to the EU in 2018-2023

Export country	Eksport [tons]					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Ecuador	266,100	299,971	324,071	345,242	345,522	359,554
China	330,525	359,057	227,669	149,283	194,101	200,170
Dominican Republic	175,354	229,218	252,293	265,075	251,378	191,788
Peru	199,878	207,938	200,860	203,577	197,297	182,270
Ukraine	262,237	282,427	217,210	189,239	219,125	173,720
Türkiye	214,063	173,026	155,741	154,938	104,041	150,012
Colombia	51,957	79,167	106,766	105,199	120,875	120,189
Togo	22,123	44,684	54,017	68,341	125,619	104,068
India	118,136	152,678	174,311	205,928	139,243	68,109
United Kingdom	–	–	–	107,951	52,917	56,471

Source: [EC 2018-2023]

Table 3. EU countries with the largest imports of organic products from outside the EU

Import country	Import [tons]					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Netherlands	953,038	1,037,553	857,361	945,125	988,989	795,383
Germany	427,616	432,897	491,719	517,183	449,303	416,784
Belgium	177,960	371,912	303,002	276,833	268,462	273,369
Italy	185,803	180,388	236,106	224,956	177,762	248,302
France	213,625	240,582	274,620	271,608	277,414	228,623
Sweden	167,269	190,023	178,978	183,413	153,328	139,042
Spain	78,818	100,140	112,184	93,338	87,802	88,997
Denmark	127,413	120,705	82,116	61,737	64,114	70,000
Austria	35,921	28,379	30,766	35,345	51,097	55,855
Ireland	19,476	4,099	61,779	83,517	55,918	54,677

Source: [EC 2018-2023]

The Netherlands emerged as the largest importer of organic products, representing approximately 35% of total EU imports in 2018 and 32% in 2023. This decline may reflect shifts in supply chains. Germany, the second-largest importer, demonstrated greater stability, increasing its share from 16% in 2018 to 17% in 2023, indicating sustained high demand for organic products in the German market.

Belgium and France followed in terms of import volume, with shares ranging from 6% to 10% of total EU imports. Notably, Italy experienced significant growth in 2023, reaching an import volume of 248,000 tons. Other countries accounted for smaller shares, collectively representing less than 10% of the total volume in 2023.

During the analyzed period, Ireland and Austria increased their import shares, highlighting the growing demand for organic products in these markets. Conversely, Scandinavian countries such as Sweden and Denmark showed a downward trend, likely reflecting greater self-sufficiency in organic production.

Poland ranked just outside the top 10 in this ranking, securing 11th place. Data on the import of organic products to Poland from 2018 to 2023 indicate dynamic changes during the analyzed period. Between 2018 and 2021, imports increased by 93.4%. However, subsequent years saw a decline, yet the import level in 2023 remained approximately 42% higher than in 2018 [EC 2018-2023].

CONCLUSIONS

The study analyzed changes in the import of organic products to the EU from 2018 to 2023, considering the impact of regulations, global challenges, and consumer preferences on the development of the organic market. Regulation 2018/848 played a key role by standardizing organic production practices across EU countries, enhancing product transparency and quality. While these regulations strengthened consumer trust, they also increased adaptation costs for smaller producers. The introduction of new organic trade rules coincided with global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine, which disrupted supply chains and necessitated the diversification of import sources.

Changes in the organic product market demonstrated resilience to disruptions due to increasing consumer environmental awareness and government-backed initiatives. Import structures highlighted the dominance of tropical fruits, coffee, and tea, which is understandable, but the overall 8.5% decline in import volume during the analyzed period may reflect shifting consumer preferences. Key exporters included countries from Latin America and North Africa, while the Asian region gained prominence in exporting tea and spices.

Conclusions for practical and economic policy emphasize the need to further support local organic production within the EU, educate consumers, and address certification costs in exporting countries. Sustainable development and emission reductions in supply chains remain critical challenges that will shape the future of international trade in organic products.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

AICS (Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International). *Strengthening the sustainability and inclusiveness of the coffee supply chain through public-private partnerships' AID 11003. Evaluation Report 2024*, https://www.aics.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Etiopia-Caffe_Evaluation_Report_ENG.pdf, access: 20.10.2024.

Binder Nathalie, Chritian Reinhard Vogl. 2018. Participatory guarantee systems in Peru: two case studies in Lima and apurímac and the role of capacity building in the food chain. *Sustainability* 10 (12): 4544. DOI: 10.3390/su10124644.

Boys Kathryn A., Sigi Zhang, Neal H. Hooker. 2022. The international trade of U.S. organic agri-food products: export opportunities, import competition and policy impacts. *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems* 37 (6): 603-617. DOI: 10.1017/S1742170522000163.

BRC (The Business Research Company). 2024. Raport 2024. Organic Food Global Market 2024, https://www.thebusinessresearchcompany.com/report/organic-food-global-market-report, access: 07.11.2024.

Chaparro-Africano Adriana-María, Sonia E. Naranjo. 2020. Participatory system of guarantees – PSG of the Red de Mercados Agroecológicos de Bogotá Región RMABR. A contribution to the sustainability of agroecological producers and markets. *International Journal Agricultural Sustainability* 18 (6): 1-17. DOI: 10.1080/14735903.2020.1793614.

Cramarenco Romana Emilia, Monica Ioana Burca-Voicu, Dan-Cristian Dabija. 2023. Organic Food Consumption During the COVID-19 Pandemic. A Bibliometric Analysis and Systematic Review. *Amfiteatru Economic* 25 (17): 1042-1063. DOI: 10.24818/EA/2023/S17/1042.

Denver Sigrid, Tove Christensen, Thomas Bøker Lund, Jakob Vesterlund Olsen, Peter Sandøe, 2023. Willingness-to-pay for reduced carbon footprint and other sustainability concerns relating to pork production – A comparison of consumers in China, Denmark, Germany and the UK. *Livestock Science* 276: 105337. DOI: 10.1016/j.livsci.2023.105337.

Dudek Michał, Ruta Śpiewak. 2022. Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Sustainable Food Systems: Lessons Learned for Public Policies? The Case of Poland. *Agriculture* 12 (1): 61. DOI: 10.3390/agriculture12010061.

EC (European Commission). 2018-2023. *Agricultural markets in the organic sector. EU imports of organic agri-food products – key developments in 2018-2023*, https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/data-and-analysis/sustainability-and-organic-farming/agricultural-markets-organic-sector_en?prefLang=pl, access: 12.10.2024.

EC (European Commission). 2021. *Agriculture and rural development*. *EU imported slightly fewer organic agri-food products in 2020,* https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-imported-slightly-fewer-organic-agri-food-products-2020-2021-06-09_en, access: 10.11.2024.

ECA (European Court of Auditors). 2024. *Special report 2024. Organic farming in the EU – Gaps and inconsistencies hamper the success of the policy*. European Union, European Court of Auditors, https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/SR-2024-19, access: 12.10.2024.

FAO. 2024. *Carbon footprint of the banana supply chain*. World Banana Forum, https://www.fao.org/world-banana-forum/projects/good-practices/carbon-footprint/en/, access: 06.11.2024.

FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture). 2024. *Ukrainian organic agriculture will not be defeated by the war*, https://www.fibl.org/en/info-centre/news/ukrainian-organic-agriculture, access:12.10.2024.

Fritz Morgane M.C. 2022. A supply chain view of sustainability management. *Cleaner Production Letters* 3: 100023. DOI: 10.1016/j.clpl.2022.100023.

Gundala Raghava R., Anupam Singh. 2021. What motivates consumers to buy organic foods? Results of an empirical study in the United States. *PLoS One* 16 (9): e0257288. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0257288.

Hruschka Nikolaus, Sonja Kaufmann, Christian R. Vogl. 2024. The right to certify – Institutionalizing participatory guarantee systems (PGS): A Latin American cross-country comparison. *Global Food Security* 40: 100748. DOI: 10.1016/j.gfs.2024.100748.

IFOAM – Organics International. 2021. IFOAM Organics Europe annual report. https://read.organicseurope.bio/publication/ifoam-organics-europe-annual-report-2021/pdf, access: 06.11.2024.

Kumar Deepak, Manoj Kumar Menon, N. Balasubramani, A. Sadalaxmi, Mrinalini Banerjee. 2023. Certification of organic agriculture and trade issues. [In] *Transforming organic agri-produce into processed food products. Post-COVID-19 challenges and opportunities,* eds. Deepak Kumar, N. Ravisankar, Anupama Panghal, 113-152. Apple Academic Press. DOI: 10.1201/9781003329770.

Lampkin Niv, Mark Measures, Susanne Padel (eds.). 2023. *Organic farm management handbook 2023*. 12th edition. Newbury: Organic Research Centre.

Parashar Sapna, Singh Supriya, Sood Gunjan. 2023. Examining the role of health consciousness, environmental awareness and intention on purchase of organic food: A moderated model of attitude. *Journal of Cleaner Production* 386: 135553. DOI: DOI: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2022.135553.

Rozporządzenie Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady (UE) 2018/848 z dnia 30 maja 2018 r. w sprawie produkcji ekologicznej i znakowania produktów ekologicznych i uchylające rozporządzenie Rady (WE) nr 834/2007. Dz.U. L 150 z 14.6.2018 (Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007). Official Journal, L 150, 14.6.2018.

Sacchi Giovanna, Lavinia Romanello, Maurizio Canavari. 2024. The future of organic certification: potential impacts of the inclusion of Participatory Guarantee Systems in the European organic regulation. *Agricultural and Food Economics* 12: 2. DOI: 10.1186/s40100-023-00294-3.

Sadiq Muhammad Ahsan, Rajeswari Balasundaram, Lubna Ansari, Mohd Danish Kirmani, 2020. The role of food eating values and exploratory behaviour traits in predicting intention to consume organic foods: An extended planned behaviour approach. *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services* 59 (C): ahead of print. DOI: 10.1016/j.jretconser.2020.102352.

Siligato Riccardo, Andrea Bocchino, Franz Ulberth. 2024. *An information-based risk analysis IT tool protecting the European food system(s).* Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, European Commission, Joint Research Centre. https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2760/684532, JRC138424, access: 12.10.2024.

Willer Helga, Jan Trávníček, Bernhard Schlatte. 2024. *The world of organic agriculture statistics and emerging trends*. FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture), IFOAM – Organics International, https://www.fibl.org/en/shop-en/1747-organic-world-2024, access: 12.10.2024.

Yang Shang-Ho, Bella Pebriyani Panjaitan. 2021. A multi-country comparison of consumers' preferences for imported fruits and vegetables. *Horticulturae* 7 (12): 578. DOI: 10.3390/horticulturae7120578.

***

ZMIANY W IMPORCIE PRODUKTÓW EKOLOGICZNYCH DO UNII EUROPEJSKIEJ W LATACH 2018-2023

Słowa kluczowe: import produktów ekologicznych, polityka handlowa, zrównoważone rolnictwo, trendy rynkowe, Unia Europejska

ABSTRAKT. Żywność produkowana w systemie ekologicznym staje się coraz bardziej popularna wśród konsumentów i rolników na całym świecie. Rosnący popyt na produkty ekologiczne staje się głównym czynnikiem napędzającym rozwój rynku żywności ekologicznej i przyczynia się do wprowadzania nowych towarów na rynek. Celem artykułu jest analiza zmian w imporcie produktów ekologicznych do Unii Europejskiej (UE) w latach 2018-2023. W badaniu zastosowano analizę danych i regulacji prawnych oraz przegląd literatury tematu. Skupiono się na kluczowych trendach, regulacjach i czynnikach zewnętrznych wpływających na rynek produktów ekologicznych. Dokonano analizy kierunków importu i wskazano największych dostawców produktów ekologicznych. Wyniki wskazują na wzrost importu produktów ekologicznych, dywersyfikację dostawców oraz zmiany w strukturze importu. Import produktów ekologicznych do UE umożliwia zapewnienie różnorodności i dostępności żywności, spełniającej najwyższe standardy jakości, preferowane przez coraz większą liczbę konsumentów. Jest to bardzo ważne w kontekście poszukiwania metod zapewnienia zrównoważonego rozwoju. Artykuł dostarcza wniosków dla decydentów oraz uczestników rynku, wskazując na wyzwania i możliwości rozwoju w kontekście zrównoważonego rolnictwa.

AUTHOR

JAROSŁAW GOŁĘBIEWSKI, PROF.
Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW
Institute of Economics and Finance
e-mail: jaroslaw_golebiewski@sggw.edu.pl

Proposed citation of the article:
Gołębiewski Jarosław. 2024. Changes in the import of organic products to the European Union between 2018 and 2023. *Annals PAAAE* XXVI (4): 58-70.