

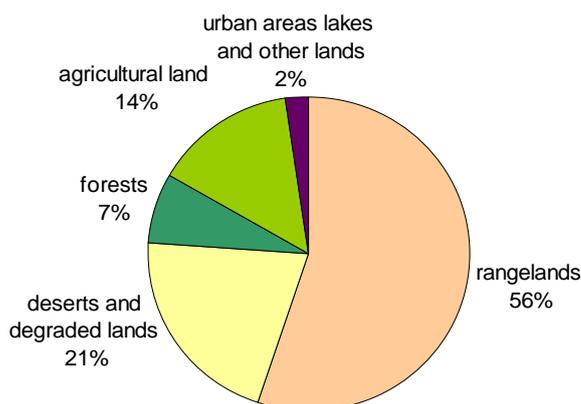


## Situation of Organic Products' Trade in Iran

Organic farming is the production system considering to environment and preserving the balance of nature and biological variety by the management system of ecology as the nature and escaping using the synthetic substance such as chemical fertilizer, agricultural chemicals, and hormones and or transgenic animals and plants that caused the environmental pollution.

Iran is an important country having source of agricultural raw material's production in the world. It is because differences of weather atmosphere and landscape of Iran make multi agricultural products too. Moreover Iran is the second country having cultivated land 1.65 square kilometers in Middle East countries.

Iran has been the center of agricultural development since 10,000 years ago. The wider land of Iran begets multi agricultural products; agricultural products grown from cold area and desert area.



(Chart 1: Proportions of Iran agricultural lands)

18 million hectares of Iran cultivated area can produce 65 million tons of food for 70 million consumers. Iran produces the 30<sup>th</sup> food quantity of the world and the 8<sup>th</sup> multi food production. In the present there are 3.4 million Iranian agriculturists that they use the original organic plant. However a small agriculture does not use the organic farming method; proportion is 80%. According to the survey of 40 year ago,

Since 1981 to 2001, the quantity of agricultural products has been used agricultural chemicals substance about 28,038 tons per year. The year of 1990 was the most chemical use and later the tendency of chemical use reduced day by day.



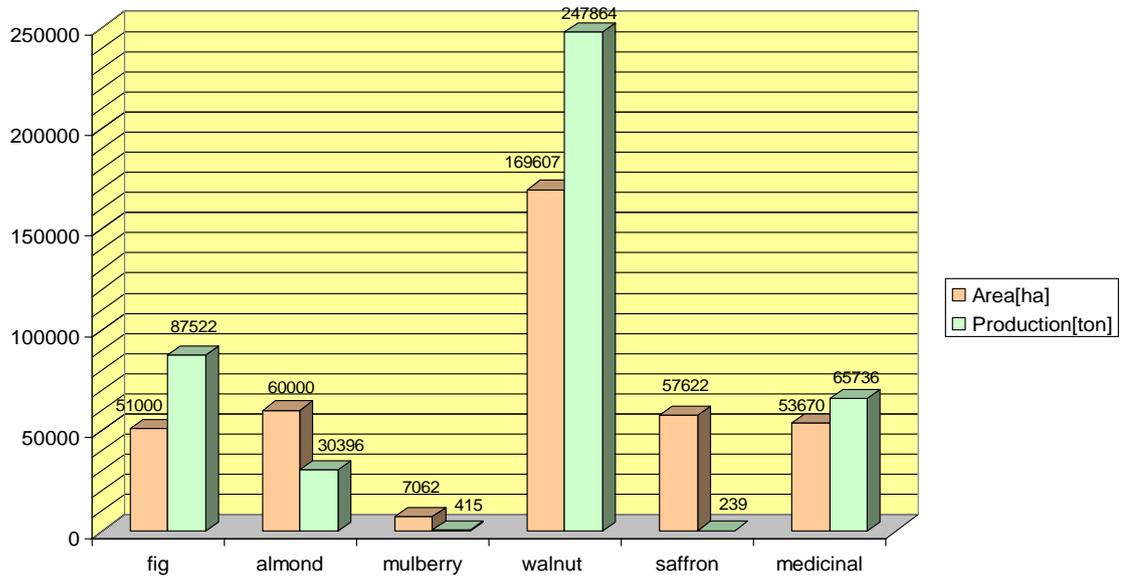


Chart 2: The proportion of the cultivated area in Iran; mostly using not organic farming

Iran uses still higher agriculture chemicals average 27,000 tons per year and they imports agricultural chemicals around Us 125 million. The chart 3 shows the proportion of agricultural chemicals used for agriculture in Iran:

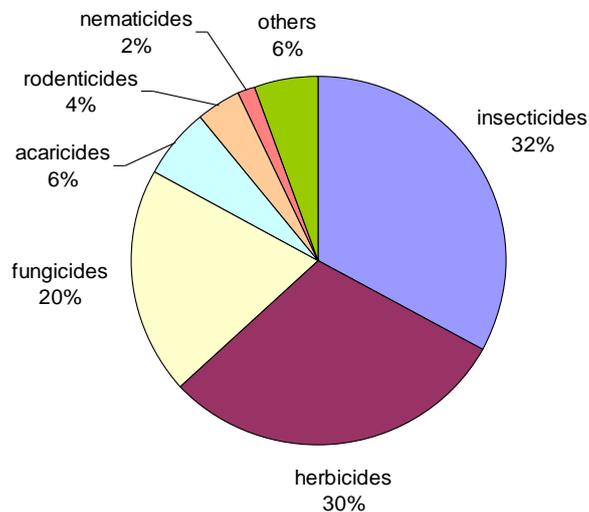


Chart 3: The proportion of agricultural chemicals used for agriculture in Iran





Recently Iran does not have a policy of campaign and give an importance to organic products and vegetable and fruits without agricultural chemicals. In the report, 80 % of Iranian agriculturists still use chemical fertilizer and agricultural chemicals to eliminate agricultural pests. However the government sector appointed the organic agriculture committee in 2001 under the charge of Ministry of Agriculture and cooperatives. Its main objective is to preserve nature, forest, keeping seeds and survey cultivated area of agricultural products without agricultural chemicals. From the survey found that agricultural cultivated area without agricultural chemicals and chemical fertilizer is 239,462 hectares separately between standing timber land about 125,802 hectares and annual land about 113,658 hectares.

There was an attempt of a private sector as an example to use organic farming in Olive farm in Qum where is the city settled in the middle desert area and can produce olive around 1 ton per hectare. It can produce olive higher than Europe 40 % and also other lands in Iran 300%. Besides organic products grow in Iran namely tomato in Fars province, medicinal plants, fig, cucumber grown in glasshouse, and grape. Organic products grown in Iran avoid agricultural chemicals and chemical fertilizer.

However the organic agricultural consumption in Iran is mostly in the local part because most of Iranian agriculturists do not know and understand how to preserve agricultural products without using agricultural chemicals. Moreover production of agricultural products to the domestic market, most of organic products are from sylvas: crops from the trees, and vegetation growing naturally in the forest such as herbs, and fruits.

It is because Iran does not have the market to support the organic products because of the low output. The campaign, advertising about good result, and the usefulness of organic products to people will be the good start in Iran because popularity of Iraniansto consumption vegetables and fruits is fair averagely in each year. Besides the market in Iranis one of the markets in the region that Thai businessman should pay more attention to export Thai organic products to Iranian market in the future.

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