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# ALGERIA

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## Introduction

Algerian agriculture includes the so-called “modern” and traditional production. At the contrary of the “modern” and intensive, the traditional production (70% of agricultural useful area) is characterized by a low level of mechanization and absence of fertilizers and pesticides.

Organic agriculture, as a system of production under legislation, does not exist yet.

This delay comes from the fact that the last thirty years, agriculture was not considered as a priority by the authorities and so, not encouraged as it has been done for industry.

## 1. Organic farming in Algeria: the beginnings

In the year 2000 the first attempts to introduce organic agriculture in Algeria started:

- Some lectures addressed to teachers and students of the National Institute of Agronomy (Algiers) and the Institute of Agronomy of Blida and to the executive staff of the Ministry of Agriculture were organized.
- A report about the importance of the development of organic farming in the country and its environmental and economic aspects was submitted to the Minister of agriculture.
- The Minister of agriculture strongly supported the promotion of organic farming in the country.
- First contacts with the main producers’ organization were undertaken. Potential organic farms were identified and a first list was compiled. In the year 2001 a seminar on “Introduction to organic farming” was organized by the “Institut National des Recherches Agronomiques d’Algiers” (INRAA) with the contribution of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (ASI Global).

## 2. Regulatory aspects

There is no legislation on organic agriculture in Algeria. The competent authority for the promotion of organic farming is the Ministry of agriculture, principally through the following departments:

- the National Centre of Control and Certification;

- the Veterinary Services;
- the Vegetable Protection and Control techniques;
- Training, Research and Vulgarization;
- The National Institute of Agricultural Vulgarization.

### 3. Conclusion

Organic farming in Algeria is at its beginnings. However, there is a certain interest to its promotion from the authorities, especially the Minister of agriculture, and also from a certain number of producers. Some measures have been undertaken to set up a development project.