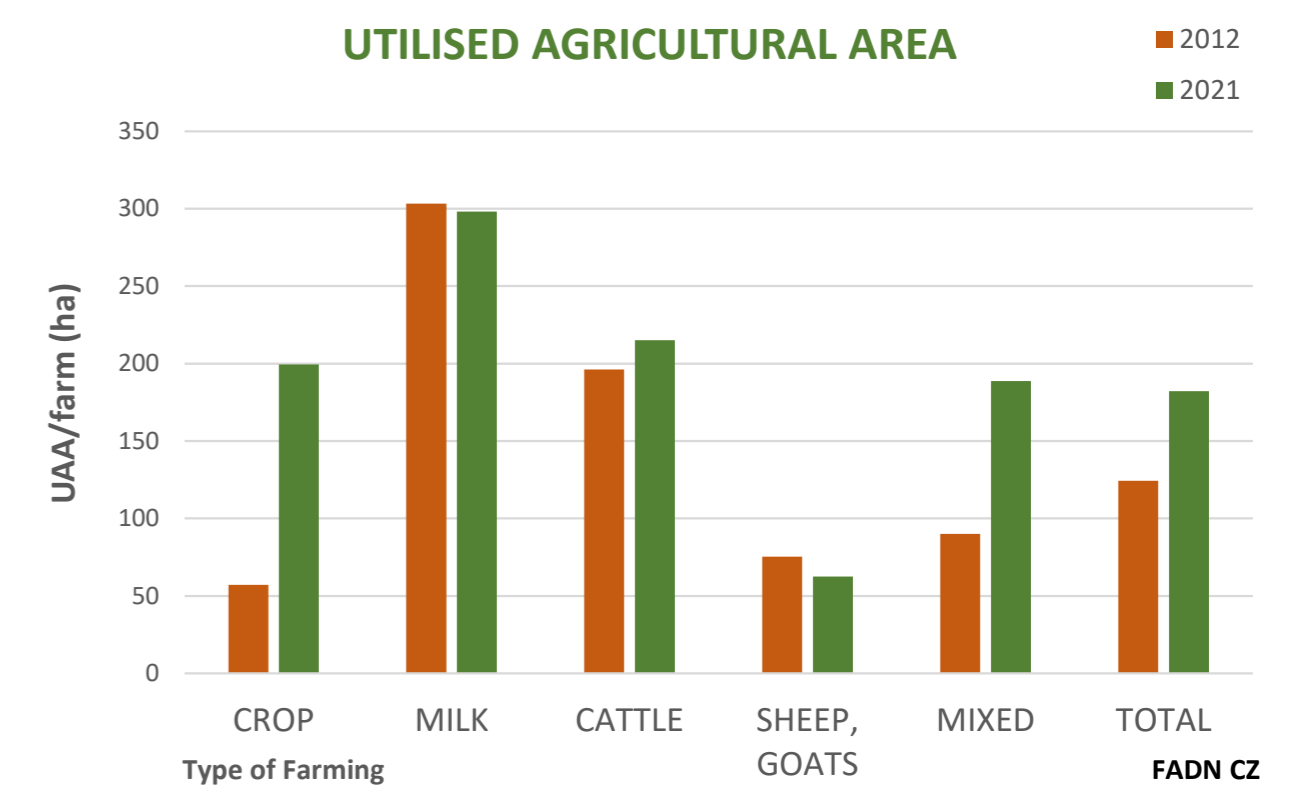


Although the ideas and goals of organic farming were already defined in the nineties of the 20th century, there are still many falsehoods and myths about it. Organic farming represents a gentle way of farming that respects the environment, natural cycles, and animal behaviour.

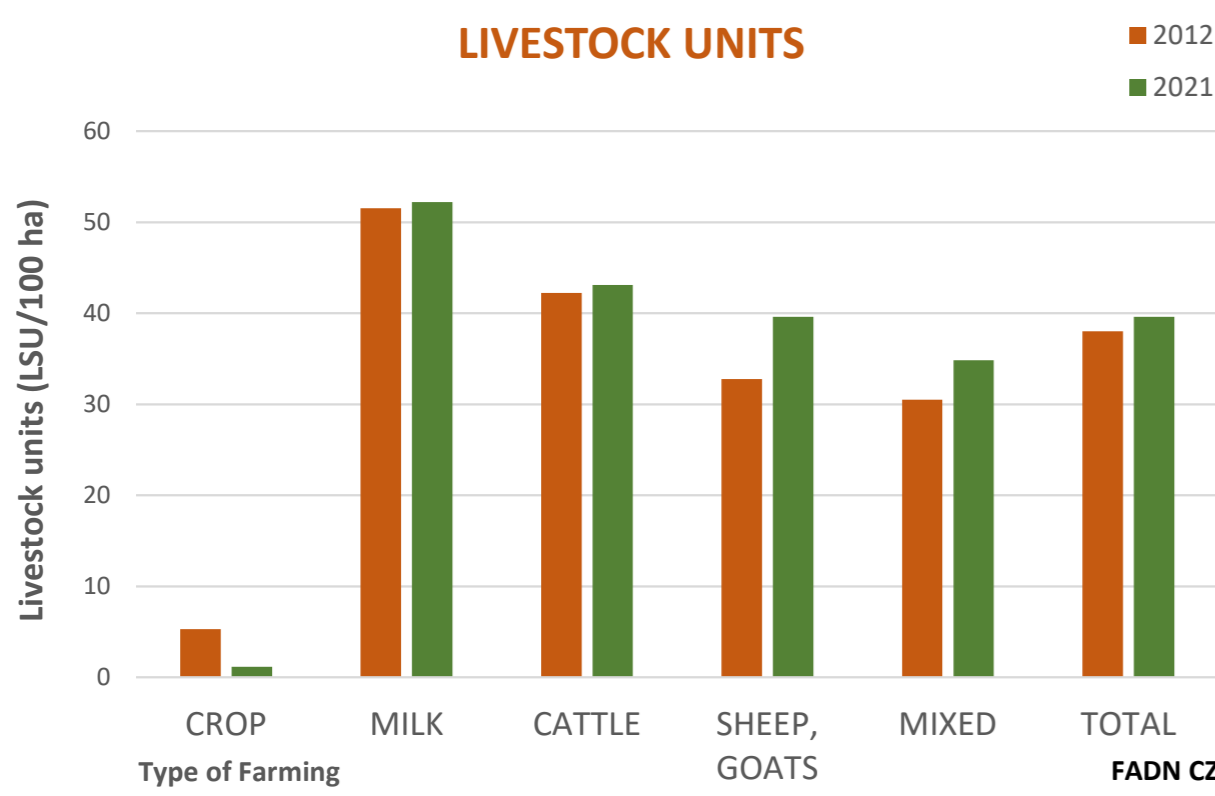
The area used for organic agriculture continues to increase in the European Union – up to 15.9 million ha in 2021, the equivalent of 9.9% of the total utilised agricultural area (UAA) in the EU.

### Czech Organic Farming in 2012:

Number	3,923 farms
Organic UAA	488,483 ha = 11.56% share of total UAA
	- Arable soil 12%, permanent grasslands 82%, permanent culture 1.5%
Organic livestock	346,974 heads – cattle 57%, sheep 27%, goats 2%
Labour	2.26 AWU/100 ha



**UAA:** The ratio of **arable soil** increased in average about 6%, dominantly in Mixed Production and Sheep and Goats Breeding type of farming. The share of **rented area** enhanced in average about 3%, mostly in Crop Production (16%), Sheep and Goats Breeding (8%), and Milk Production (5%).



### Czech organic farming in 2021:

Number	4,794 farms
Organic UAA	558,124 ha = 15.71% share of total UAA
	- Arable soil 18%, permanent grasslands 80%, permanent culture 1.1%
Organic livestock	439,921 heads – cattle 63%, sheep 17%, goats 2%
Labour	1.69 AWU/100 ha

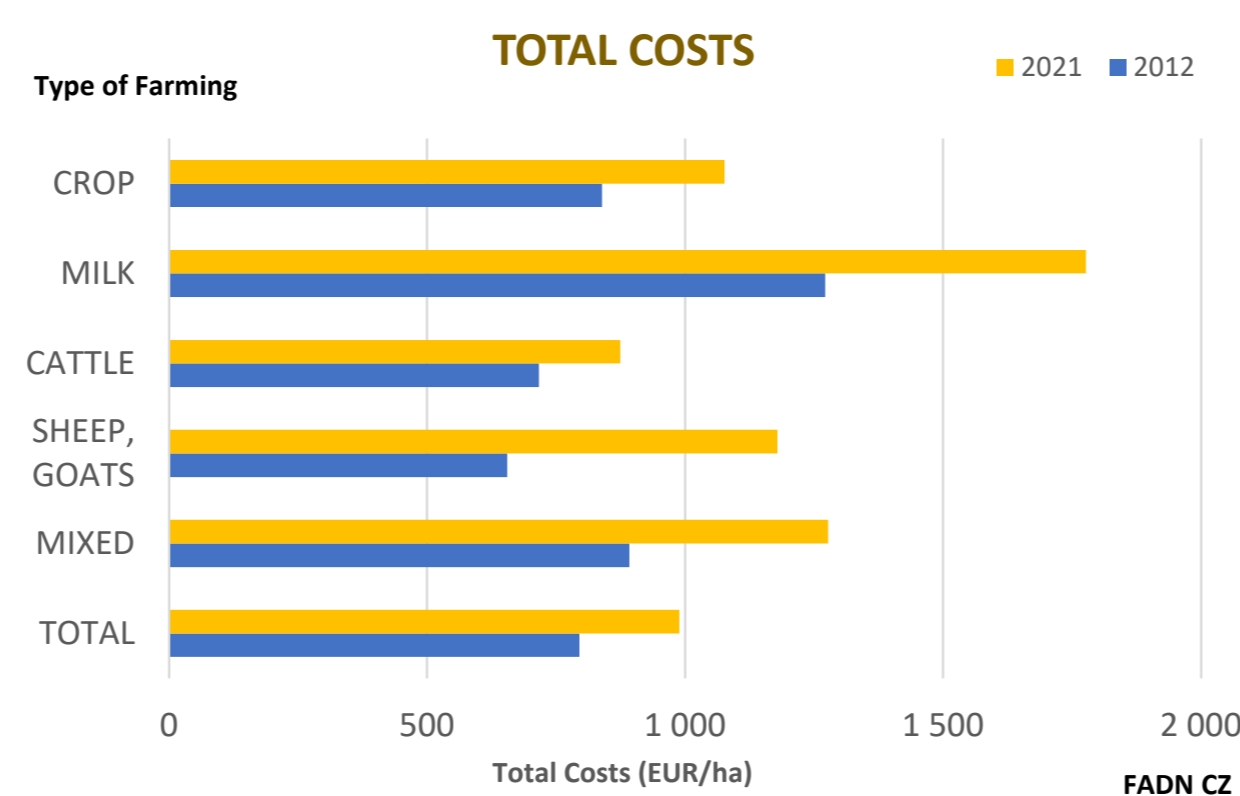
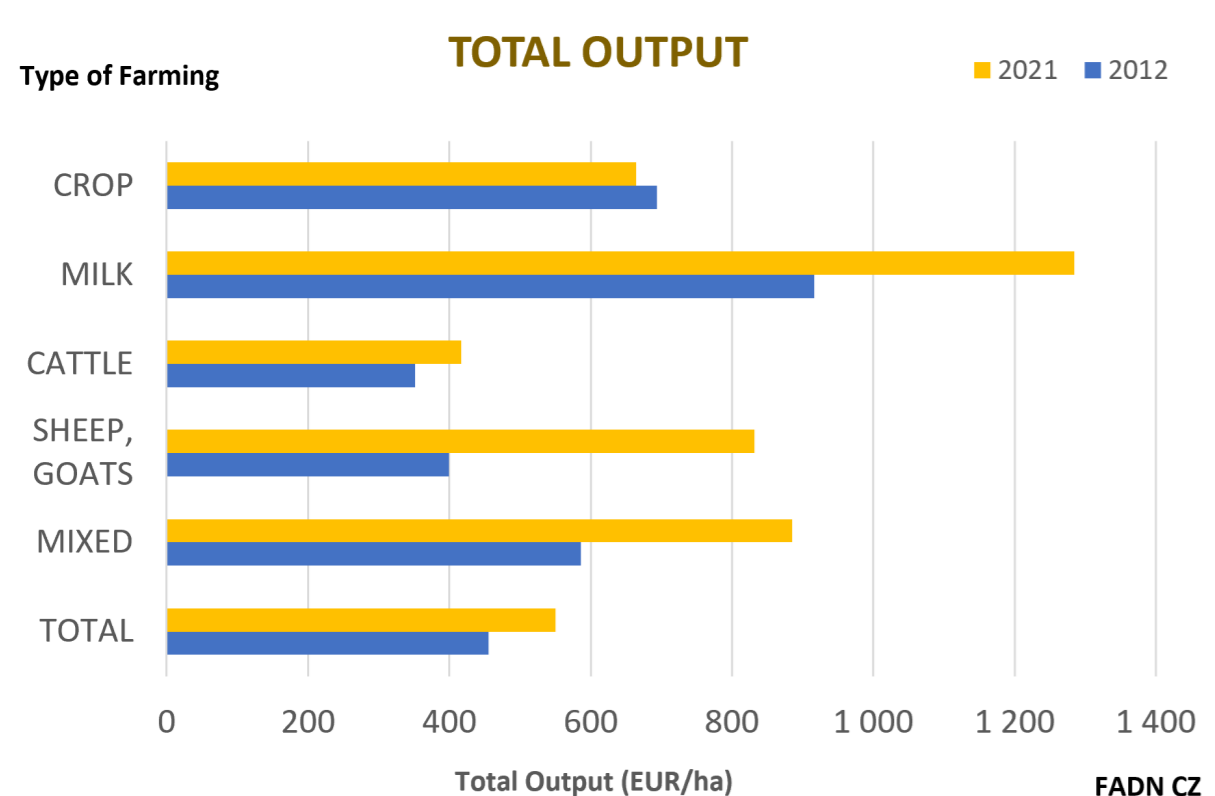


## CHANGES OF ORGANIC FARMING IN CZECHIA DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS

Zuzana Fuksová

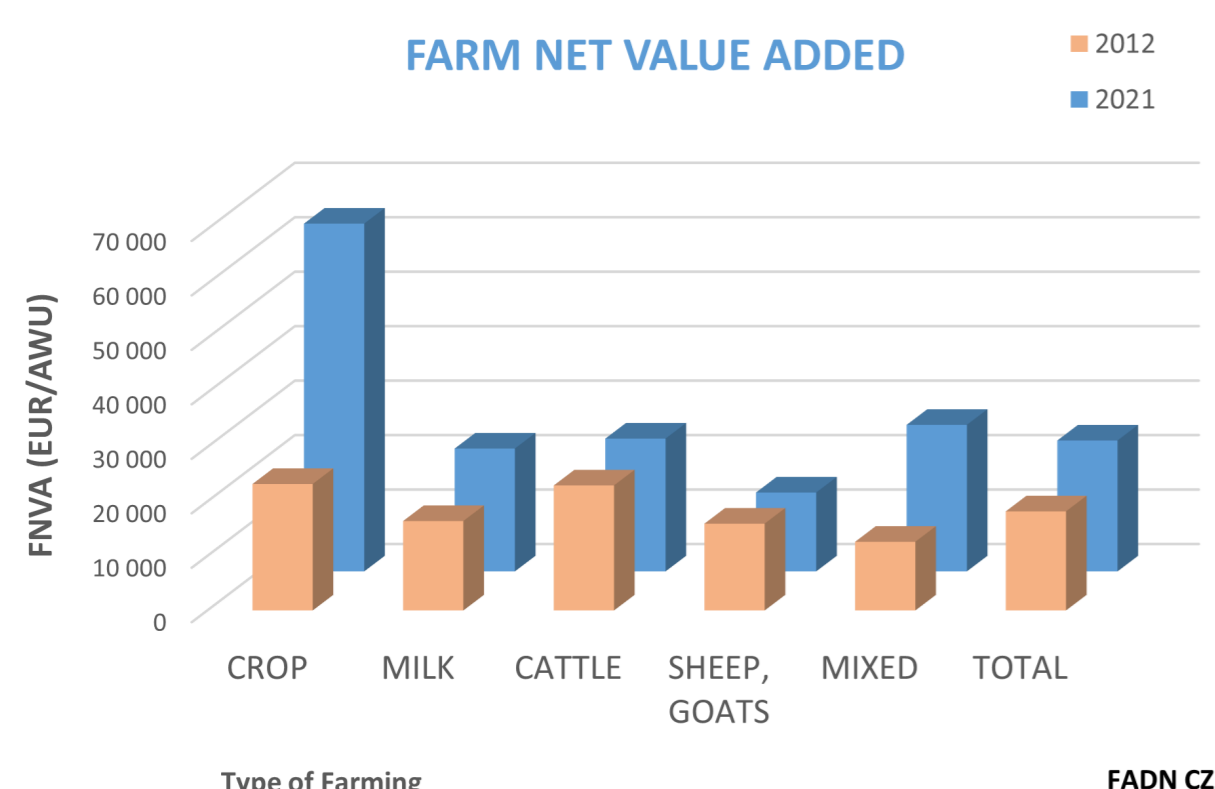
Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information (IAEI), FADN CZ

**Livestock units:** The number of **animals** increased about 4% in average. The highest increase was determined in Sheep and Goats Breeding (21%) and Mixed Production (14%). Number of **dairy cows** decreased about 9% in average, most significantly in Mixed Production type of farming. Number of **cattle for breeding and rearing** rose about 12% in average, dominantly in Mixed Production. The flocks of **sheep and goats** enlarged in farms specialized in Sheep and Goat Breeding and Mixed Production.



**Total output and costs per hectare:** Total **output** calculated per hectare increased about 23% in average. Crop and livestock output increased similarly about 14%, dominantly due to higher production of fodder crops and the price of milk and beef meat. Significant influence was demonstrated for services increase in other gainful activities (OGA, 36% in average). The highest ratio of **costs** includes fodder, fertilizers, and seeds. The **ratio of costs to output** increased from 1.47 in 2012 to 1.51 in 2021. The highest ratio was determined in Cattle Breeding (from 1.66 to 1.73), followed by Sheep and Goats Breeding (from 1.52 to 1.29) and Mixed Production (from 1.20 to 1.22). Milk Production showed low and stable ratio (from 1.01 to 1.02).

**Output per labour:** Crop output calculated to annual working unit, as well as livestock output, rose about 52% between 2012 and 2021. The most numerous organic type of farming, Cattle Breeding, enhanced productivity per labour about 23% in both branches of production. The most efficient type of farming, Milk Production, increased about 52% in crop output and 60% in livestock output. Sheep and Goat Breeding increased the value of crop productivity per labour about 48% and 101% in livestock productivity.

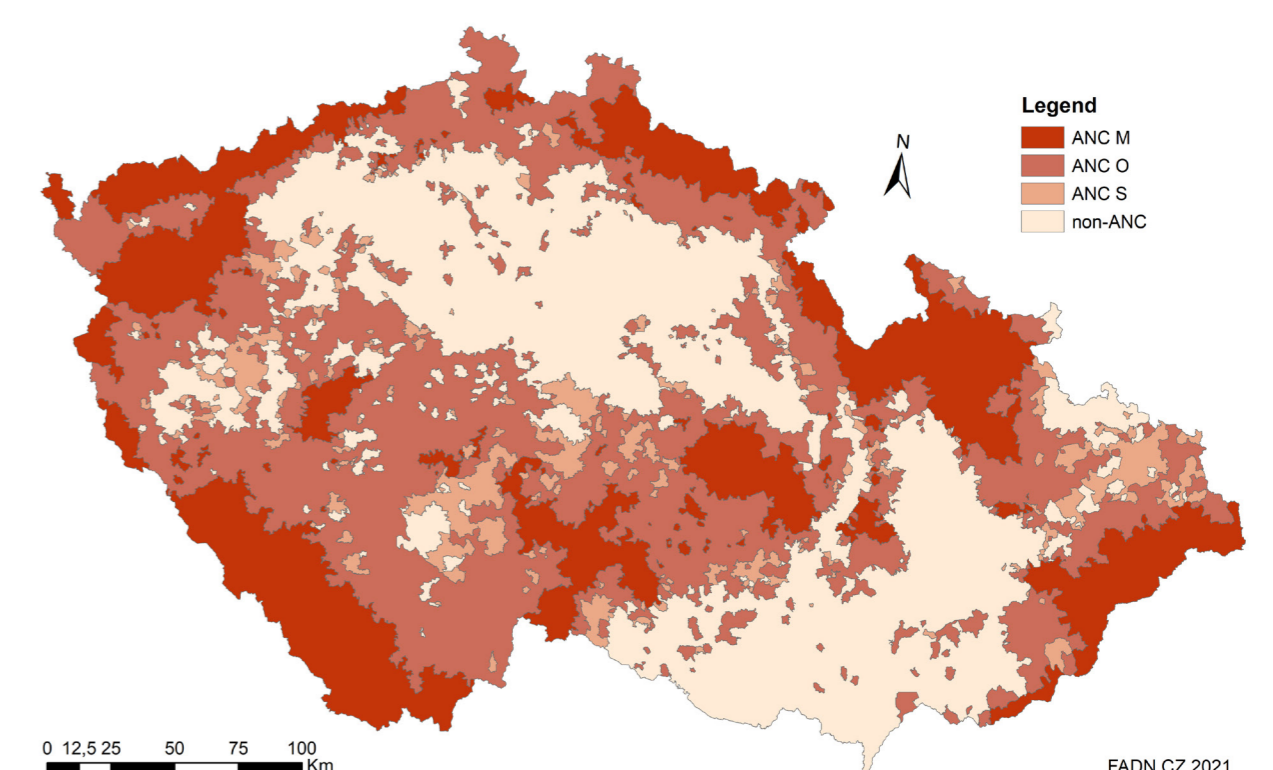


**Farm net value added per labour** increased about 35% in average during last ten years. The value of FNVA is influenced by the farm output increase (crop, livestock, and OGA) and slight decrease of AWU. Prices of raw materials and products influence the output result more than the crop yield, animal growth or milk yield. Changes of costs followed closely the prices development. Farms of Cattle Breeding enhanced the FNVA per AWU result about 8%, Milk Production about 40%, and Mixed Production about 118%. Only farms of Sheep and Goat Breeding decreased about 7%. This specialisation is the only one with labour force increase during the analysed period.

First 3 farms were registered as organic in the Czech Republic in 1990. The number of farms enhanced to almost 4.8 thousand and utilised area rose to more than 558 thousand ha in 2021. It counts **15.7% of total utilised area of the Czech Republic**. Organic farming production represented 4.5% of total agricultural production of the CR in 2021. Action Plan of Organic Farming in the CR 2021–2027 requires 22% share of total utilised area and 4% share of organic food on total consumption.

Permanent **pastures and meadows** represent more than 80% of total organic area. Most dominant crops on arable soil are **fodder crops, cereals, and leguminous**. Permanent culture means **fruit and wine**. **Cattle** represents more than 60% of all livestock certified as organic with only 2% ratio of dairy cows. **Sheep** count 20% and goats only 2% of total. Despite the low number of dairy cows, milk production is important part of livestock output of organic farms.

The most numerous organic specialization is **Cattle Breeding** (63%), followed by Sheep and Goat Breeding (13%) and Mixed Production (9%). Milk Production represents only 2% of organic farms (Statistical Survey of Organic Farming, IAEI).



Areas Facing Natural or Other Specific Constraints: Organic farms are located dominantly in **ANC Mountain** (44%) or **ANC Others** or **Specific** (43%) in Czechia. Only 13% of farms are situated **out of ANC** areas.

Farm net value added calculated to AWU in average reached 34,440 EUR/AWU in Mountain areas of ANC (1.94 ratio costs to output), 35,356 EUR/AWU in Specific and Other areas of ANC (1.83 ratio of costs to output), and 71,042 EUR/AWU in areas out of ANC (1.14 ratio of costs to output).