

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER TROUGH KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

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Abstract

Organic agriculture is one of the rapidly growing production systems with high potential to address some of the biggest challenges mankind is facing today (poverty, loss of biodiversity, water pollution, climate change). On its development path, unlike many other mostly science driven agricultural innovations disseminated by top-down approach, organic agriculture emerged as informal movement and growth thanks to the knowledge of production and knowledge transfer based on social learning. In the Republic of Macedonia, organic agriculture each year recruits more producers, accumulates more knowledge and is in development stage where exchange of ideas, information and transfer of knowledge must take place. Drawing on the situation of Macedonian organic agriculture, main purpose of this paper is to propose relevant national model for knowledge transfer, as a system innovation to the existing national extension service.

In this sense, as a starting point, main characteristics and general situation of Macedonian organic agriculture and existing extension service will be presented and analyzed. Being that organic agriculture knowledge system is complex and context-specific, following part of the paper will explain its key processes, actors and knowledge devices. Third part describes participatory approach of all actors and knowledge devices for integration of organic agriculture knowledge system within the existing national extension service.

Expected outcome is to have a set of organic agriculture actors, as well as links and interactions between them, engaged in the generation, transformation, transmission, storage, retrieval, integration, diffusion and utilization of organic agriculture knowledge and information, with the purpose of working synergistically to support decision making, problem solving and innovation in organic agriculture.

Key words: *Organic agriculture, Knowledge transfer, Knowledge system, Knowledge actors, Knowledge devices.*