

Sustainable Organic Agriculture for Developing Agribusiness Sector

Nikola Puvača ^{1,*}  and Vincenzo Tufarelli ² 

¹ Department of Engineering Management in Biotechnology, Faculty of Economics and Engineering Management in Novi Sad, University Business Academy in Novi Sad, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia

² Department of DETO, Section of Veterinary Science and Animal Production, University of Bari Aldo Moro, s.p. Casamassima Km 3, 70010 Valenzano, Italy

* Correspondence: nikola.puvaca@fimek.edu.rs

With the expectation that the global population will reach 9.8 billion by 2050, and 11 billion by 2100, it is crucial that we develop a sustainable organic agriculture sector and a resilient agribusiness sector, taking into account the enormous value of the opportunity presented by the growth in the demand for healthy and safe food at an international level [1].

In Europe and all over the world, climate change has become one of the most dynamic threats to our planet, and the economic factors relating to currency fluctuations have become one of the biggest threats [1,2]. A large number of mechanisms are in place under the current environmental policy to support agribusinesses in mitigating the risk of organic food being put to waste due to a rapidly increasing human population and fluctuating exchange rates, but this does not take into account the relative readiness of individuals or businesses to act under the circumstances [3].

As an agricultural practice, organic farming emphasizes sustainable methods for cultivating crops and producing food animals, avoiding chemical inputs and dietary synthetic drugs that are not part of nature [4]. A significant facet of the development of the agribusiness sector—especially in developing countries—can be attributed to organic agriculture, as it can contribute to meaningful socioeconomic development as well as ecological sustainability [5].

Our Special Issue entitled “Sustainable Organic Agriculture for Developing Agribusiness Sector” welcomed papers focused on the latest knowledge and innovations regarding sustainable organic agriculture, rural development, agricultural economy, policy and management, sustainable food technology, and food safety principles [6].

As a very successful Special Issue, it has welcomed and published a total of twenty high-quality papers.

Bursić et al. [7] have investigated the residues of products with respect to the protection of plants and their effects on organic and conventional agricultural production. Rajković et al. [8] have investigated sustainable organic corn production employing flame weeding, demonstrating its role as the most sustainable economical solution in this type of corn production.

A profile of people who consume organic food products daily and everyday life was investigated and presented by Radojević et al. [9] in their pilot study, while their large study using a multinomial profit model provided a detailed elaboration of the socioeconomic determinants of adopting agricultural machinery for sustainable organic farming [10]. Further, another group of authors in their research have focused on investigating the cognitive component of the image of a rural tourism destination as a potentially sustainable way of improving the agribusiness sector [11], as well as the usage of marketing instruments for satisfying the requirements of higher education institutions in urban and rural areas [12].

Mohamed et al. [13] have investigated whether sea buckthorn and grape extracts as natural tools for phytotherapy could enhance the beneficial health outcomes regarding the



Citation: Puvača, N.; Tufarelli, V. Sustainable Organic Agriculture for Developing Agribusiness Sector. *Sustainability* **2022**, *14*, 10781. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su141710781>

Received: 4 August 2022

Accepted: 18 August 2022

Published: 30 August 2022

Publisher’s Note: MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



Copyright: © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

prevention of obesity and their ability to improve the function of metabolic organs such as the liver and kidneys.

Regarding ruminants, Colonna et al. [14] have presented the results of sustainable rearing procedure for the production of kid meat, while Becskei et al. [15] have shown the quality of water buffalo milk and traditional milk products when they are produced in a controlled sustainable system. Moreover, the beekeeping sector has expressed special interest concerning the development of the agribusiness sector, rural development, and sustainable natural phytotherapy-based techniques against the diseases of animals [16–18].

Škrbić et al. [19] analyzed the degree of the utilization of agricultural biomass for energy purposes to indicate the factors limiting its use and to provide new and sustainable measures that can be applied for a more substantial use of renewable sources of energy. As another point of view, Lekić et al. [20] presented an effort to establish the parameters of job satisfaction among bank employees and to ascertain whether there were differences in job satisfaction between employees in urban and rural branches.

In the poultry production sector, the quickest rising sector for food supply, the effect of using natural or biotic dietary supplements in poultry nutrition on the effectiveness of meat production has been presented [21]. Additionally, novel and sustainable approaches to the use of *Melaleuca alternifolia* in laying hens' nutrition and *Moringa oleifera* in laying Japanese quails and their effects on the performance and egg fatty acid profiles has explored as a promising sustainable, organic agricultural tool [22,23].

Ostapenko et al. [24] in their research have focused on the production and sales of organic products in Ukrainian agricultural enterprises, while Milošević et al. [25] have presented the model of the taxation of agriculture in the Republic of Serbia as a factor in the development of organic agriculture.

Last but not least, the research of Bucea-Manea-Țoniș et al. [26] has presented how green public procurement became an efficient instrument to achieve the objectives of the environmental policy expressed by the European Commission in its communications and the inter-correlation between green agriculture and different agricultural fields.

Altogether, the papers in this Special Issue present valuable data on sustainability, organic farming and production, economics and economy, agribusiness, and rural development.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, N.P. and V.T.; writing—original draft preparation, N.P.; writing—review and editing, V.T. All authors have contributed equally to this Editorial. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Acknowledgments: We would like to thank all authors for their excellent papers in this Special Issue: “Sustainable Organic Agriculture for Developing Agribusiness Sector”. We also thank the reviewers for their valuable recommendations leading to the improvement of all manuscripts before publication. We are also grateful to all members of the *Sustainability* Editorial Office for providing us with this opportunity and for continuous support in managing and organizing this Special Issue.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

1. Nikol, L.J.; Jansen, K. Rethinking Conventionalisation: A View from Organic Agriculture in the Global South. *J. Rural. Stud.* **2021**, *86*, 420–429. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
2. Ben Amara, D.; Chen, H. Evidence for the Mediating Effects of Eco-Innovation and the Impact of Driving Factors on Sustainable Business Growth of Agribusiness. *Glob. J. Flex. Syst. Manag.* **2021**, *22*, 251–266. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
3. O'Brien, K.L.; Leichenko, R.M. Double Exposure: Assessing the Impacts of Climate Change within the Context of Economic Globalization. *Glob. Environ. Chang.* **2000**, *10*, 221–232. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
4. Lika, E.; Kostić, M.; Vještica, S.; Milojević, I.; Puvača, N. Honeybee and Plant Products as Natural Antimicrobials in Enhancement of Poultry Health and Production. *Sustainability* **2021**, *13*, 8467. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
5. Vapa Tankosić, J.; Puvača, N.; Giannenas, I.; Tufarelli, V.; Ignjatijević, S. Food Safety Policy in the European Union. *J. Agron. Technol. Eng. Manag.* **2022**, *5*, 712–717. [\[CrossRef\]](#)

6. Puvača, N.; Tufarelli, V. *Sustainable Organic Agriculture for Developing Agribusiness Sector*; MDPI AG: Basel, Switzerland, 2021; ISBN 978-3-0365-1219-8.
7. Bursić, V.; Vuković, G.; Cara, M.; Kostić, M.; Stojanović, T.; Petrović, A.; Puvača, N.; Marinković, D.; Konstantinović, B. Plant Protection Products Residues Assessment in the Organic and Conventional Agricultural Production. *Sustainability* **2021**, *13*, 1075. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
8. Rajković, M.; Malidža, G.; Tomaš Simin, M.; Milić, D.; Glavaš-Trbić, D.; Meseldžija, M.; Vrbničanin, S. Sustainable Organic Corn Production with the Use of Flame Weeding as the Most Sustainable Economical Solution. *Sustainability* **2021**, *13*, 572. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
9. Radojević, V.; Tomaš Simin, M.; Glavaš Trbić, D.; Milić, D. A Profile of Organic Food Consumers—Serbia Case-Study. *Sustainability* **2020**, *13*, 131. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
10. Akram, M.W.; Akram, N.; Wang, H.; Andleeb, S.; Ur Rehman, K.; Kashif, U.; Hassan, S.F. Socioeconomics Determinants to Adopt Agricultural Machinery for Sustainable Organic Farming in Pakistan: A Multinomial Probit Model. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 9806. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
11. Leković, K.; Tomić, S.; Marić, D.; Ćurčić, N.V. Cognitive Component of the Image of a Rural Tourism Destination as a Sustainable Development Potential. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 9413. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
12. Brkanlić, S.; Sánchez-García, J.; Esteve, E.B.; Brkić, I.; Ćirić, M.; Tatarski, J.; Gardašević, J.; Petrović, M. Marketing Mix Instruments as Factors of Improvement of Students' Satisfaction in Higher Education Institutions in Republic of Serbia and Spain. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 7802. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
13. Mohamed, E.A.; Tulcan, C.; Alexa, E.; Morar, D.; Dumitrescu, E.; Muselin, F.; Radulov, I.; Puvača, N.; Cristina, R.T. Sea Buckthorn and Grape Extract Might Be Helpful and Sustainable Phyto-Resources as Associated Hypolipidemic Agents—Preliminary Study. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 9297. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
14. Colonna, M.A.; Rotondi, P.; Selvaggi, M.; Caputi Jambrenghi, A.; Ragni, M.; Tarricone, S. Sustainable Rearing for Kid Meat Production in Southern Italy Marginal Areas: A Comparison among Three Genotypes. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 6922. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
15. Becskei, Z.; Savić, M.; Ćirković, D.; Rašeta, M.; Puvača, N.; Pajić, M.; Đorđević, S.; Paskaš, S. Assessment of Water Buffalo Milk and Traditional Milk Products in a Sustainable Production System. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 6616. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
16. Vapa-Tankosić, J.; Miler-Jerković, V.; Jeremić, D.; Stanojević, S.; Radović, G. Investment in Research and Development and New Technological Adoption for the Sustainable Beekeeping Sector. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 5825. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
17. Cristina, R.T.; Kovačević, Z.; Cincović, M.; Dumitrescu, E.; Muselin, F.; Imre, K.; Militaru, D.; Mederle, N.; Radulov, I.; Hădărugă, N.; et al. Composition and Efficacy of a Natural Phytotherapeutic Blend against Nosemosis in Honey Bees. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 5868. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
18. Vapa-Tankosić, J.; Ignjatijević, S.; Kiurski, J.; Milenković, J.; Milojević, I. Analysis of Consumers' Willingness to Pay for Organic and Local Honey in Serbia. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 4686. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
19. Škrbić, S.; Ašonja, A.; Prodanović, R.; Ristić, V.; Stevanović, G.; Vulić, M.; Janković, Z.; Radosavac, A.; Igić, S. Analysis of Plant-Production-Obtained Biomass in Function of Sustainable Energy. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 5486. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
20. Lekić, S.; Vapa-Tankosić, J.; Mandić, S.; Rajaković-Mijailović, J.; Lekić, N.; Mijailović, J. Analysis of the Quality of the Employee–Bank Relationship in Urban and Rural Areas. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 5448. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
21. Puvača, N.; Brkić, I.; Jahić, M.; Roljević Nikolić, S.; Radović, G.; Ivanišević, D.; Đokić, M.; Bošković, D.; Ilić, D.; Brkanlić, S.; et al. The Effect of Using Natural or Biotic Dietary Supplements in Poultry Nutrition on the Effectiveness of Meat Production. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 4373. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
22. Puvača, N.; Lika, E.; Cocoli, S.; Shtylla Kika, T.; Bursić, V.; Vuković, G.; Tomaš Simin, M.; Petrović, A.; Cara, M. Use of Tea Tree Essential Oil (*Melaleuca Alternifolia*) in Laying Hen's Nutrition on Performance and Egg Fatty Acid Profile as a Promising Sustainable Organic Agricultural Tool. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 3420. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
23. Ashour, E.A.; El-Kholy, M.S.; Alagawany, M.; Abd El-Hack, M.E.; Mohamed, L.A.; Taha, A.E.; El Sheikh, A.I.; Laudadio, V.; Tufarelli, V. Effect of Dietary Supplementation with Moringa Oleifera Leaves and/or Seeds Powder on Production, Egg Characteristics, Hatchability and Blood Chemistry of Laying Japanese Quails. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 2463. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
24. Ostapenko, R.; Herasymenko, Y.; Nitsenko, V.; Koliadenko, S.; Balezentis, T.; Streimikiene, D. Analysis of Production and Sales of Organic Products in Ukrainian Agricultural Enterprises. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 3416. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
25. Milošević, G.; Kulić, M.; Đurić, Z.; Đurić, O. The Taxation of Agriculture in the Republic of Serbia as a Factor of Development of Organic Agriculture. *Sustainability* **2020**, *12*, 3261. [\[CrossRef\]](#)
26. Bucea-Manea-Țoniș, R.; Dourado Martins, O.M.; Ilic, D.; Belous, M.; Bucea-Manea-Țoniș, R.; Braicu, C.; Simion, V.-E. Green and Sustainable Public Procurement—An Instrument for Nudging Consumer Behavior. A Case Study on Romanian Green Public Agriculture across Different Sectors of Activity. *Sustainability* **2020**, *13*, 12. [\[CrossRef\]](#)