

# PERSPECTIVES FOR ORGANIC BEEKEEPING IN BULGARIA

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Bulgaria is situated in south-eastern Europe, in the north-eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula and has a territory of 110 910 km<sup>2</sup>, borders to the north on Rumania, to the south - on Greece and Turkey, to the west - on Serbia and Macedonia (former Yugoslavia) and to the east - on the Black Sea.  
(<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107365.html>; <http://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki/>).



With length of 520 km<sup>2</sup> and width of 330 km<sup>2</sup>, Bulgaria is 22% of the Balkan Peninsula (<http://www.viapontica.com/bg.htm>).

For 2005 are certificated 23 508 bee hives, produced 983, 6 t organic bee products (<http://www.marica.bg>).



In 2010 have to do the next counting of agricultural areas from Bulgaria in connection with EC requirements (<http://dobrudja-news.net/index.php>). In spite of the lack of actual accurately information about the moment situation for all agricultural areas, we could analyze data from the last available counting from 2003 (<http://crbest.blog.bg/drugi/2008/06/06/>).



From available data, as ecological in Bulgaria are certificated 1 557, 930 km<sup>2</sup> grazing grounds and 2 426, 770 km<sup>2</sup> woods, in which are gathered medicinal herbs, mushrooms and fruits.



From this data the total agricultural area in the land was 29044, 8 km<sup>2</sup>. If we adopt as 100% total land areas from Bulgaria (108 489 km<sup>2</sup>), we see that workable agricultural areas amount to 26, 7 % (29 044, 8 km<sup>2</sup>), and the rest 73, 3% (79 444, 2 km<sup>2</sup>), must belong to uncultivated areas (Fig. 1).

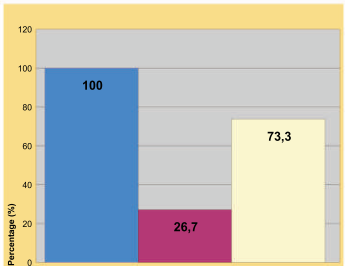


Fig. 1. Comparison between cultivated (29 044, 8 km<sup>2</sup> = 26, 7 %) and uncultivated (79 444, 2 km<sup>2</sup> = 73, 3 %), areas in Bulgaria (108 489 km<sup>2</sup> = 100 %)



We could generalize that, if could be proved a good ecological state for bee honey from uncultivated areas (Bogdanov, S. 2006. Contaminants of bee products, Review article Apidologie, INRA/DIB-AGIB/ EDP Sciences, DOI: 10.105 / apido: 2005043, 37, 1-18.) and with the adequate institutional politic, it could be possible the future production for more and with the best quality organic beekeeping products in Bulgaria.

