

Beekeeping in Lebanon: from traditional to organic

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1. Beekeeping in Lebanon.
2. Organic Agriculture in Lebanon.
3. From traditional to organic.

1- Beekeeping in Lebanon

Lebanon in a glance

- **Location:** Middle East bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Palestine and Syria
- **Geographic coordinates:**
33 50 N, 35 50 E
- **Area :** 10452 sq Km²
- **Population :** 3.67 millions
 - 90 % urban
- **Climate :** Mediterranean





Crops

- Variety in lands and climate
 - Citrus fruits
 - Olives
 - Fruits including tropical fruits
 - Vegetables
 - Industrial crops: Tobacco, Sugar beat
 - Forages and medicinal plants
 - Grapes and Wine production

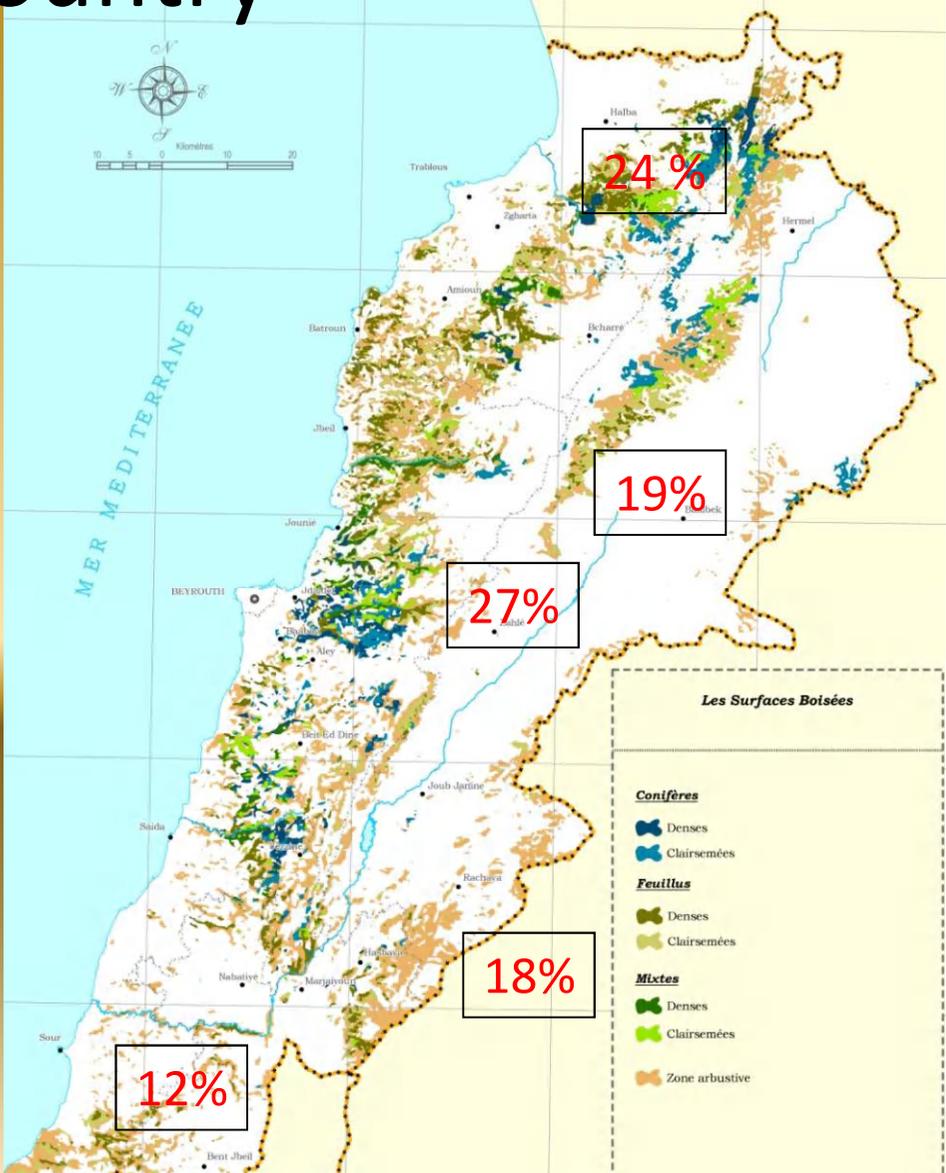
Modern beekeeping

- Lebanese indigenous honey bee is the Syrian bee (*Apis mellifera syriaca*).
- Langstroth hives were introduced in 1938
- Before then, honeybees were traditionally reared in clay jars (jraar) or baskets (Sillal).
- Today 98% of beehives are of the Langstroth type with movable combs.
- In 1949 the creation of the first beekeeper cooperative .

- 15 cooperatives all over the country
- 140 000 hives and 7000 beekeepers
- Honey is main hive product ..

Honey production	2004	2005	2006	2007
Hives (1000 hives)	131	132	118.8	115
Production (tones)	1070	1095	810	965
Productivity kg/hive	8.1	8.3	6.8	8.4
Sum 10 ⁶	\$ 14.60	\$ 16.67	\$ 12.00	\$ 14.67
Average price / kg	\$ 13.67	\$ 15.25	\$ 14.81	\$ 15.20

Distribution of the beekeepers through the country



Survey of the ministry of agriculture 2010

Governorate	Area	Village	Bee keeper	Hive number
-	-	- - -	- - -	- - - -



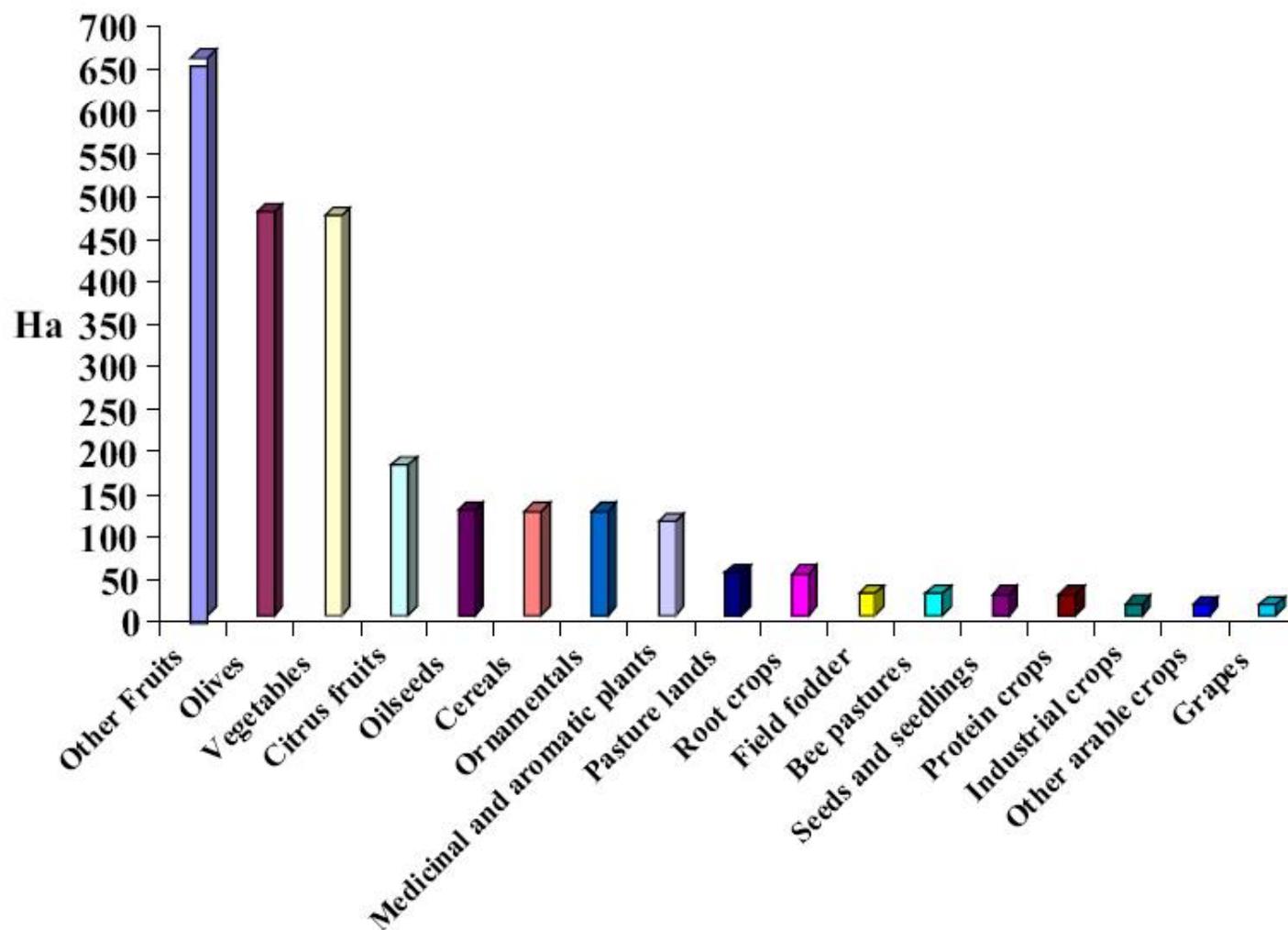
2- Organic Agriculture in Lebanon

- **Certification organisation:**

Two certification organisations in Lebanon:
LibanCert and IMC

- Organic associations in Lebanon: Association for Lebanese Organic Agriculture (ALOA)
- LIBNOR (Public institution attached to the Ministry of Industry) develops standards and is the sole agency
- A national regulation is awaiting parliament approval and is still not mandatory

Organic Production Area (Total: 2490 Ha)



Organic beekeeping

- **Bees' Origin: no local selection program**
- **Apiaries Locations: 3 Km distance.**
- **Feeding : Organic sugar**
- **Disease prevention and treatments:**
- **Husbandry management practices:**
- **Characteristics of hives and materials used:**
- **Authorized products for cleaning and disinfecting:**
- **Authorized products for pest management:**









Towards Organic

- A dream
- Increase of reserves area
- Adoption of the biological pest management especially on the costal area of Lebanon
- Queen rearing
- A way to improve the common practices in Lebanon towards more bee' friendly practices



Contact Details

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Thank you for your attention

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