

# BEST PRACTICES

YGEA Farm



## Institutional information

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Name of institution: YGEA FARM

Region and Country where the case study took place: Mathiatis, Cyprus

Facebook (link): <https://www.facebook.com/YgeaFarm/>

Twitter (link)

Linked In (link)

Google + (link)

Media: <https://inbusinessnews.reporter.com.cy/business/article/176154/yga-i-kota-me-ta-biologka-avg>

<https://www.ygea.farm/YGEA-The-hen-with-the-Organic-Eggs>

## Summary

### Explain your case in one or two sentences

*750 character limit.*

Ygea Farm is a family-run and fully bio farm adopting only organic farming practices and focusing mainly on the production of organic eggs.

Ygea Farm is committed to local farming, organic foods, humane treatment of animals, and nature conservation providing a better balance between nature and food.

### Background information: How was the situation previous to your actions?

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There many farms that abuse animals and do not use sustainable practices. This has an impact on the environment, the life of the animals and the products produced.

### What were the needs you identified?

*500 character limit.*

Irresponsible, unsustainable actions, such as animal abuse by adding synthetic growth or breeding hormones, GMO-based feed, the use of pesticides, destruction of the native species etc., are affecting negatively and/or destroying nature and its inhabitants, including humans themselves.

Mr. George told us that when artificial chemical fertilisers and pesticides are being used to boost production it harms and leaves negative implications to the environment. The quality of life of animals, the quality of the land and soil affects the quality of the products we consume, which affect our health and wellbeing. The farm aimed to tackle these issues by adopting organic practices.

### What solution have you found to cover those needs?

*500 character limit.*

Sustainable practices adopted at Ygea Farm include:

- Reusing and Recycling
- Energy Efficiency initiatives
- Water conservation
- Farm/landscape design aspects, and
- Growing a percentage of the organic feed for the hens

**What actions did you take to reach the solution?**

*500 character limit.*

- Animal feed is produced from vegetative raw materials, without GMOs and only organic food, as fully certified by SKAL Biocontrole. Also, a portion is their organic chicken feed grown from the same bio-land that farms the hens.
- No use of synthetic growth/breeding hormones which means less stress for animals and reduced human exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals.
- Free range lifestyle - extensive outdoors access to nature and never kept in confinement cages that ensures better quality of life for the hens, superior health, as well as greater quality and nutritive value in the eggs they lay.
- No persistent pesticides, synthetic fertilisers or toxic chemicals, which are bad for health and the environment.

**If any, which partners or other organisations did you involve during the process?**

*500 character limit.*

To start an organic farm, YGEA team applied for a subsidy from the Ministry of Agriculture, also received EU funding to cover some expenses.

YGEA Farm have collaborated with local and European stakeholders, such as:

- European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD)
- Van Gorp Diervoeders B.V (Netherlands)
- SKAL Biocontrole (Netherlands)
- LACON GmbH (Germany)

YGEA Farm supports various local organisations by providing organic eggs for free for charity.

YGEA Farm is distributing organic eggs to local supermarkets, organic shops, bars and restaurants.

**What were the main problems or difficulties you had to face?**

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Mr. George shared that it is “very difficult to start and maintain an organic/ bio farm according to local and international standards.”

He also explained that there is high competition in the industry due to the mass import of eggs from other countries. Also lack of information and awareness about the true organic and sustainable farming is an issue. People are not aware of how to recognize organic products, such as eggs, among others. In addition, there is a myth that organic products must be expensive so that they could bring larger profit.

**What is the situation now, after your actions?**

*500 character limit.*

Only now, at the 4th year the farm is starting to gain some profit from its actions.

Ygea Farm and its organic eggs are becoming more well known. The client network is increasing and acknowledging the high-quality production. In fact, not only YGEA is reaching out to its clients but new customers are reaching out to YGEA as well.

People are becoming more aware of the benefits of organic products on their health and on the environment. Appreciate high quality products in their daily lives.

The farm itself is growing and increasing the variety of native herbs, fruits and vegetables, as well as the number of happy hens.

**Main lessons learned along the way? \***

*450 character limit.*

Everything they do on the farm they do it with great care and effort to ensure purity and quality of the products, and kindness towards to animals and environmentally-conscious practices.

The main aspect of the farm's philosophy is to follow a natural and holistic approach that respects the animals.

**Annex:**

Max 3 Images

Other related resources

