

# Review of: "Identifying and characterizing pesticide use on 9,000 fields of organic agriculture"

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First of all, I was delighted reading your paper from page 1 till the last one, while doing so I was travelling throughout the Costa Rican agricultural fields (banana, pineapple and others). I was astonished to learn that the amount of pesticide use in organic farms is similar to the conventional ones (wow). My question here is what does actually imply being organic farmer in your study? You mentioned that in the USA it doesn't really means pesticide-free, so why do we bother to call them organic production in the first place? Wouldn't be much "appropriate" call it a comparison of pesticide use in ~9000 farms in the Kern county in the USA??? I am telling this because in many other parts of the world, organic farmers are struggling to produce pesticide-free with all the constraints involved with this agricultural practice (long periods to harvest, prices much higher than the conventional one, try to make people aware to buy their products so forth).

The amount of AI used per ha is quite high (25 kg/ha and 45 kg/ha pesticides+adjuvant), did you have some statistics comparing this use with other counties/countries. For instance, I learnt that banana production in a Central American country uses ~50 AI/ha mainly because they spray aerially.

Thank you for letting us learning more about this hot topic in the Americas