

Listening Session: Other Organic Research Priorities and Needs

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Market & Policy

- True cost of cheap food/environmental externalities.
- Certification.
 - Auditing system integrity, international and domestic.
 - Ease.
 - Organic label integrity, international and domestic.
- Coexistence.
 - Organic and conventional and animal welfare and non-GMO and other ecolabels including those Consumers Union has identified as not meaningful.
 - Costs incurred by organic producers to avoid contamination (GMO, pesticides).
- Transition/conversion to organic.
 - How can policy encourage?
 - How can market encourage?
- Beginning farmer
 - Generational, increasing new farmers.
- Consumer research/education.
- Development of valid value added-value including health/enviro and beyond pesticide risk issues.
- Organic frameworks from around world.
- Supply chain constraints, post farm gate.
- Increase access to markets.
- Price point/economic returns comparisons between organic and conventional.
- Connect stakeholders.
 - Unify organic voices
 - Scientists with producers, policy makers, etc.
 - Increase industry support of research, develop models for support.

Scientific Knowledge

- Benefits of organic.
 - Nutritional value.
 - Human health.
 - Environment: water, soil, climate, biodiversity including pollinators, wildlife, native plants, soil microbes, agro-biodiversity, gut flora.
 - Social: future farmers, market justice, rural economies.
- Food safety
 - Human pathogens in manure, compost, water.
 - Scale, sector-appropriate regulations and market requirements, optimize ROI.
 - GMOs.
 - Pesticides/dietary risks.

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- Climate change
 - Adaptation
 - Mitigation

Fieldwork

- Agro-ecological approach to organic; moving beyond input substitution.
 - What can we learn (improve) from other ag methods (permaculture).
 - Increase research on specific systems within organic.
 - Hydroponics.
 - No-till.
- How can we increase yield?
 - Crop and region-specific comparisons of yields and net income for organic vs. conventional, i.e., where is organic underperforming and need help?
 - What are priority challenges?
- Crop and region-specific guidelines production guidelines.
 - To optimize nutritional value.
 - Management decisions.
- Tools for organic farmers.
 - Inputs.
 - Technical.
 - Equipment.
- Labor
 - Policy within the organic regulations; living wage.
 - Lack of labor.
 - Cost.
 - Training needs.
 - Time studies.
 - Economics of organic farming households.
- Food waste.
- Promote pollinators and other insects.
- Drought resistance.
 - Breeding, production systems, soil.

Other

- Food justice.
 - Increasing participation by underrepresented groups.
 - Access.
 - Consumption.
 - Production.
- Communication of scientific research from abroad applicable to US.
- Funding.
- Increasing organic acreage, meeting market demand.