

Research Supports Organic Agriculture – Producers and Researchers Partnering Together

Organic agriculture is now supported by scientific research. The federal government and the industry have partnered in 2009 to invest 8, 5 million dollars in 30 organic research activities over 4 year (see: http://oacc.info/OSC/osc_welcome.asp)

This important research program, the Organic Science Cluster, will be renewed in 2013 and the producer/researcher partnership is now promoted in order to initiate research projects that will have a real impact on organic production, on your work.

So, to facilitate this producer/researcher connection, you are invited to express your needs as they could become the subject of future research activities.

1. As an organic stakeholder, what is the main barrier or opportunity you would like to have addressed?
2. What is the research question you want answered that will allow you to address this barrier or opportunity?
3. Who would likely provide cash to leverage funding to do this research? (e.g. companies, farmer cooperatives, etc.) Industry cash commitments of 25-35% of the project cost are needed to leverage funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
4. How will this impact the organic sector (i.e. how many farms, acres, return/acre markets, etc)?

You do not need to master scientific language to express barriers and opportunities that you would like to be addressed. The OACC will assess your ideas and determine the likelihood of success of the research that would answer to your needs, the cost and the researchers available that can do the work.

We want to hear from you! Please feel free to help us identify priorities for our next Organic Science Cluster!

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