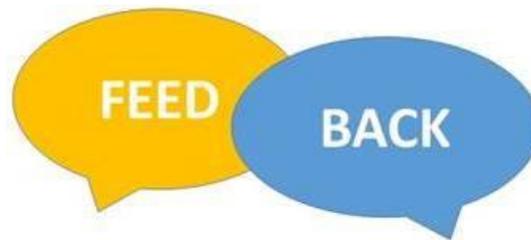


## The non-compliances under organic management



## The survey's results

The Organic Federation of Canada launched a survey from December 2016 to March 2017 to better understand the nature of the non-compliances in organic operations. 101 operators responded. The survey results do not necessarily represent the whole sector, but they describe some of the difficulties that operators encounter when applying for organic certification.

- 71% of the operators declare that they have been issued non-compliances;
- 82% of the operators were able to apply the corrective actions required to resolve the non-compliance, while 11% had many difficulties in addressing the issue. 5% lost their certification.
- The most common non-compliances – lack of data in the recordkeeping system (45%) and the lack of documentation about the commercial unavailability of a product (14%) – are related to recordkeeping and paperwork;
- 81% of the operators who have been issued non-compliances declare that they received a clear explanation for the reason for their non-compliances; 16% declare that the explanation was not clear;



- Only 18% of operators contested a non-compliance that their CB had issued.

### How could the certification process be improved?

- 25% of operators would like the certification process to be less bureaucratic;
- 18% would like to improve communication with their certifying body;

- 17% would like to have more training about the Canadian Organic Standards while hoping there is more flexibility in the application of the standard (12%);
- And, at last, a positive note: some operators are happy with the certification process: 20% declare that the process is good and 9% feel comfortable with the process.

**To read the complete report  
with the graphs and the comments issued by the operators, [click here](#).**

### **Invited university and AAFC researchers prepare proposals Organic Science Cluster III – a future full of promise**

Eighty research activities have been submitted to the Organic Science Cluster III (OSCIII) project. The Letter of Intent Review Committee, made up of 20 leading Canadian organic sector professionals and stakeholders, had many difficult decisions to make, but, basing their assessment on priorities established by the sector, the Review Committee invited 56 researchers to submit full proposals by the June 11 deadline.

The invited activities, grouped under five major themes – Field Crops (14 activities), Horticulture (12 activities), Pest management (18 activities), Livestock (6 activities) and Ecosystem goods and services (6 activities) - cover a large span of organic production, involving 10 universities based in 9 provinces as well as AAFC researchers from research centres across the country. The submitted full proposals will go through a peer review assessment before being approved and integrated into the OSCIII Proposal that will be submitted to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.



The OFC wants to underline the quality work done by the OACC team, composed of Dr Andy Hammermeister, Margaret Graves, Joanna White and Rebecca Veenhuis for managing the Letter of Intent review process, as well as the members of the Review Committee that spent up to 15 hours on conference calls to evaluate the submitted Letters of intent and make the constructive decisions that will allow Canadian organic research to address the sector's priorities.

And, of course, sincere thanks to the researchers who are offering their research ideas to resolve pest management, yield and animal health and welfare issues. We need good scientists to continue the development of the science of organics.

## The Government of Canada is investing \$4.28 million in organic agriculture research facility in Victoriaville



Jean Duval, CETAB+ coordinator, The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Paul Thériault, Director of Cégep de Victoriaville

The Government of Canada is investing \$4.28 million in a project at Cégep de Victoriaville. The funding will help the institution provide students with the training needed to access the high-paying middle-class jobs of today and tomorrow.

Federal funding is allocated through the Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund, which will enhance and modernize research facilities on Canadian campuses and improve the environmental sustainability of these facilities.

Cégep de Victoriaville will use the funds to establish an organic agriculture research facility. The facility will include multi-purpose buildings and greenhouses where work will be done in plant breeding and organic fruit and vegetable production, enabling Canada to be more competitive in the organic food market. Operations of this new research infrastructure will be managed by the cégep's Centre d'expertise et de transfert en agriculture biologique et de proximité (CETAB+).

Jean Duval, coordinator of the CETAB+, is a member of the Standards Interpretation Committee; he is an agronomist that has specialized in organic farming for over 20 years at the provincial and federal levels.

A total of \$9.62 million is being invested in this project:

- The Government of Canada is providing \$4.28 million.
- Cégep de Victoriaville and other partners are providing \$5.34 million.