

Canadian farmers are experiencing serious negative impacts from climate change in the form of droughts, forest fires, floods, and severe storms.

The Canadian Organic Standards (COS) require agricultural practices that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and which align well with what the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) proposes for a [Climate-Smart Agriculture \(CSA\)](#).

Organic agriculture offers a more secure path forward for food production amid climate turmoil by:

- Reducing agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions,
- sequestering more atmospheric carbon in soils,
- increasing biodiversity.

Canada is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest organic market in the world; our Organic sales are growing at an impressive rate (\$6.9 B in 2020). Despite a steady increase in production, supply is not keeping up with demand, either domestically or internationally. There are great opportunities ahead for organic food production.

**The Canadian government is abandoning funding for the review and interpretation of the Canadian Organic Standards, which are the supporting framework for the whole Organic industry. What Canada needs is more support for sustainable agriculture, not less. Canada needs to implement a strong Canadian Organic Program:**

- Referenced by federal regulations, the Canadian Organic Standards define ecological agriculture as the basis of the whole Organic industry. Government needs to fund the five-year reviews of the Standards which are required by the Canadian General Standards Board.
- The Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) harmonizes the certification process by providing clarification to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on questions about the standards asked by certified operators and Certification Bodies under the Canada Organic Regime. Instead of eliminating its contribution, the CFIA should enhance funding to the SIC to improve the timeliness of its work.
- The growth of the Organic market depends on the creation of a permanent database to identify certified Organic operators and to protect and enforce Organic integrity. The Canadian government needs to fund and implement the Canada Organic Regime's Integrity Database.
- Organic operators grow our food while protecting air and water quality, soil health, human health and biodiversity. Canada should cost share the certification fees they pay as a small token of recognition for the sustainable services that they deliver.
- The growth of the Organic sector depends on more research into agroecosystems and increased technical assistance for on-farm Organic practices. Canada should increase funding for both.

**The organic industry needs a Canadian Organic Program  
to increase Canadian agriculture's sustainability and competitiveness**

- The USDA and EU fund the maintenance of their Organic standards.
- The [European Commission](#) has set a target of 'at least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming and a significant increase in organic aquaculture by 2030'.
- The USDA funds the Organic Cost Share Certification Program (OCCSP) which provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers and has created the [USDA Organic Integrity Database](#) to promote the growth of agricultural ecological practices and to prevent fraud.

**Will your party support ecological agriculture  
and our organic industry?**