

2021 Organic Sector Survey / Enquête sur le secteur biologique

Organic Sector / Filière biologique

Question 11.1

- **What are the most pressing issues facing the organic sector that the organic industry needs to address? Please rank in order of priority, with 1 being most important.**
- **Quels sont les problèmes les plus urgents auxquels est confronté le secteur biologique et que l'industrie devons résoudre? Classez par ordre de priorité, 1 étant le plus important.**

Comments / Commentaires

Note: The comments below were submitted to the survey by individuals, and do not reflect the views of the Organic Federation of Canada, Canadian Organic Trade Association, the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada or the Canadian Organic Growers.

Remarque : Les commentaires publiés ci-dessous ont été soumis par les participants au sondage et ne reflètent nécessairement pas le point de vue de la Fédération biologique du Canada, de l'Association canadienne du commerce biologique, Centre d'agriculture biologique du Canada, ou de Cultivons Biologique Canada.

Priority 1

- Organic resources services – e.g. manure compost delivery and application
- Prix de détail des produits
- Prix
- Clarity of what sets certified organic apart from all the farms who use the word organic
- Organics becoming an ideology
- La durabilité des systèmes de production dans une perspective de changements climatiques
- Scaling up local, regional, national production for food security and sovereignty.
- Authentic and verified supply base
- Obtaining organic inputs ie livestock feed and organic fertilizer
- Organic Traceability of domestic and import products
- The need for clear concise information to conter misinformation
- Désinformation du public
- Climate change
- maitrise des marges par cultures ou especes
- Supply / available acres

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- confusion of consumer by arbitrary labels and stickers that lack third party oversight
- Equivalency arrangements - strengthening and maintaining
- Financement du gouvernement des coûts récurrents de la révision des normes bios
- Increasing prices of inputs/ availability of inputs
- Disponibilité
- More and bigger markets for organic produce (grains)
- réciprocité des normes pour l'importation de produits déjà cultivés ici.
- Produits importés dit bio ne correspondant pas aux normes canadiennes
- loss of certified organic farms to 'non-certified organic' status
- Maintenir les prix des grains
- constant supply of organic product
- Maintenance of the organic standards
- Pushing back against larger multinational intrusion into organic.
- Reliable, legal, and enforceable funding mechanisms for provincial organic organizations
- Organic resources suppliers - e.g. compost delivery and application
- opportunities to become an organic operator
- The COS do not address climate change or climate emissions in a meaningful way, and therefore do not seem relevant to many for whom this is a primary concern.
- Stable funding to maintain the Standard Review process
- attitude - many advocates of organic production systems frame their system as superior to conventional production and focus on the negatives aspects of using of synthetic pesticides. This distracts from agreement on common values and beliefs - both are farmers and food producers and both are needed to feed the world.
- Environmental Advocacy/Climate Change Solutions
- Maintenir la confiance chez le consommateur.
- Assurer la pérennité du financement pour la norme biologique du Canada
- Food security/increased domestic demand - will need to be met by increased supply; new entrants, increase in transitioning, new tools and innovation backed by science. Otherwise, imported organics will be Canadian consumers' main option.
- Too costly to be certified
- An economic system that supports us
- Certification for small scale urban farmers
- Continued trust in the COR logo

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- absence of local processing facilities, especially for beef
- The organic response to climate change, both in how farmers adapt, and how organic farms contribute to mitigation.
- Maintaining high standards
- Les ventes ... manque de consommateur
- Incorporating Regenerative Agriculture
- Awareness / Education - fundamentally there are so many competing claims that it can be difficult to break through to communicate the holistic set of benefits provided by organic standard.
- Contrôles des ravageurs (m.h., insectes, maladies)
- accessibilité des produits biologiques
- Climate Change
- Pandemics/Human health & Economy: Zoonotic viral & bacterial outbreaks, as well as antibiotic resistance (#1)
- transparency in pricing
- Funding - the Standards and the SICs
- Creating a way for market gardeners or small scale seed producers to produce seed for organic seed companies that doesn't require them to be a producers and a processor when they are only handing over a bag of uncleaned seed!
- make the prices so that everyone can afford to eat organic
- Le salaire des agriculteurs
- price
- Consumer perception that organic is "more expensive" rather than valuable
- Difficulty for young farmers to settle
- Certified organic product protection - labelling and logo identification
- Better understand the scope of the Canadian organic regulations and the industry 's responsibilities
- Export issues (eg. glyphosate residues, transportation)
- GMO labeling
- Representation and service for small scale (not getting too big and focusing on industrial export scale
- Cost of Certification
- higher quality of certified organic compared to conventional
- More national recognition and incentives for organic operators in Canada

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- Valoriser les pratiques d'agriculture biologique auprès des consommateurs
- Imported fake organic product.
- organic integrity
- Many large producers are "watering down" what it means to be organic by only doing the minimal requirements to be certified and by pushing at the edges of these requirements as a lobby.
- Due to costs, the inability of young farmers joining the organic sector
- Certification: I have noticed reluctance from farmers to even consider the option
- push by agribusiness to have grow ops declared organic.
- Processing - There are no certified organic abattoirs in Eastern Ontario
- Valorisation de la certification biologique
- The extra costs to produce as organic
- Stopping GMO pollution from jeopardizing organic markets (eg. canola, wheat, alfalfa ? What next???)
- Education
- Equalize standards for various trading partners. (example: same standards in Canada and US)
- Climate action
- Inforcement of business that are non compliant to COR rules.
- people marketing products as organic who are not certified.
- Lack of qualified inspectors - increased demand=increased costs to operators
- Sourcing
- Price
- sustainability
- The high cost of certification and extra work it involves and the lack of return
- price gap between organic and conventional
- food fraud
- Dairy
- The federal government needs to implement policy that actually supports organic growers.
- Market development
- General Education/Consumer awareness
- Immediate restrictions on import and/or use of syntethic inputs
- lack of a "small scale" type of certification. ex. for goods sold within the province

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- American orchardists are doing growing methods not allowed by Canadians for more than 20 years. Everybody knows it. Why are organic American apples still coming to Canada?
- New Young farmers not certifying because of the paperwork & feeling that certification is just a big business moneygrab.
- approved abattoirs
- Consumer trust - 'Is this product really organic?'
- Over regulation
- we are very small producer; costs / paperwork of getting certified not appealing
- price of some commodities gone down
- Stronger regulation of the "dilution" of organic
- Fraudulence within the Canadian Organic Regime: Product being sold as organic that is not.
- access to abattoirs
- Support from the large line companies and processors
- Efficient certification
- Supply of raw materials
- Prices are way too low
- Continuing education of consumers
- Consumers are losing confidence in certified organic because of some loose USDA standards.
- Excess paper work
- Honesty
- supply
- Lower Certification costs (with a government subsidy)
- ignorance of severity of effects from toxins in conventional systems
- Data
- Establish organic as the genuine regenerative form of agriculture, and improve standards to make it even better.
- Over rigidity of certain rules, such as no wood posts. This greatly reduces ease of farming, and has little impact on soil.
- Non certified "regenerative" greenwashing
- Declining number of certified operations - make certification less cumbersome
- more research on pests/ diseases
- Lack of markets

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- There needs to be a lot more financial support for those transitioning, especially for field crops. Those first couple seasons when yields are down and they can't get the organic price is a huge deterrent.
- Food quality
- Prices have fallen 30% in the last three years. Conventional are up 10%.
- Supply
- Organic marketing. Buyers taking too long to move crop. A new method of Marketing is needed. Old method of calling people every week is a waste of time and resources.
- Communication to consumers and growers & others on organic integrity (e.g. how we maintain it, what distinguishes us from other alternative ag systems)
- Cost of Production
- Affordable OMRI listed compost production! Accessing manure and compost is a huge challenge for small growers who don't produce their own
- Education
- Selling direct-to-consumer organic products in rural communities is difficult for small farms
- Product price and consumer perception
- Government funding so we can move more quickly on changes in the sector
- Soil health vs cultivation
- Competing with imported organic products
- The new "Regenerative" certifications that are not organic
- public misconception as to what 'organic' is re: The Principles vs the annual media article discovering that the nutrient levels of an apple are the same whether grown organically or not (for example)
- Perception of higher priced goods
- consumer education
- continued registration of neonicotinoids for conventional use
- Ontario regulation
- Consumer support for higher cost of production for organic food
- more support for small certified organic farms under 5 acres
- Provincial and Federal support of small independent organic producers for GAP certification
- Industrial organic
- Consumers not trusting Organic certified if grown outside of Canada

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- Labeling, the word "organic" is used everywhere.
- PROMOTION TO CONSUMERS
- Land transition / competition for land
- muddy waters between organic and conventional crops - is anything really 100% organic
- High cost of production
- Les nouvelles technologies qui s'éloignent de la mentalité "bio" (mutagénèse (nouveau ogm), hydroponie, lumière artificielle...)
- Inputs
- More collaboration with an up to date and comprehensive national database of approved inputs (crop inputs)
- bad press
- use of treated fence posts. livestock do not eat them.
- Comprehensive education for farmers and farm workers
- Processing facilities
- Seeds Canada involvement in organic certification (needs to be stopped)
- LE GOUVERNEMENT NE CROIT PAS AU BIO
- The current pandemic and the extreme measures taken by authorities
- Consumer education
- There needs to be a list of approved products / companies because a lot of time is wasted trying to figure this out.
- Price of organic ingredients
- Too many organizations in Organics, way too many and all looking for funding
- making it easier for conventional producers to transition to organic
- Seeming "the expensive option", only for the elite
- Multi national corporate involvement.
- Organic Land availability
- Animal Welfare - ensuring animal welfare, addressing biological health, affective state, and naturalness
- Get Ont and Alberta to give legal status to the word 'organic'. This makes scaling to a national level very difficult.
- Maintien de la confiance envers l'appellation
- distance of travel from farm to farmers' markets re: gas consumption & time

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- Infrastructure for crops
- organic integrity/more robust enforcement by the CFIA of the regulation/fraud investigations
- Having access to reliable data
- Need mentoring for new farmers from current organic farmers
- Difficult to get certified and maintain certification
- Weed control in crops
- Container and hydroponic growing
- Certification consistency
- standards - clarity and compliance
- Land prices are prohibitive
- Integrity of the Organic System (fraud)
- To reinforce the benefits of organic certification and ensure that certified farmers are loyal to these practices.
- organic standard being watered down
- Market access
- research on appropriate vegetables to grow in our region
- Weakening of the organic standard
- Effective, affordable phytosanitary products for growers.
- Consumer communication about the benefit of organics
- branding
- Promoting educational opportunities for new farmers by providing advocacy & funding support
- Education to farmers, consumers, government of its importance and the end game scenarios if humanity continues on its present course of food production.
- Organic certified soils and composts
- Climate Change
- Being completely outfunded by the chemical farming industry
- land prices
- feed manufacturing facilities manufacturing both conventional and organic feed
- Lack of understanding, follow through and financial support from the competent authority CFIA/government for COS/SIC
- Use of pesticides
- availability of inputs

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- Cost of organic certification is a huge barrier to many new & young farmers
- Delay in certifications and long application process
- erosion of the organic poultry movement by big ag
- ethical and sustainable labour practices
- a removal of regulations to allow for more farmer to consumer sales, such as dairy and meat products
- Accès à des fonds publics substantiels pour la recherche et le développement du secteur bio.
- International Standards and Definitions
- Financement récurrent de la mise à jour des normes
- confusion and competition from all the other free-from label claims
- Filling the organic demand with Canadian products
- making the regulations too complex and too hard to follow - will limit new producers from joining and will cause some producers to drop out
- Approval of organic inputs
- Sales support/outlets. Hard to get a farmers market table., ie Penticton Farmers Market, 1st year do not guaranteed spot each weekend
- Éducation
- Standards development and maintenance - including the SIC
- getting the product to the consumer - from the farmer to the consumer (distance of production and price to deliver)
- MANQUE D'INSECTICIDE BIOLOGIQUE POUR FAIRE FACE AUX NOUVEAUX RAVAGEURS
- Production de semences biologiques
- public trust
- keeping organic truly organic
- Plus grande disposition de produits locaux
- Lack of a complete supply chain for smaller producers.
- Cost of production
- Stop making conventional produced food the enemy
- Ongoing negative press from the Conventional side attempting to discredit organic.
- price swings, one of the limiting factors for growers , is the inability to get futures pricing, so ,in turn , the market cannot grow and sustain
- help make organic record keeping easy, to encourage onboarding

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- Production
- No support for new growers wanting to start out organic (we must apply to certify 1st...too expensive!)
- The cost (in both time and money) of certification.
- Explication du Bio
- cost of membership
- Soil improvement
- complicated regulatory barriers to organic make it increasingly costly to play in the organic space
- cheap industrial agriculture food, unreflective of true cost to planet & society
- Cost of nutrient inputs
- Market Access
- retail stores selling organic product are not required to be certified
- Organic Equivalencies
- Organic farmers not using soil health practices like they should!
- Fair prices for commodities
- RM spray orders against noxious weeds!!
- Farmer support and transition
- Defense of the term Organic, against the dilution caused by a variety of "alternate" or "improved" terms, like ROC, non-GMO, Grass Fed, etc
- ?
- reduce the final price of the organic products
- There seems to be a lot of emphasis in this region on developing large hydroponic operations to provide year round vegetables
- All level government supporting, particularly the feds and provinces
- La qualité et la pertinence de l'encadrement réglementaire (normes)
- Contamination of organic crops by glyphosate, other pesticides, and GMOs
- poor access or prohibitive transportation costs for our organic crops to markets or wholesalers
- a strong organic standard with public funding
- Yield and profitability- its poor
- Companies saying they are organic without being certified and paying for it.
- Les appellations non contrôlées qui viennent mélanger le consommateurs (agriculture durable, naturel, etc)

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- Avoir le comité (ou un groupe d'auditeur sous la supervision du comité) valider les produits chimiques de nettoyage et d'assainissement pouvant être utilisé en production biologique. (parfois tous les groupe d'auditeurs ne disent pas la même chose)
- Dispelling anti-organic false propaganda
- Fraud (non organic being declared as organic
- Government support for the industry
- Process of certification becoming onerous for smaller, diversified producers
- Difficulty of being organic....costs, paperwork, hard to find answers
- Food and Nutrition Education
- Misrepresentation of products
- crédibilité de la certification biologique
- That 3rd party certification doesn't work for every farm business, so perhaps encouraging more Participatory Guarantee Systems or Peer Review systems (sometimes thought of as being specifically for small-scale or direct to market farmers).
- Pas assez d'accords d'équivalence avec d'autres pays
- Barriers to entry and growth \$ and regulation
- Slow disappearance of fertile farmland. No farmland, no farmers, less food, less organic food
- Access to seed (losing diversity of organic seed paired with the new seed royalties)
- Consistency in accreditation and certification requirements directed by CFIA
- la bulle du prix du sirop d'érable biologique qui est artificielle et trop élevée.
- cost of land
- Rules around pesticide use in particular Glyphosate
- Ensuring the standards don't become diluted that they are so similar to conventional there's no point of difference
- lack of proper oversight of imported organic goods
- Ensuring a position for organics in the carbon capture debate
- Market access
- Aligning Canadian and US organic regulations
- The scale of growers (organic growers are more often small scale and struggle to access markets) markets should be more willing to work with small growers.
- cost of certification
- Aligning Canadian and US organic regulations

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- Accès à des variétés culturales adaptées aux régions nordiques et à la production biologique
- Prices are going downward
- Does the organic sector want to be a niche market for a limited number of consumers or does it see itself as providing food to the masses. Price, standards, marketing systems are different depending on the answer.
- fraud
- Processing - There are no certified organic abattoirs in Eastern Ontario
- Access to customers
- Disponibilité de méthodes alternatives
- Reconnaissance de la norme
- Detailed data on production, processing, trade, trade deficit, etc.
- confusion of consumer by arbitrary labels and stickers that lack third party oversight
- Funding