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- **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'agricultures biologique du Canada, ou de Cultivons Biologique Canada.

Priority 2

- Marketing services and access to farm markets
- Importations de produits bios questionnables
- Crédibilité
- High costs of inputs (amendments, feed, etc.) especially for smaller scale producers
- La santé des sols
- Working together better to grow all aspects of the sector, including diversity within ranks.
- Misleading and meaningless marketing terms - free range, grass fed, natural, pasture raised etc
- Organic processing facilities for livestock
- The lack of government controls in organic sector (Europe has more district controls)
- Produits accepté en bio mais nocifs
- Soil health
- information sur la disponibilité des semences biologiques
- Cost of organic products
- Bogus claims
- Oversight of non-certified entities (traders, distributors, importers, brokers,etc)

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- Entente d'équivalence avec les autres pays
- mental health/ the false narrative that farmers must be overworked to make a farm work.
- Accessibilité
- Larger capacity at organic terminals for a larger variety of organic grains
- Plusieurs appellations (nature, vert, environnemental) des produits sur les tablettes mélangeant les consommateurs
- non-organic regenerative agriculture claims
- Mise en marché suive la production (secteur laitier)
- Communication to consumers of the meaning of the term "organic"
- Support for independent retailers and local marketing venues like Farmers' markets.
- Federal government commitment to fund the Standards Interpretation Committee, organic data collection, enforcement of the COR, and reviews of the COR
- Lower seed costs - hay and pasture seed for large acreage is prohibitive
- financial support to enter the sector
- The reputation of the organic brand in Canada is not as strong as in other regions; there seems to be a lack of trust that the price matches the value derived.
- Preventing fraud and maintaining organic integrity
- lack of price transparency - some organic growers are paid the same farm gate price as conventional with "only" promises of added value.
- Integrity and Fraud Prevention
- Maintenir les prix élevés pour les producteurs.
- Garantir la certification biologique des importations des produits alimentaires
- Likewise, trade harmonization/new or revised organic equivalency arrangements are very important for export opportunities.
- To confusing
- to be able to pay "oil company " size wages to employees.....
- Confusion around Regenerative vs Organic Regenerative vs Certified Organic
- availability of seed in the public domain
- Making it easier for small farms to become certified.
- Supply of organic material
- L'obligation des grandes chaines a avoir des circuit court pour alimenter leurs animaux Ex Breton...
- Use of Mined or other Organic inputs that have environmental impacts
- Supply - demand continues to outstrip supply, limiting innovation from an ingredient perspective.

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- Fertilisation organique
- accessibilité des produits pour faciliter la production biologique
- Distribution
- Pollution: Devastating destruction of soil (microbes) and water resources through the application of glyphosate
- packaging and labelling costs
- Confusion with Regenerative
- be sure organic actually is free of chemicals and gmos
- l'image de l'agriculture biologique
- other growers that are using the cemicals close by
- Consumer confusion about USDA organic standards (eroding) and Canadian organic standards
- Clearly position organic agriculture in the climate change issue (contribution to GHG, resilience to climate change)
- Protecting the certified organic market from low grade imports with questionable certifcation
- Promote compliance with the requirement
- Payment terms, it can take months to get paid after we ship the product.
- GMO product approval
- Affordability
- Access to meat processing
- certified organic + local is the goal,
- CFIA standardization of COR Certification Bodies and/or Conformity Verification Bodies. (examples: staff training, national input review program))
- Convaincre les gouvernements de l'importance de soutenir et développer l'agriculture biologique
- openness and transparency
- Must raise the bar again by moving towards regenerative agriculture.
- We need a marketing board similar to the now defunct Canadian Wheat Board
- Price: Farmers and consumers will continue to use price as an excuse to embark and support organic farming unless they fully understand the value for themselves, their business, the planet
- Marketing/Selling - As producers we should concentrate on producing, not marketing.
- Confrontation entre producteurs bio et conventionnel
- the unfair advantage given to our of country non organic
- Maintain legal ability to save my own seed.
- Pricing

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- If standards can't be equalized, products produced in another country where substances are used that are not allowed under Canadian standards, these products should not be allowed to be sold as organic in Canada. (Example: produce grown in US with Chilean Nitrate should not allowed to be sold as organic in Canada)
- Conventional agri-business expansion
- Streamlining and modernising the reporting process
- lack of coordination between regions/country
- Certification of other countries selling in Canada
- organic approved crop inputs
- The negative stigma associated with certification (upper class)
- lack of vegetable and fruit growers
- country of origin of imports (not simply 'product of')
- The provincial government needs to implement policy that actually supports organic growers.
- Imports from places with lower cost of production
- pricing
- Random but serious control of products offered as organic in the markets to locate and fine fake organics
- decreasing consumer trust in "organic"
- Why Canada still importing American apples when they don't comply with Canadian standard?
- Consumer confidence that certified organic is more trustworthy than those producers that espouse that they are 'Organic'.
- country of origin (differentiate from (product of'))
- Consumer need to understand the toxicity of food grown with agrichemicals
- Logistics
- some very strange rules
- Lack of mentorship opportunities for new farmers
- fraudulence with imported certified organic products.
- public education on labelling
- Creating future markets for organic crops
- Organic crop prices
- Fraud from imports claiming to be organic
- Finding more markets
- More support from Agriculture Canada and Health Canada

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- Small mixed farmers have too much paperwork so it's hard for them to commit to more to certify organic.
- Too high fees
- Climate change
- Increased market share
- Media Coverage lacking in above issues
- Data collection
- Do a much better job at communicating the soil health principles of organic and how it relates directly to human, animal, environmental and climate health.
- Failure to enforce regulated use of the term "organic"
- Lack of funding to help producers through the transition phase; cost of certification for small operations
- Poorly thought out regulations when it comes to transitioning to organics
- Consumer demands, but more so the understanding of what they are demanding.
- Agronomic research in organics
- Climate change
- Organic price drops, while conventional crops increase
- Direct connections with researchers and policy-makers investigating the bundle of goods and services OG growers can deliver --e.g. human and ecosystem health, climate change adaptions, and others
- Consumer Disposable Income
- Educating the public about the thouroughness of organic standards. There's still a lot of apprehension
- People need to learn that organic grain production is very possible
- Access to OMRI-listed compost in rural communities in BC for small farms is difficult
- Labour- hiring, labour retention, wages
- Flexibility and learning when new products enter market.These products (ie paper pot planter) are game changers for low carbon market veg farms and we lose market share to non organic farms and then we struggle.
- Converting conventional farms to organic.
- The Regenerative Organic Standard as it compares to the Canadian Organic Standard
- Public's (and perhaps our) lack of emphasis/knowledge about nutrient dense products that we grow
- Standards funding

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- Policing of false organic claims
- Better access to organic inputs
- Consumer engagement and education about organic sector
- Hydroponics
- How is Organic confirmed
- GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS REDUCED ON PROCESSING
- Age of organic producers
- slack in regulations on what can be included in 100% organic products
- High cost of certification
- Economie circulaire: ne pas utiliser les mêmes techniques conventionnelles, réinventer les technologies énergétiques pour favoriser le développement durable et la sauvegarde de l'environnement AVANT de maximiser les profits (croissance)
- Infrastructure and labour
- organic definition among consumers
- small left overs of a variety of crops. " the profit "
- A lack of skilled farm workers
- Over regulation by government
- Contamination by unregulated GMOs produced by gene editing
- The damage to the economy done by the pandemic lockdown measures
- Rigorous data to support: benefits of eating organic food, yield comparisons, environmental benefits and drawbacks of agric. practices
- There needs to be a more basic and concise outline for new organic growers to understand what is expected/allowed.
- Inconsistent supply of organic ingredients
- Too many fees to support all these organizations that don't get along
- securing the certification system and its counterparts to decrease fraud from those that look for loopholes or other ways that undermine the integrity of the organic pulse
- Support to promote organic products at Provincial and Federal government level
- Organic food treated as a specialty market, (higher mark-ups).
- Organic/Regenerative farming practices research and information
- Affordability
- Recognise cannabis as a crop that can be certified organic Canada wide.
- Appellations concurrentes

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- Easier to understand regulations
- addressing adventitious contamination - what can be done to mitigate risks so canadian organic farmers don't lose export markets
- Need government organizations to educate on resources such as freezing/processing
- Lack of education for the common person
- Livestock and feed
- Science based decisions for production
- sustainability - external uncontrollable pressures (climate, funding, steady market access)
- need to create greater demand for organic in canada
- Presence and testing of non permitted substances on organic products
- To help expand the number of farms/acreage in transition or farming organically.
- lack of enforcement of organic regulations
- Availability of inputs
- lobby governments to acknowledge the importance of local agriculture
- Loss of consumer confidence in the label
- Quality and availability of seeds and plants for the production.
- Resisting the spread of GMOs across our input crops
- distribution
- Form an organic farmland trust organization to provide land access - beyond land linking
- Costs and work involved to 'do things right' as opposed to full support and facilitation as seems to be the growing trend in other jurisdictions.
- Standards improvement
- Consumer awareness of the environmental impact of industrial food
- contamination by sprays
- animal welfare
- Discrepancies between certifiers causing certifier shopping, connected to lack of consistent inspector training across Canada
- Honey bee and other pollinators declines
- Labour
- Cost & availability of organic products and inputs
- Cost of farming
- erosion of the consumers' trust in the organic brand by other 'beyond organic' labelling, etc.
- public education as to the advantages of organic

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- more small scale processing such as flour mills
- Start-up funding for commercial scale processing plants.
- Liste centralisée d'intrants approuvés au Canada (produits commerciaux)
- Consistent supply of large enough quantities so the bigger players want to deal with us instead of importing
- loss of brand integrity
- Simple instructions for Market Garden crops; 1-5 acres. Start here... advance on your own. A poster will suffice.
- Transparency
- Data availability and accessibility
- getting the product to the consumer - from the farmer to a store (buying power & regulation issues)
- Garantie de paiement des producteurs de grains biologiques
- production innovations
- Continuer a développer les bienfaits des produits biologiques auprès des consommateurs
- Consumer confidence in the organic label.
- Cost of items for sale due to higher cost of production
- Adopt more progressive production methods
- Lack of government support and recognition for infrastructure nationally and provincially. Competition from European and South American countries for markets that are undercutting the premiums.
- database of approved products organic growers can use
- Organics insecticides inputs availability
- Too many certifying bodies. Too complicated + convoluted for new entrants
- The skepticism of the consumer, e.g. Is organic really worth the extra cost?
- Rappeler importance des certifications
- record keeping
- "Benefit of organics" marketing to the general public

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- federal & provincial governments support big ag, not little (organic) ag
- an effective, cost efficient source of Nitrogen
- Fertility
- retail stores selling non- certified product under organic signage
- Glyphosate issues in Europe
- Buyers taking advantage of producers
- Market stability
- Chemical residues due to spray drift and pollution
- Cloudy definitions by gov of "Natural" and "Regenerative Agriculture"
- Integrity and clarity of the term Organic
- maintain a continued production of organic products
- Big promotion of plant based food, not necessarily organic and plant based "meat" substitutes.
- Financial resources, bank loans for acquiring new land for production expansion
- La disponibilité d'intrants, de programmes-conseil spécifiques à la production bio
- Soil degradation
- integrative weed control and pest management
- keeping a credible organic certification that adresses animal welfare and environmental protection rather than leveling down the standard to accommodate global competitiveness
- Insurance specific to organic pricing and practices
- The cost of being certified organic.
- Les contraintes exigées aux producteurs bio
- Déterminer les capacité du marché à s'adapter à une norme plus restrictive (avoir une liste de substance interdite, c'est à dire, qui ne doit absolument pas être présent dans les produits chimique, même s'il n'apparaissent pas sur la SDS ou prendre en considération la composition total des produits chimiques et non juste de la SDS). Prévoir une période d'adaptation genre 5-10 ans pour lancer la R&D sur de nouveaux produits
- Encouraging full organic agriculture education/courses/programs at acadmeic institutions (not the sort of lip-service as presented by U of Guelph)
- Rubber Stamping (how does presidents choice and costco ETC have organic labels I am sure it is not shipped in seperate trucks
- Financial aid for farmers to transition
- Technologies

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- Erosion of organic standards (hydroponics in US, pressure from larger farms for more accomodating regs)
- Educating the public on why buy organic (include meat)
- Watershed Management
- la perception que le bio c'est plus cher et que ça vaut pas le coup supplémentaire
- That larger corporations/industry are starting to be more interested in Organic in Canada and wanted to influence/water down the Canadian Organic Standards
- Concurrence grandissante d'autres certifications telles que Non GMO Project
- Lack of barriers to conventional foods
- Data collection (it has been harder to get data and member lists from certification bodies)
- Increased engagement, both financial and in technical expertise, by CFIA
- les grandes chaines doivent distribuer davantage et cesser faire profits monstres qui créent écart trop grand entre bio et convent
- cost to farmers for organic certification (time and money)
- Mandatory GMO labelling
- Ensure new organic farmers are working to the same procedures
- lack of education of organic farmers
- Lack of research focused on organics
- knowledge transfer
- More access to organic inputs, less costly registration requirements
- policing of use of word organic
- More access to organic inputs, less costly registration requirements
- Concurrence déloyale des produits biologiques des autres pays
- Hardly any advertising campaign
- How do we keep all groups and traditional stakeholders in the same "tent". Not everyone has the same vision of the future and how to get there.
- Marketing/Selling - As producers we should concentrate on producing, not marketing.
- Increase number of bulk vege buyers and processers
- Vulgarisation des approches démontrées par la recherche scientifique
- Mise en marché
- Provincial organic standards
- Bogus claims