

# 2021 Organic Sector Survey / Enquête sur le secteur biologique

## Standards / Normes

### Question 21

- How familiar are you with the Regenerative Organic Certified (ROC) standards set by the Regenerative Organic Alliance?
- Connaissez-vous les normes 'Regenerative Organic Certified (ROC)' créées par l'Alliance biologique régénératrice?

Answer Choices / Responses

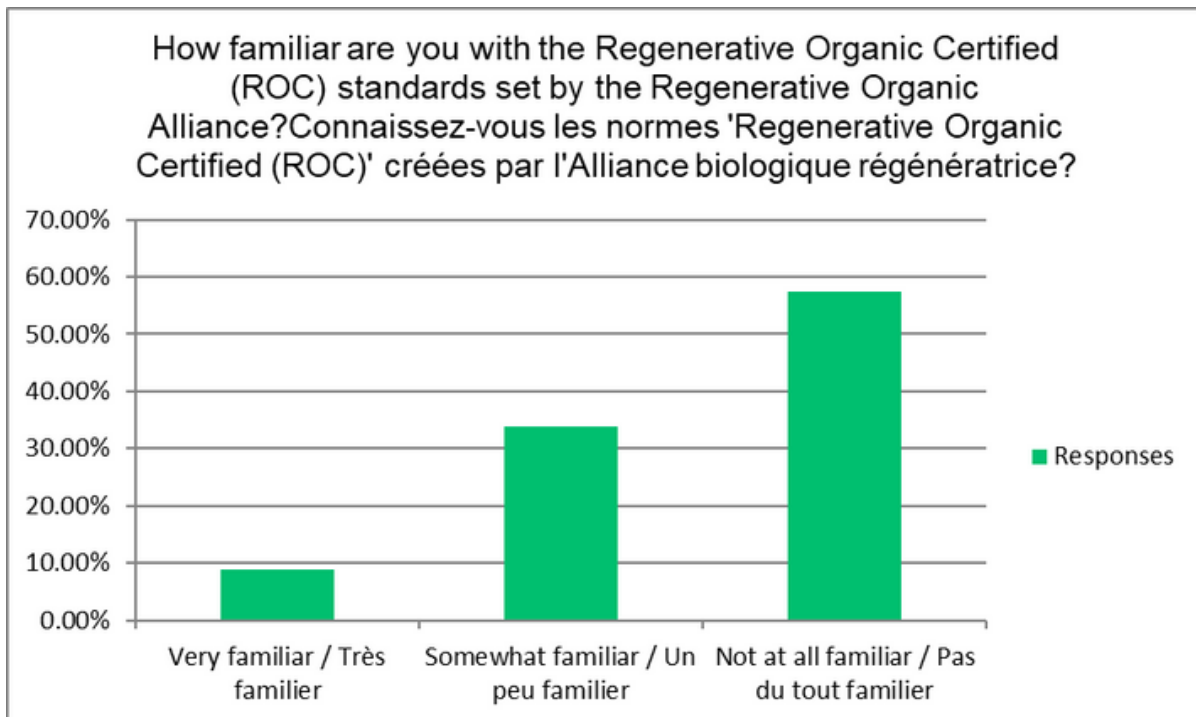
Very familiar / Très familier: **8.75% (23)**

Somewhat familiar / Un peu familier: **33.84% (89)**

Not at all familiar / Pas du tout familier: **57.41% (151)**

Answered / Ont répondu: **263**

Skipped / N'ont pas répondu: **556**



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- **Would you like to see the organic standards expanded to include more prescriptive regenerative practices?**
- **Les normes biologiques devraient-elles être élargies pour prescrire des pratiques régénératrices?**

Answer Choices / Responses

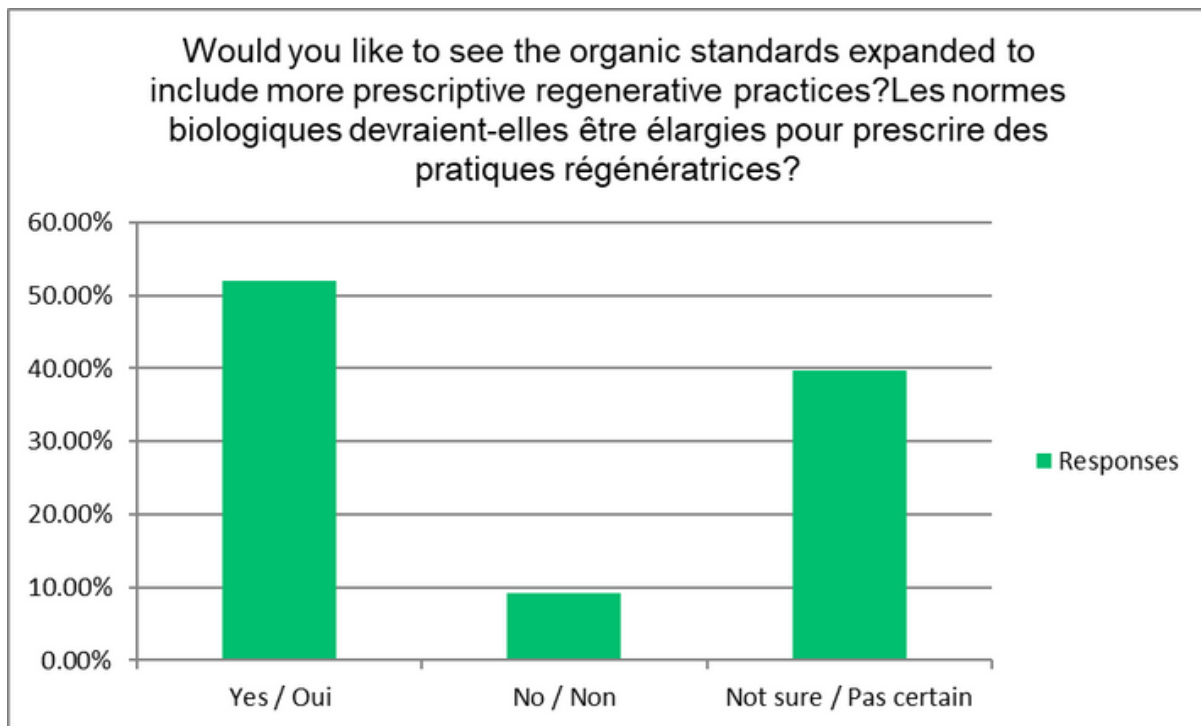
Yes / Oui: **51.91% (136)**

No / Non: **9.16% (24)**

Not sure / Pas certain: **39.69% (104)**

Answered / Ont répondu: **262**

Skipped / N'ont pas répondu: **557**



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#### 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 ou, le Centre d'agriculture biologique du Canada de Cultivons Biologique Canada.

- Travail de sol réduit, meilleure rotation. Utilisation raisonnée d'intrants bio
- Especially for soil health requirements and social care requirements (paying living wages)
- risque de confusion.
- Perhaps with Regenerative tier or add-on
- Il y a certaines idées que je n'aime pas et qui sont discutables en biologique, comme le travail minimum du sol qui demande l'utilisation d'herbicides en conventionnel
- Organic standards need to more completely address climate change
- As many as possible. I would suggest that the majority of people who are buying organic want this; it is only the businesses who do not want to have to invest in these practices that would argue with this (so you're probably not going to get many yes's here!)
- I am curious how to require quantitative soil health testing in a process based standard
- Practices should be based on principles not prescriptions....
- I don't think it needs to be prescriptive, but encourage regenerative best practices
- Truly regenerative farming is completely plant-based. Therefore, not ROC. You have to do better.
- La norme ROC est trop restrictive pour réunir un grand nombre de producteurs laitiers et nous éloigne du but recherché. La norme biologique pour la production laitière est déjà régénérative. Elle pourrait être améliorée pour mieux intégrer la séquestration du carbone.
- If the organic standard expands beyond the method to grow food, less additional certifications would be required, and the consumer would not need to learn about too many additional labels, some that only nurture green washing
- On our farm, we are exploring the move to eventually discontinue summerfallow
- I think that it would be a good idea but I am not sure about making Regenerative practices mandatory.
- I would like to learn more about it
- I think there is a lot of overlap in the goals of organic and regenerative practices. Instead of competing we should co-operate to build a bigger movement.
- farmer should justify tillage in field logs.



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- ROC sounds like a fantastic idea. Why have I not heard about it?
- Caveat – seed costs climatic conditions
- This must be qualified by that it should not be so much "prescriptive" as outcome based. For instance it would be a detriment if tillage was too restricted as a tool, and it may be a misunderstanding that this is linked strongly to carbon sequestration.
- This is imperative to protect the integrity and organic certification
- I am an organic producer. I support that. Let Regen develop their own standards and not be involved with the organic standards.
- Within reason. For instance, our farm has approximately 250 acres of wetland and old-growth forest and 250 cultivable acres. If there is a requirement for continuous improvement in this regard, we wouldn't end up with many cultivable acres.
- Yes, if our goal is to redefine organic as a form of 'regenerative' agriculture, that would be part of the clarification needed.
- Low till/no till. Use of cover crops etc to increase soil health rather than other inputs. Biodiversity on the farm should be looked at.
- I would as an organic farm like to be contacted about the ROC so if it is valid then yes I would like to see it within the standards
- The whole area of "regenerative" is changing as new knowledge is developed. Having prescriptive standards at this stage could lock in practices that turn out to be unhelpful or counter to the original intent.
- Regenerative is a part of organic anyway, the whole transition period is about regeneration of the land
- Again, another group starting because they don't like the other groups
- Expand the amount of animal welfare considerations in the standards
- it is important that the standard evolves. To ensure we organic agriculture doesn't mimic the worst aspects of conventional agriculture, monocropping in particular, there should be a requirement to include regenerative farming practices.
- We should move in this direction but different growing areas will have barriers that may not fit
- Much more attention must be paid to carbon capture and soil enhancement and to animal care and nutrition.
- It would be way too complicated and abstract to discern a regenerative practice from a non regenerative and a degenerative one.
- sounds like a bureaucracy is beginning to take root. Is this the vision for standards?



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- Soil management and labour. I think this step is needed to show a intent of continuous improvement pursued by the organic industry.
- Measurable outcomes need to be included, consistency between certifiers would help as well.
- En fait les 2 visions s'accordent dans la majorité des cas mais le consensus serait plus grand sur les normes canadiennes si il y avait une bonne représentativité des position au sein des comites de revision
- I think we need clarity on our goals in the industry. The overlap and lack of overlap between these 2 standards is very confusing to people.
- Education is always welcome, however, technology is expensive and we have enough rules...careful on increased expenses.
- This would allow all organic products to carry the label without additional costs and inspections. The practices though need to reflect regional best practice as opposed to impractical standards.
- It is only through regenerative practices that we will have a food future and the benefits of carbon capture should not be ignored or dismissed
- what does this Q mean?
- reduction in tillage more monitoring of soil health indicators
- The development of any alternate organic standard seriously undermines the value already created by the existing organic operators/industry.
- Organic agriculture should be prescriptive, not restrictive in scope
- On soil health, animal welfare, and social fairness....the Canadian Organic Standards are lacking in all 3 categories.
- It seems as though there are many definitions of what regenerative even is. I would have to see a clear and concise definition first.
- Would have to familiarize myself with these practices at greater length before I could answer this question.
- Producers should be encouraged to follow regenerative practices, let the consumers dictate.