

2021 Organic Sector Survey / Enquête sur le secteur biologique General Comments / Observations Générales Question 43

- **Is there anything else you would like to share about the organic sector with us? (Consumer)**
- **Y a-t-il autre chose que vous aimeriez partager avec nous au sujet du secteur biologique ? *Consommateur)**

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.

- Le processus de révision des normes biologiques canadiennes devrait être basé sur des données scientifiques et non des principes ; manque de cohérence dans plusieurs cas ; subjectivité et conflit d'intérêt de plusieurs membres discréditant ainsi le processus de révision des normes.
- question 58 is incorrect. I do not have a priority list for organic. They are all important.
- I believe more information is necessary as people are being misled. I am a champion for the "concept" but I don't always believe we are getting what we think.
- Most of the time organic is too expensive for my budget
- The prices of some organic produce is ridiculous. \$4-6 for a cucumber. If the farmer's costs for organic certification are a significant cause of this kind of pricing, then that is an issue and will prevent many Canadians from shipping. Also, I would be happy with a "pesticide free" level of certification if that would be less expensive for farmers and consumers.
- Provide a definition of organic to Canadian consumers.
- Perhaps this survey could be used to educate the survey respondents (after they have provided their replies to a question).
- Don't become sneaky with your definitions. Croplife is not regenerative, any crafty use of definitions and you lose credibility
- Canada needs a Canadian Organic Consumers Assn
- If you want to create one, hire me to manage the promotion. 🇨🇦
- Thanks for all you do.

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- I believe it is the healthiest way to live.
- I would like to see more testing done for chemicals and pesticides on all food, conventional and organic.
- In my opinion, Canadian produces and organic products taste better. Good luck and hopefully the organic sector will continue to grow domestically and internationally.
- not at this time
- Please come up with a (certification & control included) consumer logo for vegan food - that is completely plant-based ingredients & production. Thank you!
- Organic became more important to me when I found out roundup is an antibiotic. The micro biome is the new yoga
- I hope the Canadian organic standards will not become eroded as the US standards have been. I no longer trust the USDA organic label. It is as meaningless as the term "natural" now.
- I already receive the newsletter
- keep growing!
- Oui, trop de produits USDA en hiver et pas assez de production locale: donc pas assez de subventions pour le chauffage de serres ou autres formes
- pour favoriser les producteurs locaux.
- It is wonderful to see how much it has grown, but it also shows that once firms reach a size they tend to behave just like those offering conventional brands and products. And if they grow exponentially, it is discouraging when they end up purchased by a large multinational. I have been disappointed when I witness the above at times, but it is encouraging to see more people aware of how our food is produced, where it comes from, and how it affects our health and surroundings. Organic is not enough. It has to support fair trade, biodiversity, soil regeneration, efficient water management, less and biodegradable packaging, and different effective distribution formats, and constant communication at all levels.
- thank you for supporting and promoting the organic sector
- it is not possible to complete this survey if you are not an organic shopper.
- Les consommateurs que je connais ne connaissent en rien la norme biologique, tant par son contenu, que pour les pratiques agricoles encouragées et que son fonctionnement légal.
- Thank you for asking our thoughts...would love to see Organic and local/regenerative farms take a bigger marketshare in consumers' plates and minds!
- I found that the organic bananas didn't taste the same as regular ones. They actually made me sick to my stomach, I ate 2 of 6, threw the rest in the garbage, oh yeah..... my dog wouldn't eat it and she will eat anything that is safe for her.

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- Support Organic Sector!
- I think the value of organic is overblown.
- I think the non-gmo verified certification is extremely misleading (and purposely so) as dessication of oats, legumes and wheat (potatoes, sugar cane too) with glyphosate is very prevalent and hugely harmful, but these products can be free of gmo's as they are technically not gmo crops. Instead the consumer is misled by this label and think the products are safe. Rather, they are sooo damaging to humans due to the residue of all that glyphosate, but oh right, not genetically modified! I think more education about this misleading topic needs to be promoted.
- Consumer education is critical. And so is access to foods.
- Keep it up!
- I look for organic and local whenever possible. I would like to see more "organic and fairtrade " for eg. on Bananas.(Just FYI).
- Need lots of consumer education about lorganic food, especially supporting local farmers. Need to counteract disinformation from conventional big food business.
- Just ensure that you increase the producer, the links of consumers to producers and make it easier on the 'stores', and markets and online stores to get access to locally grown organic produce. I have found that there are farmers out there, and I often just do research and buy on my own. But a dedicated supply chain would help everyone.
- Reduce the cost of certification and the amount of red tape and paperwork for organic farmers. Increase difficulty for those who are poisoning or soil with synthetic chemicals and ruinous methods of agriculture. Promote permaculture. Also promote woodlots (in Nova Scotia, vineyards are being promoted and some have been planted where there were previously lots of trees, causing erosion and toxic runoff into our rivers!).
- Please keep improving the standard. Strive for regenerative and humanely raised.
- Regenerative agriculture needs the math of soil building CO2 footprint publicized.
- I have wondered how to support organic initiatives beyond buying choices but have struggled to know how. I prioritize Local produce sometimes because my main concern is climate impact.
- You need to bring farmers closer to consumers
- We need to prevent Canada from turning into America where it is everyone for themselves and the military at sporting events (where they have no place) and putting money/economy before your fellow human, that's what I'm most scared of. We shouldn't aspire to be a propagandized, surveillance state, ruled by vulture capitalists and soulless corporations.

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- So admire all those who produce certified organic food. Thanks for supporting them!
- The work you all do is greatly appreciated!!! It is satisfying to purchase organic products knowing they can be trusted and that they are contributing to a society and future that supports and honours nature and our role in keeping it regenerative! Thank you!!!
- The organic industry should promote, more, the benefits of buying organic for our environment, which is under severe attack by Doug Ford in Ontario and some other premiers across Canada.
- Thank you for advocating this industry
- Organic agriculture is crucial for the planet, and for society, insofar as it encourages small family farms. The general public needs to know how devastating factory/industrial farming is for the planet!
- we need a strong local true organic choice and incentives to support a robust service.
- Really need to return ALL farming to organic non-GMO crops for the health of our soil, water, air and own physical health. Food is medicine. Better food =better health=reduced healthcare costs. Help farmers restore soils and decrease dependency on large Ag companies. Advocate for stricter regulation standards for foods and fertilizers imported into Canada as definitions of organic or natural is not standard country to country. Use organic certification and labeling so consumers can choose wisely. Advocate for labeling of all GMO food in Canada so consumers know what they're eating/supporting. Launching an active public campaign to promote organic foods and buying from local organic farmers. Include restaurants in campaign. They could post signs/labels on doors and menus informing customers of use of organic foods. Lets keep growing demand!!!
- thanks for doing this! by the way, question 55 should have been set up differently, it was all 1's for me.
- needed more than ever for the health of people and the planet
- Please stop using plastics! Do not ship fresh fruits and veg in plastic wrap or containers please!!!!
- I have seen the Non GMO stamp more recently on some common brands which makes me curious; is the company truly using Non GMO ingredients? have they figured a way around wording just like "natural"? Has the Non GMO project changed their requirements?
- I prefer non-processed foods. Hence, shopping local ad growing local is more of a priority. Local Co-op grocery store has some fresh fruits that are labelled organic - bananas, pears, apples.
- 1. Regenerative organic is where it's at. 2. It's unfortunate that it's the consumer that has to pay for the certification (Not subsidized enough)
- We looked into certified organic for our ranch but the limitations on fence posts and other related materials seemed out of step with our production reality.

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- I prefer regenerative agriculture claim more than the organic claim. Lots of organic farming especially the large scale, isn't necessarily helping the soil or water systems. It's just another version of conventional farming practices minus pesticides and conventional fertilizers.
- I would encourage a positive attitude going forward with the concept of organic produce.
- Merci de maintenir des hauts standards et la traçabilité. Svp ne pas amoindrir les critères de certification et soutenir les inspections rigoureuses.
- Keep up the good work!
- I just hope that more and more farmers will embrace not just organic but even biodynamic farming
- Canadian organic organization could help and motivate to small organic gardeners
- Needs to be more available to consumers.
- Needs to be closer in price to non-organic items.
- I'd love to see more farm to table initiatives, more local Canadian products, more farmers market or delivery services like 100kilometersfood.
- Certains producteurs disent que d'obtenir la certification bio coûte trop cher alors à la place ils disent qu'ils sont sans intrants chimiques. J'ai vu plusieurs très bons producteurs de légumes et fruits que je crois à 100% qu'ils n'utilisent pas de pesticides, donc je n'ai pas besoin qu'ils aient la désignation bio. La désignation officielle bio rajoute un peu de certitude que le prix élevé que je paye pour certains produits bio est justifié car mieux règlementé
- Les prix devraient être plus accessibles aux consommateurs.
- It would be helpful to get clear information on ways that I could advocate - to whom, when, what the issue is.
- I see more mainstream involvement which is good!
- Personally I would like to see non organic growers be forced to label their products as GMO if they are and also labeled as having been grown using harmful pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers. It is my opinion that conventional farmers should pay a steep fee for using chemicals on their land.
- I would also like to see the organic sector receive greater government advocacy.
- I think the organic standards need to significantly improve their animal welfare standards.
- For me, it is more about trust. I will buy from a non-certified organic local producer I know before buying organic product from a Certified producer.
- support local, organic, regenerative farmers, fair trade
- Some of your questions assume we all eat meat (and dairy) which would skew the results.
- United we rise, divided we fall, keep cooperating and improving communication between organizations and certifiers.

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- I feel that we need to create more awareness of the benefits. If more people demanded organic prices could come down. I have the impression that cost is the biggest factor for most people who don't buy organic. I have had friends say "I would like to buy organic but I can't afford it." My answer is "I can't afford not to eat the healthiest food available."
- The more people who get into buying organic is going to make for a better world all over so we have to keep up our mission to get more people educated in the importance of going organic in their lives. The prices will get better when more are onboard. The grocery stores can do more with signs in the various sections of the store saying what organic produce and products are available today. I ask for organic wherever i go and as for the price I eat less in my life so I can enjoy the organic foods I can afford. There are too many products available with harmful ingredients that are making people sick and fat and it is affecting our health care systems that are overloaded. I think every product should have a sign on it if it has GMO's. They hide it from people and this should not be allowed. I look for it on everything I buy because many times I cannot find organic products. I also think that more organic foods can be frozen where they are produced and shipped so we can have products like organic cabbage and turnip all year round. I better stop because I could go on all day. Thanks for sending me this survey. I am very serious about this stuff
- to improve the quality of nature important to respect nature. the old saying *don't Push the river* it will come back to haunt you. And that is what is happening
- looking for more sustainable packaging. Sometimes I will buy conventional produce because it comes loose (Eg. lemons) rather than the organic option that comes in a plastic fishnet which cannot be recycled. Would buy more organic if I could practice zero-waste.
- I just hope that there will be continued growth of demand for organic foods to help bring prices down for organic foods. Since there is significantly less organic foods available compared to the conventional, it allows prices of organic foods to be high. I think. My household grocery bills are significantly than the typical because we try out best to consume everything organic. Typically, the only times we do not buy organic, is if it is not available.
- Proud of our dedicated producers
- The animal welfare aspect is my number one reason for buying organic. Other times when I buy organic it is usually because a brand I like happens to be certified.
- Glyphosate free needs to be a category because in my opinion, it is a GMO or unhealthy(proven with much research) part of our human and animal food chain.
- The organic sector has overstepped. Sometimes I am embarrassed to be a part of it.

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- Government needs to provide more support and incentives to organic farmers/growers and to increase the amount of organic growers in Canada. We need to support local, small-scale growers and this should start with schools, manors, hospitals, etc. purchasing organic foods and we all need to have even better access to local, organic foods. Many are just not aware of how and where to purchase, and they think organic means expensive.
- Its the farmers using pesticides that should be heavily regulated and inspected, not the organic ones.
- Infrastructure for collection, storage and distribution of local organic products is non existent and necessitates that we either grow for ourselves or import most products.
- I would like to see support for local food security. Help farmers access land to supply their local communities with organic food
- It feels like rules are weakening especially around GMO, sustainability, feedlots, cruelty etc. Please protect these standards!
- "Organically grown" is good. Leave it at that. Please stop expanding.
- In the end, organic is not important to me - what is important is to be able to grow my own food, buy/barter food from around my local region where I know the producers - everyone using organic practices.Certification is not the answer nor important to me.
- Les commerces devraient privilégier les produits locaux, ils sont surchargés de produits américains
- yes...more of it for a more affordable price. WAYYYYYY more people would buy organic readily if it was affordable
- Glad to see this survey. Advertise mainstream may be positive
- Its important to remember that traditional growing techniques are often Organic, and it seems silly to charge indigenous producers a fee to validate and make western, white consumers feel safe consuming their goods. Perhaps a scholarship or partnership could be reached?
- A lot of people I know feel that Organic has been co-opted by "big ag" and that real organic producers, who are mostly smaller scale, cannot afford the cost or the time to do all the paperwork or recordkeeping to be certified organic. This is a commonly heard idea from farmers who believe in organic practices and the philosophy but do not (or no longer) certify their farms as organic. I am concerned with things like hydroponics labeled as organic, and buying them when I buy organic products from the U.S. at my local grocery store.
- They have been duped.
- Conventional production has no burden and organic producers are doing the right thing and yet bearing the burden. World is topsy turvy.

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- Certification is too expensive, difficult and time consuming for small and micro producers!
- we also want to protect the producers and growers and harvesters from contaminants
- As I encourage others to purchase organic products more and more I am hearing skepticism about the integrity of the Organic products. Organic fraud needs to be taken seriously and eliminated if people are to trust the integrity of organic products.
- I would buy 100% organic if it was available.
- I buy organic & it is my vote for local, sustainable, and ethically produced food. It makes me sad how we treat the people who come to our country to help us produce & harvest so poorly and yet our government fast tracks immigration for IT professionals.
- WE should have the same exposure as do DFO, Egg Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Pork
- Thank you for the hard work to make organic options available out there!
- More organic, plastic free packaging.
- Keep up the good work. I'd like to see the market demand more organic food. I'd like to see technology help farmers make a good living but keep organic food available to all. And there's always room for more education and tools and strategies to dispel misinformation.
- Just - keep doing what you're doing, it is vital to the survival of the planet!
- Dairy continues to be the biggest disappointment. I get organic cream (Farm Boy), milk, yogurt (both at Costco), buttermilk (farmers market) in Canada but buy my cheese and butter in the US. I cannot get prepackaged organic shredded cheese in Canada at all. The organic cheese & butter that is available here is wickedly overpriced. It is more than double the price in Canada for organic butter. So I shop in the US (pre-COVID). I stock up on butter and cheese within the duty limit every time I go across (and this \$20/pp limit is ridiculous too, BTW. I don't see how it protects Canadian farmers because I just choose not to buy at all instead of choosing to buy the double the price Canadian organic version). There are so many other organic products there that are just not available here, and they are so much more affordable (even with the exchange rate). Things like cream cheese, frozen vegetables, ice cream, deli meat, dry goods. I started eating an organic diet when I moved to the US in 2011 and continued when I moved back to Canada in 2013. It is much harder to do it here. There are a lot of things we regularly ate in the US that we just don't eat here because it is not available.
- Thank you.
- We don't eat meat
- More and more affordable

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- My choices when shopping for food are (1) organic (2) non-GMO project certified (3) local farmer/producer, and as a last resort, (4) conventional. During COVID, I have bought some conventional chicken and 100% Canadian Dairy butter & cheese because I have not been able to get across the border to stock up on more affordable organic dairy & cuts of organic chicken. However, once the border re-opens, I will go back to getting this stuff in Michigan or Buffalo and not buy conventional at all.
- I have eaten organically since about the mid '80's. The instigator was a health issue and I have never looked back. Never patronize fast food restaurants as I know how, especially chickens, are raised - factory farms are not conducive to good health.
- Everyone should be eating organic foods however it is not an affordable option for many consumers. Its far too expensive and what is ironic is the cost of production should be lower.
- Unfortunately it comes down to money and if buying a product organic is too expensive the. I have to buy non organic. Would like to see more affordable options in the future.
- Please advocate for more inclusion of Canadian organic in local stores. And maybe don't allow the symbol on processed foods with questionable ingredients.