

# ### Report to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: Organic Agriculture and Sustainable Practices in Canada

## #### Section 1: Overview of Current State and Government Initiatives

### \*\*Context:\*\*

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's administration has shown a commitment to environmental sustainability, which includes aspects of organic agriculture and sustainable farming practices.

### \*\*Recent Initiatives and Statements:\*\*

#### 1. \*\*Biodiversity and Protected Lands:\*\*

- Trudeau has emphasized the importance of protecting biodiversity and nature, with goals set for 25% protected lands and oceans by 2025 and 30% by 2030.  
- These targets, part of international commitments, highlight a focus on ecosystem services and diverse ecosystems, which align with the principles of organic farming.

#### 2. \*\*Organic Farming and Fertilizer Use:\*\*

- Trudeau's government is moving towards more organic farming practices as part of climate change mitigation efforts [oai\_citation:2,Prime Minister Trudeau takes questions at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's annual general meeting – RealAgriculture](<https://www.realagriculture.com/2023/03/prime-minister-trudeau-takes-questions-at-the-canadian-federation-of-agricultures-annual-general-meeting/>).  
- A plan to cut emissions from fertilizer by 30% by 2030 is in place, aiming to reduce nitrogen emissions and promote environmentally friendly farming [oai\_citation:3,Trudeau moving ahead to severely curtail use of fertilizer to address climate change with more organic farming - Must Read Alaska](<https://mustreadalaska.com/trudeau-moving-ahead-to-severely-curtail-use-of-fertilizer-to-address-climate-change-with-more-organic-farming/>).

#### 3. \*\*Government Support for Organic Farming:\*\*

- The Government of Canada, through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, has invested in initiatives like the Prairie Organic Development Fund to support organic farming practices [oai\_citation:4,Trudeau Spars With Farmers on Fertilizer & Climate Plan Risking Grain Output - Canadian Energy News, Top Headlines, Commentaries, Features & Events - EnergyNow](<https://energynow.ca/2022/07/trudeau-spars-with-farmers-on-climate-plan-risking-grain-output/>).  
- These initiatives provide farmers with tools, knowledge, and support to incorporate organic farming practices.

#### 4. \*\*Investments and Support During COVID-19:\*\*

- The government has announced significant investments to support farmers and food businesses during the pandemic, emphasizing the need for a safe and reliable food supply [oai\_citation:5,Government of Canada helps equip farmers with tools and knowledge to increase organic farming practices -

Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/12/government-of-canada-helps-equip-farmers-with-tools-and-knowledge-to-increase-organic-farming-practices.html>).

- This includes funding for emergency processing, adapting to health protocols, and supporting producers facing additional costs due to COVID-19.

#### **\*\*Implications for Organic Agriculture:\*\***

- The government's approach aligns with a global shift towards sustainable and environmentally conscious farming practices.
- The focus on reducing fertilizer emissions and protecting biodiversity suggests a favorable environment for the growth of organic agriculture in Canada.
- Investments in organic farming and support during challenging times indicate a commitment to the long-term viability of this sector.

#### **\*\*Challenges and Considerations:\*\***

- The transition to organic farming and reduced fertilizer use may pose challenges for traditional farming methods and food production scales.
- Balancing economic interests with environmental goals is crucial, especially in the context of global food supply and market demands.
- Engaging with farmers and stakeholders is essential to ensure smooth transitions and address concerns related to changing practices.

#### **\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

- The Canadian government, under Prime Minister Trudeau's leadership, is taking significant steps towards promoting organic agriculture as part of a broader environmental and sustainability agenda.
- Continued support, investments, and policy adjustments will be key in advancing these goals and ensuring the growth of the organic sector in Canada.

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#### **##### Section 2: Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) and Environmental Initiatives**

##### **\*\*Overview of Sustainable CAP:\*\***

- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) is a significant federal policy framework, set to take effect from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2028  
[oai\_citation:1, Government of Canada opens applications for federal programs under Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership - Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2023/03/government-of-canada-opens-applications-for-federal-programs-under-sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership.html>).
- It represents a \$3.5 billion investment by federal, provincial, and territorial governments, aimed at enhancing the competitiveness, innovation, and resilience of the agriculture, agri-food, and

agri-based products sector [oai\_citation:3,Governments Strengthening Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability - Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2023/07/governments-strengthening-agricultural-productivity-and-sustainability.html>).

**\*\*Key Objectives and Programs:\*\***

1. **\*\*Support for Science and Innovation:\*\***

- Sustainable CAP emphasizes strong support for science, research, and innovation, focusing on addressing sector challenges, seizing new opportunities, and opening new markets [oai\_citation:4,Governments Strengthening Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability - Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2023/07/governments-strengthening-agricultural-productivity-and-sustainability.html>).
- This approach aligns with the goal of enhancing the resiliency of the Canadian food system.

2. **\*\*Market Development and Trade Expansion:\*\***

- The partnership aims to expand markets for Canadian exports through global business development and trade promotion [oai\_citation:5,Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership - agriculture.canada.ca](<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership>).
- It seeks to increase exports to \$95 billion and overall industry sales to \$250 billion by 2028.

3. **\*\*Climate Change and Environmental Initiatives:\*\***

- A key component is addressing climate change and enhancing environmental resiliency, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 3 to 5 megatonnes [oai\_citation:6,Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership launches April 1, 2023 - Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2023/03/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership-launches-april-1-20230.html>).
- It includes the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program, a \$250 million cost-shared program to help producers conserve and enhance the resiliency of agricultural landscapes [oai\_citation:7,Governments Strengthening Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability - Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2023/07/governments-strengthening-agricultural-productivity-and-sustainability.html>).

4. **\*\*Diversity and Inclusivity in Agriculture:\*\***

- AgriDiversity Program focuses on helping underrepresented groups participate in the sector, fostering a more diverse and inclusive workforce [oai\_citation:8,Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership - agriculture.canada.ca](<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership>).
- This is integral to creating a dynamic, evolving sector that is reflective of Canada's diverse population.

**\*\*Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Commitments:\*\***

- Sustainable CAP aligns with the Department's commitments to support a healthier and more sustainable food system, as part of the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy [oai\_citation:9,Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership launches April 1, 2023 - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2023/03/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership-launches-april-1-20230.html).
- Initiatives such as the Agricultural Climate Solutions Program, including Living Labs and the On-Farm Climate Action Fund, and the Agricultural Clean Technology Program, are integral to these commitments [oai\_citation:10,Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership launches April 1, 2023 - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2023/03/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership-launches-april-1-20230.html).

**\*\*Impact on Organic Agriculture and Sustainability:\*\***

- The partnership provides a framework that supports the transition to more sustainable and organic agricultural practices.
- By focusing on innovation, market expansion, and climate change mitigation, it creates opportunities for organic agriculture to flourish within a more sustainable and resilient Canadian agricultural sector.

**\*\*Challenges and Future Directions:\*\***

- Implementing such comprehensive changes in agricultural practices and market approaches requires continuous engagement with farmers, industry stakeholders, and provincial and territorial governments.
- The success of Sustainable CAP will depend on effective collaboration across multiple sectors and levels of government, as well as the adaptability of farmers and the agricultural industry to evolving consumer demands and environmental needs.

**\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership marks a critical step in Canada's journey towards a more sustainable and resilient agricultural sector.
- Through its focus on science, innovation, environmental stewardship, and inclusivity, it lays the groundwork for a future where organic and sustainable agricultural practices are integral to Canada's food system.

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#### Section 3: Government Incentives and Support for Organic Farming in Canada

**\*\*Overview:\*\***

- The Government of Canada is actively supporting the organic industry and sustainable agricultural practices through various incentives and programs. These efforts are aimed at enhancing market opportunities, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and promoting environmental resilience.

**\*\*Key Initiatives and Funding:\*\***

**1. \*\*Support for Market Development of Organic Products:\*\***

- In 2022, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food announced funding of up to \$770,000 for the Canada Organic Trade Association (COTA) to support market development for organic products.
- This funding aims to create domestic and international export opportunities and promote the "Canada Organic" brand.

**2. \*\*On-Farm Climate Action Fund:\*\***

- The On-Farm Climate Action Fund aims to reduce GHG emissions by up to 2 million tonnes by 2024 through direct support to farmers [oai\_citation:2,Government of Canada supports expanded market opportunities for the organic industry - Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/03/government-of-canada-supports-expanded-market-opportunities-for-the-organic-industry.html>).
- The fund supports activities like cover cropping, nitrogen management, and rotational grazing.

**3. \*\*Organic Federation of Canada Collaboration:\*\***

- An investment of \$103,400 was made in the Organic Federation of Canada to promote sustainability and growth in Canada's organics industry [oai\_citation:3,Helping farmers to reduce GHGs and improve resiliency to climate change - Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/08/helping-farmers-to-reduce-ghgs-and-improve-resiliency-to-climate-change.html>).
- This project brings together key organizations supporting the organic industry to consolidate efforts and assist producers in transitioning to organic production.

**4. \*\*Investment in Sustainable Practices and Clean Technologies:\*\***

- The Government of Canada invested \$1.9 million in projects under the Agricultural Clean Technology (ACT) Program to encourage the development and adoption of clean technologies [oai\_citation:4,Government of Canada supports collaboration to promote sustainability and growth for Canada's organics industry - Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/03/government-of-canada-supports-collaboration-to-promote-sustainability-and-growth-for-canadas-organics-industry.html>).
- Additional funding was allocated to organizations like the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association and ECOCERT Canada to support sustainable farming practices.

**5. \*\*2030 Emissions Reduction Plan and Agricultural Climate Solutions:\*\***

- Over \$1 billion in new funding was committed to accelerate the agriculture sector's progress on reducing emissions and remaining a global leader in sustainable agriculture [oai\_citation:5,Government of Canada supports collaboration to promote sustainability and growth for Canada's organics industry - Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/03/government-of-canada-supports-collaboration-to-promote-sustainability-and-growth-for-canadas-organics-industry.html>).

a-supports-collaboration-to-promote-sustainability-and-growth-for-canadas-organics-industry.html).

- The initiatives are part of Canada's broader commitment to net-zero emissions by 2050 and include the Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) program.

#### **\*\*Impact on Organic Farming:\*\***

- These initiatives and funding reinforce the Canadian government's commitment to supporting the organic sector and sustainable agricultural practices.
- By focusing on market development, climate action, and technology adoption, the government is facilitating the growth of a more competitive and environmentally responsible agricultural sector.

#### **\*\*Challenges and Future Directions:\*\***

- Continued support and expansion of such initiatives are essential to maintain the momentum in the organic sector.
- Collaboration between government, industry, and agricultural stakeholders is crucial for the successful implementation and uptake of these programs.
- Monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of these initiatives will be vital to ensure they meet their intended goals and adapt to evolving needs.

#### **\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

- The Government of Canada's commitment to organic farming and sustainable agricultural practices is evident through substantial investments and support programs.
- These initiatives not only enhance the competitiveness of the organic sector but also contribute to Canada's environmental goals and commitments on a global stage.

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### **#### Section 4: Challenges and Opportunities in Organic Farming and Sustainability**

#### **\*\*Challenges Facing Organic Farming and Sustainability in Canada:\*\***

##### **1. \*\*Scaling Production:\*\***

- Expanding organic production to meet growing consumer demand while maintaining the integrity and standards of organic farming.
- Balancing increased production with environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation.

##### **2. \*\*Market Development and Access:\*\***

- Developing broader markets for organic products, both domestically and internationally.
- Ensuring fair market access for small and medium-sized organic farmers amidst competition from larger agricultural enterprises.

##### **3. \*\*Climate Change and Environmental Impact:\*\***

- Adapting to the challenges posed by climate change, including extreme weather events and shifting growing seasons.
- Implementing practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon sequestration, without compromising farm productivity.

#### 4. **Regulatory and Certification Challenges:**

- Navigating complex certification processes and standards for organic products.
- Ensuring consistency in organic standards across different regions and markets.

#### 5. **Financial and Technical Support:**

- Providing adequate financial support and incentives for farmers transitioning to organic and sustainable practices.
- Ensuring access to technical assistance, knowledge, and best practices for organic farming.

### **Opportunities for Growth and Innovation:**

#### 1. **Technological Advancements:**

- Leveraging technology in organic farming to increase efficiency, productivity, and sustainability.
- Innovations in areas such as precision agriculture, biotechnology, and renewable energy use in farming practices.

#### 2. **Consumer Awareness and Demand:**

- Capitalizing on the growing consumer awareness and demand for organic and sustainably produced food.
- Engaging with consumers through education and transparency about the benefits of organic farming.

#### 3. **Government Support and Policy Development:**

- Utilizing government support and incentives to foster the growth of the organic sector.
- Developing policies that encourage sustainable agricultural practices and address climate change impacts.

#### 4. **Collaboration and Research:**

- Encouraging collaboration between government, academia, and industry to conduct research in organic farming.
- Focusing on research to improve organic farming techniques, pest control, and soil health management.

#### 5. **Global Leadership in Sustainable Agriculture:**

- Positioning Canada as a global leader in sustainable and organic agriculture.
- Exporting Canadian expertise, technology, and organic products to international markets.

### **Conclusion:**

- Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities in organic farming and sustainability will require coordinated efforts across multiple sectors.
- With the right support, policies, and innovation, Canada has the potential to significantly advance its organic agriculture sector and contribute to global sustainability and food security goals.

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#### Report to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: Organic Agriculture and Sustainable Practices in Canada

## ##### Section 5: Policy Recommendations and Strategic Direction

### **\*\*Policy Recommendations:\*\***

#### 1. **\*\*Enhanced Support for Organic Transition:\*\***

- Develop targeted programs to assist farmers in transitioning to organic farming, including financial subsidies, technical training, and access to organic farming experts.
- Implement policies that simplify and standardize organic certification processes across regions.

#### 2. **\*\*Research and Development Investment:\*\***

- Increase funding for research in organic agriculture, focusing on sustainable farming practices, soil health, pest management, and climate resilience.

- Encourage public-private partnerships to foster innovation in organic farming technologies and practices.

3. **Market Expansion and Export Promotion:**

- Strengthen marketing strategies to promote Canadian organic products domestically and internationally.
- Facilitate access to new markets for organic farmers and build global partnerships to enhance Canada's presence in the international organic market.

4. **Climate Change Mitigation Strategies:**

- Integrate organic farming into national climate change strategies, recognizing its role in carbon sequestration and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provide incentives for practices that contribute to environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

5. **Education and Awareness Campaigns:**

- Launch national campaigns to raise public awareness about the benefits of organic products and sustainable farming practices.
- Collaborate with educational institutions to incorporate organic agriculture into curricula and promote agricultural careers.

**Strategic Direction:**

1. **Building a Resilient Organic Sector:**

- Foster a resilient organic sector capable of withstanding economic, environmental, and climatic challenges.
- Encourage diversification in organic farming to include a variety of crops and livestock, enhancing food security.

2. **Sustainable Agricultural Infrastructure:**

- Invest in infrastructure that supports organic farming, including processing facilities, distribution networks, and technological advancements.
- Develop sustainable supply chains that reduce waste and promote efficient use of resources.

3. **Collaborative Approach:**

- Encourage collaboration among farmers, researchers, government, and industry stakeholders to share knowledge and best practices in organic farming.
- Engage with indigenous communities and small-scale farmers to ensure inclusive growth and knowledge exchange.

4. **Policy Alignment and Coherence:**

- Ensure alignment of agricultural policies with environmental, health, and economic policies to create a coherent strategy for sustainable development.

-Adopt an interdepartmental approach to policy-making, ensuring that the objectives of sustainable and organic agriculture are integrated into broader economic, health, and environmental strategies.

5. **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:**

- Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the impact of policies and programs on the organic sector.
- Use data-driven approaches to continuously improve and adapt policies to meet the evolving needs of the organic industry.

6. **International Collaboration and Leadership:**

- Actively participate in international forums to share best practices, learn from global experiences, and advocate for sustainable agricultural practices.
- Leverage Canada's reputation in sustainable agriculture to influence global standards and promote Canadian organic products.

7. **Support for Youth and New Farmers:**

- Develop initiatives to attract and retain young and new farmers in the organic sector, including mentorship programs, start-up grants, and educational resources.
- Encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in organic farming among the younger generation.

**Conclusion:**

- Through these strategic policy recommendations, Canada can solidify its position as a leader in organic agriculture and sustainable farming practices.
- These efforts will contribute to environmental stewardship, economic growth, and the health and wellbeing of Canadians, positioning Canada as a model for sustainable agricultural practices on the global stage.

### Report to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: Organic Agriculture and Sustainable Practices in Canada

#### Section 6: Implementation and Future Outlook

**Implementation Strategies:**

1. **Stakeholder Engagement:**

- Involve key stakeholders, including farmers, industry groups, researchers, and NGOs, in the implementation process to ensure policies are practical and effective.
- Establish regular consultation platforms to gather feedback and adapt strategies accordingly.

2. **Interdepartmental Coordination:**

- Facilitate coordination between various government departments and agencies to streamline efforts and resources for promoting organic agriculture.

- Ensure that initiatives in agriculture, environment, trade, and health are mutually reinforcing and aligned with sustainable development goals.

3. **Funding and Resource Allocation:**

- Allocate adequate funding for the implementation of organic farming programs and initiatives, ensuring they are accessible to all farmers, including small-scale and indigenous farmers.
- Provide financial incentives for farmers who adopt organic and sustainable practices.

4. **Capacity Building and Training:**

- Develop and deliver comprehensive training programs for farmers and agricultural workers in organic farming techniques and sustainable practices.
- Enhance extension services to provide ongoing support and guidance to farmers.

5. **Research and Innovation Support:**

- Invest in research initiatives that address the specific needs of the organic sector, including pest management, soil health, and climate resilience.
- Promote the development and adoption of innovative technologies that enhance efficiency and sustainability in organic farming.

**Future Outlook:**

1. **Sustainable Development Goals Alignment:**

- Align organic farming initiatives with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to climate action, life on land, and responsible consumption and production.
- Measure progress towards these goals as a metric of success for organic farming policies.

2. **Adaptation to Climate Change:**

- Prepare the organic farming sector to adapt to the impacts of climate change, focusing on resilience and the ability to respond to environmental shifts.
- Integrate climate change mitigation strategies within organic farming practices.

3. **Global Leadership in Organic Agriculture:**

- Position Canada as a leader in organic agriculture on the international stage, showcasing successful practices and innovations.
- Engage in international collaborations and partnerships to promote global sustainability in agriculture.

4. **Continuous Improvement and Innovation:**

- Foster a culture of continuous improvement, innovation, and adaptability within the organic sector.
- Encourage ongoing research and the adoption of best practices to evolve with changing environmental, economic, and social landscapes.

5. **Long-term Vision for Organic Agriculture:**

- Develop a long-term strategic vision for organic agriculture in Canada that encompasses economic viability, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility.
- Ensure that organic farming is an integral part of Canada's future food security and environmental conservation efforts.

**\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

- Effective implementation of the strategies outlined in this report is crucial for the success and growth of organic agriculture in Canada.
- With a forward-looking approach, strong stakeholder engagement, and continuous innovation, Canada can achieve a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future in organic agriculture.

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#### Section 7: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Continuous Improvement

**\*\*Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:\*\***

1. **\*\*Establishment of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):\*\***

- Develop and implement KPIs to measure the effectiveness of policies and initiatives related to organic farming and sustainability.
- Include metrics such as the increase in organic farmland area, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and economic growth in the organic sector.

2. **\*\*Regular Reporting and Assessment:\*\***

- Conduct annual or biennial assessments to evaluate the progress and impact of organic farming initiatives.
- Utilize data collected to produce comprehensive reports that are accessible to policymakers, stakeholders, and the public.

3. **\*\*Feedback Mechanisms:\*\***

- Implement feedback mechanisms to gather insights from farmers, consumers, and industry experts about the effectiveness of organic farming programs.
- Use this feedback to make informed adjustments and improvements to policies and initiatives.

**\*\*Continuous Improvement Strategies:\*\***

1. **\*\*Adaptive Policy Framework:\*\***

- Ensure that organic farming policies are flexible and adaptable to changing environmental, market, and technological conditions.
- Regularly update policies and programs in response to emerging challenges and opportunities.

2. **\*\*Innovation and Research Focus:\*\***

- Continuously invest in research and development to drive innovation in organic farming methods and technologies.
- Encourage partnerships between government, academic institutions, and the private sector for collaborative research projects.

### 3. **\*\*Stakeholder Capacity Building:\*\***

- Strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders involved in organic farming through ongoing training, education, and support programs.
- Focus on building a skilled workforce equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary for sustainable organic farming.

### 4. **\*\*Public Awareness and Education:\*\***

- Conduct public awareness campaigns to educate consumers about the benefits of organic products and sustainable farming practices.
- Engage with schools and educational institutions to incorporate organic agriculture into curricula.

## **\*\*Future Outlook and Long-Term Strategies:\*\***

### 1. **\*\*Integration with National and Global Goals:\*\***

- Align organic farming strategies with national environmental and agricultural policies, as well as global sustainability goals.
- Position Canada as a leader in organic agriculture and sustainability on the global stage.

### 2. **\*\*Sustainability and Climate Resilience:\*\***

- Emphasize the role of organic farming in building a sustainable food system that is resilient to climate change.
- Promote practices that enhance biodiversity, soil health, and water conservation.

### 3. **\*\*Economic Development and Market Growth:\*\***

- Encourage the growth and development of the organic market, both domestically and internationally.
- Support the economic viability of organic farming, ensuring it is a competitive and profitable option for farmers.

### 4. **\*\*Technological Advancement and Digital Transformation:\*\***

- Leverage technology and digital tools to enhance efficiency, traceability, and sustainability in organic farming.
- Promote the use of precision agriculture, sustainable technologies, and innovative practices in the organic sector.

### 5. **\*\*Building Community and Collaborative Networks:\*\***

- Foster a strong community of organic farmers, consumers, and advocates to share knowledge and best practices.

- Develop collaborative networks and partnerships that bring together various stakeholders in the organic industry.

**\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

- Monitoring, evaluation, and continuous improvement are essential for the success and sustainability of organic farming initiatives in Canada.
- Through a dynamic and responsive approach, Canada can ensure that its organic agriculture sector remains robust, sustainable, and capable of contributing significantly to national and global environmental, economic, and social goals.

**### Report to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: Organic Agriculture and Sustainable Practices in Canada**

**#### Section 8: Summary and Final Recommendations**

**\*\*Executive Summary:\*\***

- This report has explored the current state, challenges, opportunities, policy recommendations, implementation strategies, and monitoring frameworks for organic agriculture and sustainable practices in Canada.
- It highlights the significant potential of organic farming to contribute to environmental sustainability, economic growth, and social well-being.

**\*\*Key Findings:\*\***

**1. \*\*Growing Demand for Organic Products:\*\***

- There is an increasing consumer demand for organic products, driven by health, environmental, and quality concerns.

**2. \*\*Environmental Benefits:\*\***

- Organic farming offers considerable environmental benefits, including enhanced biodiversity, soil health, and reduced chemical use.

**3. \*\*Economic Opportunities:\*\***

- The organic sector presents substantial economic opportunities for farmers and contributes to the growth of the Canadian economy.

**\*\*Final Recommendations:\*\***

**1. \*\*Strengthen Support for Organic Transition:\*\***

- Increase funding and support for farmers transitioning to organic farming, including subsidies and technical assistance.

**2. \*\*Enhance Research and Innovation:\*\***

- Invest in research focusing on organic farming practices, sustainable technologies, and climate resilience.

**3. \*\*Expand Market Access and Development:\*\***

- Develop strategies to expand domestic and international markets for Canadian organic products.

**4. \*\*Integrate Climate Action with Organic Farming:\*\***

- Incorporate organic farming into national climate strategies, recognizing its role in carbon sequestration and emissions reduction.

5. **Foster Education and Public Awareness:**

- Implement national campaigns to raise awareness about organic products and promote organic farming in educational curricula.

6. **Promote Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement:**

- Encourage collaborative efforts among government, industry, academia, and farming communities for the advancement of organic agriculture.

7. **Ensure Policy Coherence and Alignment:**

- Align organic agriculture policies with broader environmental, health, and economic goals.

8. **Implement Robust Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- Establish a comprehensive framework for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of organic farming policies and initiatives.

**Future Outlook:**

- The organic sector in Canada is poised for significant growth and can play a crucial role in achieving environmental, economic, and social objectives.

- With continued support, investment, and strategic planning, Canada can become a global leader in organic agriculture and sustainable farming practices.

**Conclusion:**

- This report underscores the importance of organic agriculture in Canada's future, providing a roadmap for enhancing the sector's contribution to sustainable development.

- It calls for concerted efforts from various stakeholders to realize the full potential of organic farming in Canada, aligning with national and global sustainability goals.

**Annex 1: Detailed Data and Statistics on Organic Farming in Canada (2024)**

1. **Overview of Organic Farming in Canada:**

- As of 2021, Canada had approximately 7,300 organic operations.
- The Canadian organic food market was valued at over \$6 billion in 2021.
- Canada accounts for around 4% of the global annual organic food revenues.
- In 2019, only 2% of agricultural land in Canada was used for organic farming, with the highest proportion (35%) in Saskatchewan.

2. **Production and Export Statistics:**

- Organic farming statistics in Canada include production of crops, animal products, and agricultural products.

- Only 1% of all food exports from Canada were organic foods in 2019.

- Almost half of the organic food imports to Canada come from the United States.

[oai\_citation:3,Organic Food Statistics in Canada for 2024 | Made in CA](<https://madeinca.ca/organic-food-statistics-canada/>).

3. **Consumer Trends and Preferences:**

- There is a growing consumer demand for organic products in Canada, driven by health and environmental considerations.

- 74% of Albertans regularly buy organic food, compared to 66% nationally.
- Younger Canadians are more willing to pay more for organic and GMO-free food.
- Only 24% of Canadians check the food label to see if the product is organic.
- Approximately 80% of Canadians who buy organic food purchase organic fruits and vegetables.

#### 4. **\*\*Standards and Certification:\*\***

- The Canadian Organic Standards have been effective since June 20, 2009.
- Organic food in Canada must be produced using systems that replenish and maintain soil fertility, without using toxic and synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
- The Canada Organic logo signifies that food products meet the Canadian Organic Standards and are at least 95% organic.

#### 5. **\*\*Environmental Impact:\*\***

- Organic farming in Canada encourages practices that reduce negative effects on the environment and increase biodiversity.
- Key elements of organic farming include crop rotation, composting, using beneficial insects for pest control, and utilizing green manures to add organic matter and nitrogen to the soil.
- The standards for organic farming also apply to handling, preparing, packaging, and transporting organic foods, ensuring minimal environmental impact throughout the supply chain.

#### 6. **\*\*Land Use and Geographic Distribution:\*\***

- The area of land used for organic agriculture in Canada has shown an increasing trend in recent years.
- As of 2021, the area of organic agricultural land amounted to around 1.22 million hectares.
- Organic farms are distributed across every province in Canada, with a significant concentration in Western Canada, especially in Saskatchewan. [oai\_citation:8,Canadian Shoe and Boot Brands | Made in CA](<https://madeinca.ca/category/clothes/footwear/>).

#### 7. **\*\*Market Growth and Development:\*\***

- The Canadian organic sector is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the country.
- The growth in global and Canadian markets for organic products continues to outpace the supply, indicating a significant potential for expansion.
- The demand for organics in Canada is increasing at a rate of 8.7% annually.

#### **\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

- The statistics and data presented in this annex provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of organic farming in Canada as of 2024.
- They highlight the sector's growth potential, consumer trends, land use, and the importance of organic standards in ensuring sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.
- This information is crucial for policymakers, stakeholders, and industry participants in understanding and further developing the organic sector in Canada.

# ### Report to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: Organic Agriculture and Sustainable Practices in Canada

## #### Annex 2: Case Studies and Success Stories

### \*\*Case Study 1: Prairie Organic Development Fund (PODF) - Saskatchewan\*\*

- Description: An investment of \$297,330 was made in PODF to enable farmers to adopt best practices in organic farming production.
- Outcome: The fund provides farmers with tools and support to incorporate organic farming practices, improving soil health and boosting farm resilience. This initiative helps meet the growing demand for organic foods in Canada [oai\_citation:1,Organic Agriculture in Canada]([https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en\\_CA/ResearchPublications/202007E](https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en_CA/ResearchPublications/202007E)).

### \*\*Case Study 2: Diverse Organic Farm Profiles - Canada Wide\*\*

- Description: The profile of organic farms in Canada shows a diversity in terms of gender and age of operators, indicating a dynamic and evolving sector.
- Outcome: Compared to conventional farms, there were proportionately fewer organic farms run exclusively by men and more by both men and women, with a greater involvement of younger operators. This diversity may be attributed to the newness of organic agriculture in Canada and its empowerment potential, especially for women.

### \*\*Case Study 3: Expanding Organic Vegetable Farming - Various Locations\*\*

- Description: A study conducted on organic vegetable farmers across Canada, focusing on different weed management strategies and their ecological impacts.
- Outcome: The study provided insights into innovative organic farming techniques, highlighting the success of farmers specializing in various organic management approaches [oai\_citation:3,Government of Canada helps equip farmers with tools and knowledge to increase organic farming practices - Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/12/government-of-canada-helps-equip-farmers-with-tools-and-knowledge-to-increase-organic-farming-practices.html>).

### \*\*Case Study 4: Transitioning to Organic Farming - Nationwide Analysis\*\*

- Description: A comprehensive study commissioned by Canadian Organic Growers, analyzing the risks and costs of transitioning to organic crop and livestock production.
- Outcome: The study identified key risks and barriers facing transitioning farmers, offering recommendations for overcoming these challenges and strengthening Canada's organic sector. It highlighted the importance of support for transitioning, clarity on inputs, and the value of learning from successful cases [oai\_citation:4,To each their own: case studies of four successful, small-scale organic vegetable farmers with distinct weed management strategies | Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems | Cambridge Core](<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/renewable-agriculture-and-food-systems/article/abs/to-each-their-own-case-studies-of-four-successful-small-scale-organic-vegetable-farmers-with-distinct-weed-management-strategies/1BF4883C5A7BEEE138912A491577BE1D>).

## **\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

These case studies demonstrate the significant progress and innovation within Canada's organic farming sector. They highlight the importance of government support, the diversity and dynamism of the organic farming community, and the benefits of adopting organic practices. These successes provide valuable lessons and inspiration for further development of organic agriculture in Canada.

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## #### Annex 3: International Comparisons and Lessons Learned

### **\*\*Comparative Analysis of Organic Agriculture:\*\***

#### **- \*\*Canada's Position in Global Organic Agriculture:\*\***

- In 2018, Canada ranked 11th in the world in terms of organic acreage, behind countries like Germany and France, but ahead of Brazil, Russia, and Mexico.
- Canada was the sixth largest importer and seventh largest exporter of organic commodities in 2018.
- Canada's organic sector has seen strong growth, with organic exports increasing by 256% between 2008 and 2012, coinciding with the introduction of federal regulations and an equivalency agreement with the United States. [oai\_citation:2,The World of Organic Agriculture 2021 | FAO](<https://www.fao.org/family-farming/detail/en/c/1378841/>).

#### **- \*\*Regional Variations in Organic Farming in Canada:\*\***

- In 2016, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia accounted for 62% of all organic farms in Canada.
- The percentage of organic farms varied by province, with Quebec having 4.4% and British Columbia 3.1% of farms in organic production.
- Such regional variations may be influenced by specific regulations, legislation, or programs supporting organic production in these provinces.

#### **- \*\*International Benchmarking:\*\***

- Compared to other developed nations, Canada's total farmland used for organic agriculture is relatively low, with only 2% of its land used for this type of agriculture. This is in contrast to Austria (24.6%) and Sweden (19.8%).
- Canada leads in the proportion of farms reporting organic production compared to the United States, but still lags behind Japan [oai\_citation:4,Organic Agriculture in Canada]([https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en\\_CA/ResearchPublications/202007E](https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en_CA/ResearchPublications/202007E)).

#### **- \*\*Global Organic Market Trends:\*\***

- The global sales of organic food and drink reached more than 106 billion euros in 2019.
- Organic agriculture is practiced in 187 countries, with 72.3 million hectares of agricultural land managed organically by at least 3.1 million farmers.

- The international demand for organic products is enormous, with the United States and Canadian organic markets accounting for half of the world's organic consumption [oai\_citation:6,Comparing Canada's agriculture with other developed nations: Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States](<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/96-325-x/2021001/article/00012-eng.htm>) [oai\_citation:7,The World of Organic Agriculture 2021 | FAO](<https://www.fao.org/family-farming/detail/en/c/1378841/>).

- **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- Canada faces challenges in production capacity, regulatory criteria, and pesticide contamination issues, particularly for exports to the EU.
- Opportunities lie in expanding organic production to meet domestic and international demand, and in harmonizing federal and provincial organic regulations [oai\_citation:8,The World of Organic Agriculture 2021 | FAO](<https://www.fao.org/family-farming/detail/en/c/1378841/>).

**Lessons for Canada:**

- **Enhancing Organic Production and Land Use:**

- Canada can learn from countries with higher percentages of organic farmland, like Austria and Sweden, to increase its organic agriculture footprint.

- **Unified Regulatory Framework:**

- Adopting a unified regulatory framework, similar to the U.S., could streamline organic standards across provinces, aiding both domestic and international trade.

- **Targeted Support and Incentives:**

- Implementing targeted support and incentives for organic farming, as seen in some countries, could encourage more farmers to transition to organic practices.

- **Addressing Import and Export Challenges:**

- Strengthening mechanisms to prevent fraudulent imports and addressing pesticide contamination issues can enhance the integrity of Canadian organic exports.

- **Capitalizing on Growing Demand:**

- Canada should capitalize on the growing domestic and international demand for organics, particularly in categories where demand outpaces supply.

**Conclusion:**

- The international perspective on organic agriculture offers valuable insights for Canada to enhance its organic sector. Embracing best practices from leading organic farming nations and addressing current challenges can position Canada as a key player in the global organic market.

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#### Annex 4: List of Stakeholders and Contributors

This annex provides a comprehensive list of stakeholders involved in the organic sector in Canada, including national organizations, industry associations, research institutions, and government agencies. These stakeholders play a crucial role in supporting, regulating, and advocating for organic farming and sustainability practices across the country.

**\*\*National Organizations and Industry Associations:\*\***

1. **\*\*Organic Federation of Canada (OFC):\*\*** Focuses on standards maintenance, scientific research, and the administration of organic agriculture in Canada.
2. **\*\*Canadian Organic Growers (COG):\*\*** Concentrates on education for consumers and producers, promoting organic farming and sustainable practices.
3. **\*\*Canada Organic Trade Association (COTA):\*\*** Supports market development and promotes the organic sector, both domestically and internationally.
4. **\*\*Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC):\*\*** Engaged in research and dissemination of knowledge related to organic farming.

**\*\*Government Agencies and Programs:\*\***

1. **\*\*Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC):\*\*** Plays a significant role in funding and policy development for organic farming and sustainability initiatives [oai\_citation:1,Organic Production in Canada Archives - Organic Federation of Canada](<https://organicfederation.ca/resource/organic-production-in-canada/>).
2. **\*\*Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP):\*\*** A government program providing financial support for the organic sector's development and competitiveness [oai\_citation:2,Organic Production in Canada Archives - Organic Federation of Canada](<https://organicfederation.ca/resource/organic-production-in-canada/>).

**\*\*Provincial Organizations:\*\***

- Various provincial organizations across Canada play a role in supporting organic farming locally, contributing to regional development and addressing specific local needs.

**\*\*Contributors to Organic Sector Development:\*\***

- **\*\*Researchers and Scientists:\*\*** Contributing to the advancement of organic farming practices through scientific research and innovation.
- **\*\*Farmers and Producers:\*\*** At the forefront of implementing organic practices and contributing to the growth of the sector.
- **\*\*Consumers and Advocates:\*\*** Playing a key role in driving demand for organic products and advocating for sustainable practices.

**\*\*Collaborative Efforts and Initiatives:\*\***

- Collaborations among these stakeholders are essential for the growth and sustainability of the organic sector. This includes efforts to develop coordinated governance structures and funding models to deliver services supporting the industry's growth. [oai\_citation:4,Organic Production in Canada Archives - Organic Federation of Canada](<https://organicfederation.ca/resource/organic-production-in-canada/>)

[oai\_citation:5,Government of Canada supports collaboration to promote sustainability and growth for Canada's organics industry - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/03/government-of-canada-supports-collaboration-to-promote-sustainability-and-growth-for-canadas-organics-industry.html).

**\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

- The stakeholders listed in this annex represent a diverse and dynamic community working towards the advancement of organic farming in Canada. Their collective efforts contribute significantly to the sector's growth, sustainability, and resilience.

#### Report to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: Organic Agriculture and Sustainable Practices in Canada

##### Annex 5: Summary of Public Consultations on Organic Farming in Canada

**\*\*Overview:\*\***

- The Canadian government has conducted various consultations and engaged with stakeholders to develop and refine policies and strategies related to organic farming and sustainable agriculture. These consultations have provided valuable insights and perspectives from a wide range of participants, including producers, industry representatives, non-governmental organizations, and the general public.

**\*\*Key Findings from Public Consultations:\*\***

1. **\*\*Sustainable Agriculture Strategy Development:\*\***

- A wide range of stakeholders, including the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and various sector representatives, were consulted to develop a Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (SAS).  
- The strategy aims to support farmers' livelihoods, foster a sustainable sector, and address issues such as soil health, climate adaptation, water management, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity.

2. **\*\*Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change:\*\***

- Stakeholders identified the environment as a major challenge and emphasized the need for sectoral approaches and innovation in addressing environmental sustainability.  
- Participants called for involving producers and processors in developing new environmental initiatives and defining sustainability in the sector [oai\_citation:2,The Food Policy for Canada - agriculture.canada.ca](https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/food-policy/food-policy-canada).

3. **\*\*Markets and Trade:\*\***

- Market development was identified as a key priority, with a focus on developing markets for agricultural commodities and value-added products.  
- Participants emphasized the importance of maintaining Canada's reputation for high-quality food in both domestic and international markets [oai\_citation:3,The Food Policy for Canada -

agriculture.canada.ca](https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/food-policy/food-policy-canada).

4. **Value-Added and Food Processing:**

- There was a strong interest in accelerating value-added production in Canada, recognizing the opportunities for expanding export markets and reducing dependency on importing processed products [oai\_citation:4,The Food Policy for Canada - agriculture.canada.ca](https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/food-policy/food-policy-canada).

5. **Food Supply Chain:**

- The pandemic highlighted issues within the food supply chain and the need for enhanced support at various levels, including abattoirs, food processing, and regional infrastructure [oai\_citation:5,The Food Policy for Canada - agriculture.canada.ca](https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/food-policy/food-policy-canada).

6. **Science and Innovation:**

- Continued emphasis on research and innovation was recommended to maintain productivity and competitiveness.
- Participants noted the importance of technology adoption and accessibility, as well as developing rural infrastructure to support the sector [oai\_citation:6,The Food Policy for Canada - agriculture.canada.ca](https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/food-policy/food-policy-canada).

7. **Regulations:**

- Concerns were raised about ensuring regulations evolve with advancements in markets, science, and environmental practices.
- There was a call for more support to help small farms and organizations adapt to new regulations [oai\_citation:7,The Food Policy for Canada - agriculture.canada.ca](https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/food-policy/food-policy-canada).

8. **Labour:**

- Labour shortages were a prominent concern, with suggestions for promoting agricultural careers to youth, new entrants, and under-represented groups, and increasing succession planning [oai\_citation:8,The Food Policy for Canada - agriculture.canada.ca](https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/food-policy/food-policy-canada).

9. **Diversity:**

- Increasing access for women, youth, and under-represented groups to land and farming supports was emphasized.

- Calls for skills training, agricultural advisory services, and partnerships between Indigenous communities and educational institutions were highlighted [oai\_citation:9,The Food Policy for Canada - agriculture.canada.ca](https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/food-policy/food-policy-canada).

#### 10. **Public Trust, Awareness, and Collaboration:**

- Securing public trust in the agriculture and agri-food sector was viewed as critical.
- Participants suggested more collaboration across the economy and between government and industry to improve public awareness about the agriculture sector, dispelling myths and highlighting environmental actions [oai\_citation:10,The Food Policy for Canada - agriculture.canada.ca](https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/food-policy/food-policy-canada).

#### **Conclusion:**

- The public consultations on organic farming and sustainable agriculture in Canada reveal a broad consensus on the importance of environmental sustainability, market development, innovation, and regulatory adaptation.
- These consultations have helped shape policies and strategies, ensuring they are responsive to the needs and challenges of the organic farming sector and align with broader sustainability goals.

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#### Annex 6: Details of Current and Proposed Policies and Programs Supporting Organic Farming in Canada

##### **1. Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP)**

- **Objective:** To help the agricultural sector adapt and remain competitive.
- **Funding:** \$50.3 million over five years.
- **Details:** Supports the organic sector, particularly in areas of innovation, market expansion, and sustainable practices. [oai\_citation:2,Governments Strengthening Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2023/07/governments-strengthening-agricultural-productivity-and-sustainability.html).

##### **2. Prairie Organic Development Fund (PODF)**

- **Objective:** Equip farmers with tools and knowledge for organic farming best practices.
- **Funding:** Up to \$297,330.
- **Details:** The fund supports organic farming practices, helps meet the demand for organic foods, and raises awareness about the benefits of organic farming [oai\_citation:3,Government

of Canada supports collaboration to promote sustainability and growth for Canada's organics industry -

Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/03/government-of-canada-supports-collaboration-to-promote-sustainability-and-growth-for-canadas-organics-industry.html>).

### **\*\*3. Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP)\*\***

- **\*\*Objective:\*\*** Strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of the agricultural sector.

- **\*\*Funding:\*\*** \$3.5 billion over five years.

- **\*\*Details:\*\*** A federal-provincial-territorial initiative focusing on enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability, including organic farming [oai\_citation:4,Supporting the Growth of Canada's Organic Sector -

Canada.ca]([https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2018/01/supporting\\_the\\_growth\\_of\\_canadas\\_organic\\_sector.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2018/01/supporting_the_growth_of_canadas_organic_sector.html)).

### **\*\*4. Canadian Organic Standards Review\*\***

- **\*\*Objective:\*\*** Ensure organic production methodologies reflect current practices and technological advancements.

- **\*\*Funding:\*\*** Up to \$250,000 for the review.

- **\*\*Details:\*\*** Regularly update the Canadian Organic Standards to maintain international recognition and facilitate trade [oai\_citation:5,Government of Canada helps equip farmers with tools and knowledge to increase organic farming practices -

Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/12/government-of-canada-helps-equip-farmers-with-tools-and-knowledge-to-increase-organic-farming-practices.html>).

### **\*\*5. Canadian Organic Growers (COG) Strategy Development\*\***

- **\*\*Objective:\*\*** Address organic supply chain barriers and meet domestic demands.

- **\*\*Funding:\*\*** Over \$640,000.

- **\*\*Details:\*\*** Developing a strategy to help Canadian organic producers meet increasing consumer demand for locally produced organic food [oai\_citation:6,Governments Strengthening Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability -

Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2023/07/governments-strengthening-agricultural-productivity-and-sustainability.html>).

### **\*\*6. On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring (ONFARM) Program\*\***

- **\*\*Objective:\*\*** Help farmers understand and communicate best on-farm practices to address and improve soil health and water quality.

- **\*\*Funding:\*\*** Additional \$7 million over five years.

- **\*\*Details:\*\*** A continuation of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, ONFARM program assists farmers in adopting sustainable practices and technologies [oai\_citation:7,Supporting the Growth of Canada's Organic Sector -

Canada.ca]([https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2018/01/supporting\\_the\\_growth\\_of\\_canadas\\_organic\\_sector.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2018/01/supporting_the_growth_of_canadas_organic_sector.html)).

**\*\*7. Organic Federation of Canada (OFC) Collaboration Project\*\***

- **\*\*Objective:\*\*** Promote sustainability and growth for Canada's organics industry.
- **\*\*Funding:\*\*** Up to \$103,400.
- **\*\*Details:\*\*** This project consolidates efforts of key national organizations in the organic sector, including OFC, COG, and COTA, to strengthen the industry and assist producers in transitioning to organic production.

**\*\*8. Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) Program\*\***

- **\*\*Objective:\*\*** Create a Canada-wide network of collaborations to engage in co-development, evaluation, and adoption of beneficial management practices to store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **\*\*Details:\*\*** Part of the government's commitment to sustainability and mitigating climate change, focusing on nitrogen management, cover cropping, and rotational grazing [oai\_citation:9,Government of Canada supports collaboration to promote sustainability and growth for Canada's organics industry - Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/03/government-of-canada-supports-collaboration-to-promote-sustainability-and-growth-for-canadas-organics-industry.html>).

**\*\*9. Agricultural Clean Technology Program\*\***

- **\*\*Objective:\*\*** Support the adoption and development of cleaner, more energy-efficient equipment in the agriculture and agri-food sector.
- **\*\*Details:\*\*** Part of a broader effort to enhance sustainability in Canadian agriculture, including organic farming [oai\_citation:10,Government of Canada supports collaboration to promote sustainability and growth for Canada's organics industry - Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/03/government-of-canada-supports-collaboration-to-promote-sustainability-and-growth-for-canadas-organics-industry.html>).

**\*\*10. User-Friendly Guide to Canadian Organic Standards\*\***

- **\*\*Objective:\*\*** Provide a clear understanding of requirements to become a certified organic producer in Canada.
- **\*\*Funding:\*\*** \$72,500.
- **\*\*Details:\*\*** Developed by the Canadian Organic Growers, this guide aims to facilitate the certification process for new and existing organic producers [oai\_citation:11,Government of Canada helps equip farmers with tools and knowledge to increase organic farming practices - Canada.ca](<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/12/government-of-canada-helps-equip-farmers-with-tools-and-knowledge-to-increase-organic-farming-practices.html>).

**\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

These policies and programs demonstrate Canada's commitment to supporting and expanding its organic farming sector. Through financial support, knowledge transfer, and collaborative efforts, the government aims to enhance the sustainability, productivity, and competitiveness of Canadian organic agriculture, both domestically and internationally.

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#### ##### Annex 7: Research and Innovation in Organic Farming

This annex provides an overview of ongoing and future research projects in organic farming in Canada, focusing on sustainable practices, climate resilience, and technological innovations.

##### **\*\*Highlighted Research Projects and Areas:\*\***

##### **1. \*\*Organic Science Cluster II (OSCI) Initiative:\*\***

- Led by the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada at Dalhousie University in collaboration with the Organic Federation of Canada.
- Focuses on competitiveness, market growth, adaptability, and sustainability in organic agriculture.
- Includes research themes in field crops, horticultural crops, crop pests, livestock, and value-adding processes.
- Examples of innovation include crop breeding, reduced tillage systems, biological soil amendments, and pest management in organic farming [oai\_citation:1,Snippets - Organic Federation of Canada](<https://organicfederation.ca/resource/organic-science-canada-spring-2022/snippets/>).

##### **2. \*\*Indigenous-led Agricultural Research:\*\***

- A project led by Bharat Shrestha, along with a team of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada scientists, focuses on the impact of different compost amendments on heirloom fava beans and oats.
- This research is indigenous-led, incorporating traditional knowledge and modern scientific methods.
- The project aims to scientifically describe the farming system's impact on soil structure, soil life, and crop yields [oai\_citation:2,Research projects - agriculture.canada.ca](<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/science/research-projects>).

##### **3. \*\*Cranberry and Blueberry Byproducts in Organic Feed:\*\***

- Research by Dr. Moussa Diarra, working with AAFC Pacific Agri-Food Research in Guelph, explores using organic blueberry and cranberry pomaces as feed additives for organic broiler chickens.
- This research aims to improve chicken gut health and boost immune systems against pathogenic infections, enhancing productivity and public health benefits [oai\_citation:3,Research projects - agriculture.canada.ca](<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/science/research-projects>).

##### **4. \*\*Organic Agriculture in the Prairie Climate:\*\***

- Dr. Myriam Fernandez's research at the Swift Current Research and Development Centre focuses on developing new practices to improve agriculture, including organic farming.

- Projects include biological control for crop diseases, diversified cropping systems, and biopesticides.
- The research contributes to more resilient and sustainable cropping systems in challenging environmental conditions [oai\_citation:4,2021 Canadian Organic Research Priorities by OrganicScienceCanada - Issuu]([https://issuu.com/organicsciencecanada/docs/2021\\_canadian\\_organic\\_research\\_priorities\\_final](https://issuu.com/organicsciencecanada/docs/2021_canadian_organic_research_priorities_final)).

#### 5. **Impact Analysis of Organic Science Cluster Research:**

- An evaluation of the impact of scientific research in the organic sector, assessing its economic, social, and environmental benefits.
- This process involves consultations with researchers and end users of research outputs to measure the real-world impact of organic agriculture research [oai\_citation:5,Organic Science Clusters - Organic Federation of Canada](<https://organicfederation.ca/organic-science-clusters/>).

#### **Conclusion:**

- These research initiatives highlight Canada's commitment to advancing organic agriculture through scientific innovation and collaboration.
- The integration of traditional knowledge, modern science, and practical applications in these projects is crucial for the sustainable growth and resilience of Canada's organic sector.

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#### #### Annex 8: Educational Resources and Training Materials for Organic Farming in Canada

This annex provides a comprehensive list of educational resources and training materials available in Canada for organic farming. These resources cater to various stakeholders, including farmers, students, and anyone interested in learning about organic agriculture.

#### **Educational Institutions and Programs:**

##### 1. **Dalhousie University - Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada:**

- Offers online undergraduate level courses leading to a Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture.
- Lists Canadian universities and colleges with organic courses or programs.
- Provides technical training opportunities and student, job, and apprenticeship opportunities.

##### 2. **Canadian Organic Growers (COG):**

- Sustainable Farming Certificate at Everdale Farm, Hillsburgh, ON.
- Sustainable Agriculture Co-op Program at Fleming College, Peterborough, ON.
- Sustainable Local Food online certificate program at St. Lawrence College, Cornwall, ON, among others [oai\_citation:2,Education in Organic Agriculture - Organic Agriculture Centre of

Canada - Dalhousie University](<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/oacc/en-home/education.html>).

3. **Gaia College:**

- Offers various online and classroom programs, including Diploma in Organic Land Care and Organic Horticulture Specialist courses [oai\_citation:3,Where to Get an Organic Education in Canada? - Canadian Organic Growers](<https://cog.ca/blog/get-organic-education-canada/>).

4. **Kwantlen Polytechnic University:**

- Offers a 10-month training program in small-scale sustainable agriculture through its Richmond Farm School [oai\_citation:4,Where to Get an Organic Education in Canada? - Canadian Organic Growers](<https://cog.ca/blog/get-organic-education-canada/>).

5. **University of British Columbia:**

- Provides an eight-month Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture for aspiring farmers, urban gardeners, and students interested in sustainable agriculture and food systems [oai\_citation:5,Where to Get an Organic Education in Canada? - Canadian Organic Growers](<https://cog.ca/blog/get-organic-education-canada/>).

6. **Langara College:**

- Offers programs and certificates in organic and sustainable agriculture, including Organic Landscape Management and Permaculture Design [oai\_citation:6,Where to Get an Organic Education in Canada? - Canadian Organic Growers](<https://cog.ca/blog/get-organic-education-canada/>).

7. **Seneca College:**

- Offers continuing education courses in Organic Land Care Accreditation in partnership with Gaia College [oai\_citation:7,Where to Get an Organic Education in Canada? - Canadian Organic Growers](<https://cog.ca/blog/get-organic-education-canada/>).

8

. **Humber College:**

- Provides online courses including Organic Horticulture Specialist, in partnership with Gaia College [oai\_citation:8,Where to Get an Organic Education in Canada? - Canadian Organic Growers](<https://cog.ca/blog/get-organic-education-canada/>).

9. **Burnaby Community and Continuing Education:**

- Offers the Organic Master Gardener Certificate program [oai\_citation:9,Where to Get an Organic Education in Canada? - Canadian Organic Growers](<https://cog.ca/blog/get-organic-education-canada/>).

10. **Royal Roads University:**

- Offers courses in partnership with Gaia College, including Organic Master Gardener and Organic Horticulture Specialist [oai\_citation:10,Where to Get an Organic Education in Canada? - Canadian Organic Growers](<https://cog.ca/blog/get-organic-education-canada/>).

#### 11. **\*\*Stony Plain Multicultural Heritage Centre, Alberta:\*\***

- Offers the Organic Master Gardener course in conjunction with Gaia College [oai\_citation:11,Where to Get an Organic Education in Canada? - Canadian Organic Growers](<https://cog.ca/blog/get-organic-education-canada/>).

#### 12. **\*\*Landscape Ontario:\*\***

- Provides an Organic Land Care Accreditation course in partnership with Gaia College [oai\_citation:12,Where to Get an Organic Education in Canada? - Canadian Organic Growers](<https://cog.ca/blog/get-organic-education-canada/>).

#### **\*\*Government-Supported Initiatives:\*\***

- The Government of Canada, through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, has made investments to enhance organic farming practices and knowledge across the country, including:
  - Investment for the Prairie Organic Development Fund to enable farmers to adopt best practices in organic farming production.
  - Business extension tools and skills development through conferences, webinars, podcasts, and online agronomic tools [oai\_citation:13,Technical Training Opportunities in Organic Agriculture - Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada - Dalhousie University](<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/oacc/en-home/education/technical-training.html>).

#### **\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

- These educational resources and training opportunities play a crucial role in equipping current and aspiring organic farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills.
- They contribute to the growth and development of the organic sector in Canada, supporting sustainable agricultural practices and encouraging innovation.

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#### ##### Annex 9: Glossary of Terms

This annex provides a glossary of key terms and concepts related to organic farming and sustainable agricultural practices. These terms have been selected from FAO and international documents and publications on organic agriculture, as well as from expert meetings discussing related issues.

#### **\*\*Highlights of the Glossary:\*\***

- The glossary is comprehensive, covering 401 concepts with synonyms, variants, definitions, remarks, and context where appropriate.

- The concepts included are directly related to organic agriculture and cover various subdomains such as certification, standards, accreditation, biodiversity, ecology, land use, and production.
- Bibliographic references for both the concepts and their definitions are included, promoting a common language and standardized technical terminology.

**\*\*Purpose:\*\***

- This glossary aims to facilitate multilingual communication and documentation in organic agriculture.
- It supports FAO's objective to enhance food security, rural livelihoods, economic resilience, and environmental integrity by building capacities in organic production, processing, certification, and marketing.

**\*\*Availability:\*\***

- The FAO Glossary on Organic Agriculture is available in multiple languages including English, French, Spanish, Arabic, and Chinese.
- It can be accessed online for detailed reference and further study.

**\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

- This glossary is a valuable resource for policymakers, stakeholders, and anyone interested in the specifics of organic farming and sustainable agricultural practices. It contributes to a better understanding and clearer communication within the field of organic agriculture both in Canada and internationally.

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##### Annex 10: Bibliography and References

1. **\*\*Organic Agriculture in Canada: An Overview (PRB 00-29E)\*\***

- Author(s): Parliamentary Information and Research Service, Library of Parliament, Canada
- Source: [Publications.gc.ca](https://publications.gc.ca)
- Summary: Provides an overview of organic farming in Canada, including the prohibition against genetically modified organisms, requirements for animal production, and the evolution of organic farming trends in Canada [oai\_citation:1,Organic Agriculture in Canada](https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en\_CA/ResearchPublications/202007E).

2. **\*\*Organic Agriculture | The Canadian Encyclopedia\*\***

- Author(s): Susan Lowndes
- Source: [The Canadian Encyclopedia](https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/organic-agriculture)
- Summary: A comprehensive article detailing the history, developments, challenges, and production methods of organic farming in Canada [oai\_citation:2,Organic Farming in Canada: An Overview (PRB 00-29E)](https://publications.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/BP/prb0029-e.htm).

3. **\*\*Organic Farming in Canada: Data, Trends, and Regulatory Framework\*\***

- Author(s): Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and Canadian Organic Trade Association

- Source: [LOP.PARL.CA](https://lop.parl.ca)

- Summary: Discusses the number of organic farms and processors in Canada, regional variations, international comparisons, and the Canadian regulatory framework for organic agriculture.

4. **\*\*Organic Sector Survey 2021 - Organic Federation of Canada\*\***

- Organization: Organic Federation of Canada

- Source: [OrganicFederation.ca](https://organicfederation.ca)

- Summary: A survey assessing the needs of the organic sector in Canada, focusing on market access, research, organic standards, consumer preferences, certification, and equity.

5. **\*\*Government of Canada Supports Collaboration to Promote Sustainability and Growth for Canada's Organics Industry\*\***

- Source: [Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca)

- Summary: Highlights the Canadian government's investment in promoting sustainability and growth in the organic sector, and details the collaboration between key organizations like OFC, COG, and COTA [oai\_citation:5, Organic Production in Canada Archives - Organic Federation of Canada](https://organicfederation.ca/resource/organic-production-in-canada/).

6. **\*\*Home | Canada Organic Trade Association\*\***

- Organization: Canada Organic Trade Association

- Source: [Canada-Organic.ca](https://canada-organic.ca)

- Summary: Provides information about the Canada Organic Trade Association's mission, vision, work areas, advocacy, market access opportunities, and consumer education initiatives [oai\_citation:6, Government of Canada supports collaboration to promote sustainability and growth for Canada's organics industry - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/03/government-of-canada-supports-collaboration-to-promote-sustainability-and-growth-for-canadas-organics-industry.html).

**\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

These references provide a comprehensive overview of the organic farming sector in Canada, covering aspects such as history, regulations, market trends, and current challenges. They serve as essential resources for understanding the organic agriculture landscape in Canada and informing policy development and program implementation.