



# Organic: Innovators in Sustainability

U.N. FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT



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## U.S. ORGANIC

### What is it?

- Built on principles of sustainability and health
- No toxic synthetic pesticides or fertilizers
- No GMOs
- No antibiotics, artificial ingredients, preservatives, or irradiation
- Regulated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)





## SUSTAINABILITY

### Benefits of Organic

- Protects pollinators
- Supports biodiversity
- Builds soil health
- Preserves water quality
- Mitigates greenhouse gas emissions



## ORGANIC FARMS

### Implementing Conservation

- Environmental practices support long-term economic stability
- Techniques can be adopted across farming systems
- Many organic solutions to agronomic challenges are cost-effective



## ECONOMY of ORGANIC

Translating sustainability into economic gains

- Organic premiums increase farmer income
- Adds a monetary value to preserving the environment
- Supports rural areas and small farmers



## CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT

### Consumers supporting sustainable practices

- Consumers are interested in supporting sustainable agriculture
- The organic seal provides a method for consumers to engage in environmentally friendly ag practices
- Consumer support is crucial for the success of sustainable agriculture



## NOVEL RESEARCH Organic Innovations

- Researchers must think outside of the box
- Organic research findings can be used by all of agriculture
- Findings from organic research are being incorporated into conventional protocols
  - Cover crops
  - Crop rotations
  - IPM
  - Soil health



## LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

### Incorporating conventional into whole-systems approaches

- Sustainability practices can be found in many farming systems
- Some may be difficult to implement on organic farms
- Research is finding ways to incorporate these benefits into organic protocols
- E.g. Advances in organic no-till farming





## RESEARCH NEEDS

### The path toward sustainability

- Yield maximization
- Varietal development
- Integrated pest and weed management
- Nutrient regulation
- Tools for farmers



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