WINTER 2021

# CULTIVATED

THE NORTH AMERICAN ORGANIC ACRICULTURE QUARTERLY



# CULTIVATED

THE NORTH AMERICAN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE QUARTERLY

# Building consensus on the future of organic agriculture.

We have much to do.

With the goal of moving organic agriculture from a niche into an accepted set of solutions to build sustainability into our food system, the task of bringing organic agriculture into the mainstream is full of challenges.

# As a philosophy, Organic 3.0 has pretty lofty goals.

The development of Organic 3.0 is driven by innovation, transparency and inclusion. It strives to be outcome-based and continuously adaptive for improvement for the transformation of farming systems into higher levels of resilience, sustainability and systemic health.

It encourages best practices and constant improvement, embracing new solutions and philosophies into a culture of innovation and progress.

And that is a rather big job.

In practice, the goals of Organic 3.0 are difficult to achieve.

Any one of these might require a lifetime of work:

- Building community-based agriculture into a profitable model, with CSA programs that offer farmers a decent living.
- Balancing how industrialization desires commodification, and how nature wants diversity and differentiation.
- Wrestling with how to produce bespoke agriculture at prêt-a-porter prices.
- Developing a regenerative economy that embraces true value accounting, and empowers farmers to be full partners in the food production system.
- Encouraging community-owned and managed agricultural land trusts who view organic as an integral part the local community.
- Developing a system of international farm-to-farmer contacts, like the **WeShare** webinar we initiated this December, to help facilitate more equitable, high-integrity relationships between farmers around the world.
- Encouraging social equity and inclusiveness to include

mitigating systemic racial bias, as IFOAM North America board member Jennifer Taylor elequently submitted to the US National Organic Standards Board, found on page 22. Our movement cannot make claims of sustainability without demanding full opportunity and support for marginalized communities of black, indigenous and people of color.

### **Building Consensus**

There will always be divergent views on what Organic 3.0 looks like, and building consensus on this in our community is vital. For a demonstration of how that process may proceed, please read through our feature article on Regenerative Organic. We hope to continue to offer a safe space where leading organic advocates can share their unique perspective on this growing agricultural standard.

As a 'big tent', IFOAM has members in all sectors of the organic economy, and this publication will continue to actively engage in facilitating the diverse opinions that our members hold dear.

At the heart of the matter, we're all supporting the stewardship of our lands and healthy soil management, and I've observed that sharing our differences will lead to healthy change.

# The future offers more challenges, not less.

Influenced by the effects of climate change, how do we construct the paths for mitigating the problems we all face with drought, wildfires, hurricanes and flooding now on a dangerous rise?

Protecting our planet's biodiversity requires not only increasing habitat for wildlife, pollinators and beneficial insects, but demands investing in the long term diversity of the soil itself.

### Cultivated Quarterly has a big vision.

Cultivated strives to put Organic 3.0 into practice, representing

the unique voices of the entire organic community, inclusive of organic food distributors, brokers, consultants, brands and retailers—not just farmers.

We engage in a cultivated, consensus-building forum that encourages the critical conversations we need for building understanding and empathy into our food production systems.

Cultivated stands at ground zero in North America in this task. Let's build the foundations of an agricultural system that offers guidance and mentorship to the new agrarians who will follow us. If we are to move forward and deal with tomorrow's issues, we must facilitate their development.

Your support of IFOAM North America and our work here at *Cultivated Quarterly* 

### **EDITOR'S CORNER**

makes a valuable contribution to the organic community.



We deeply appreciate your support and welcome your sponsorship of this venture in the future.

As always, I encourage you to send me your thoughts, critical and supportive, directly to my personal email: misterorganic@hotmail.com

Thank You!

— Ken McCormick



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



year, we look forward to a healthier and happier time. Spring is coming and a new season ahead gives us hope for rebirth and a chance for a fresh start. Our current issue of Cultivated brings us stories of transformation and growth. One is an article sharing the different perspectives on regenerative organic agriculture. While the word has been used to describe various farming systems since the 1980s, regenerative practices have taken on a renewed interest as a possible approach to adapt to and mitigate climate change. At its best, regenerative organic agriculture can be a path to continuous improvement through the adoption of best practices.

At worst, the word regenerative can become co-opted and used as a form of greenwash-

As we welcome in the new

ing to undermine the gains made by organic agriculture.

Farmers around the world shared their experiences in a webinar conducted by IFOAM North America and the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farming Organizations. In this issue, we recap the We-Share webinar and highlight the outcomes.

Finally, Organic 3.0 offers a new direction for organic agriculture. I invite members of the organic community to engage in a discussion of what kind of future we want for organic agriculture and how we can make organic the mainstream.

Wishing everybody the best for the 2021 Growing Season!







### Members, Associates and Supporters:

Accredited Certifiers Association

Acme Agriculture & Food

Agrisystems International

Alliance for Organic Integrity Arnd Zschocke

Bai-Si USA Brian Baker

Canada Organic Trade

Association

Canadian Organic Growers Certified Naturally Grown

Certified Organic Association

of British Columbia Compass Natural LLC

Coop Coffees

Coop Solidarite du Cafe

Equitable
Dag Falck
Denis La France

Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps

Dr. Dilip Nandwani Dr. Girish Panicker Driscoll Strawberry Associates, Inc

East Milling International - Quality Organic Food and

Agriculture Ecocert Canada Ecocert ICO

Environmental Care &

Share, Inc. Eptimizo

Frederick Ehlert Frey Vineyards

General Mills, Inc.

Global Organic Alliance

Global Seed Savers

Harriet Behar

Independent Organic Services, Inc

International Certification

Services

International Organic Inspectors Association

Jennifer Taylor

Kamut International

Linley Dixon

Maracuja Solutions (Lisa Spicka)

Margaret C. Merrill Margaret Scoles

Mary Barbercheck Melody Meyer

Mercola

Michigan Organic Food and

Farm Alliance

Midwest Organic Services

Association

National Organic Coalition Nature's International Certi-

fication Services, LLC

Northeast Organic Farming Association Interstate Council Nurture Growth Bio

Fertilizer Inc.

Oregon Tilth Certified

Organic

Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada, Dalhousie

University

Organic Connections

Organic Consumers

Association

Organic Crop Improvement

Association

Organic Materials Review

Institute

Organic Seed Alliance

Organic Trade Association Organic United Nations Friendship Association

Pennsylvania Certified

Organic

Real Organic Project

Regeneration International

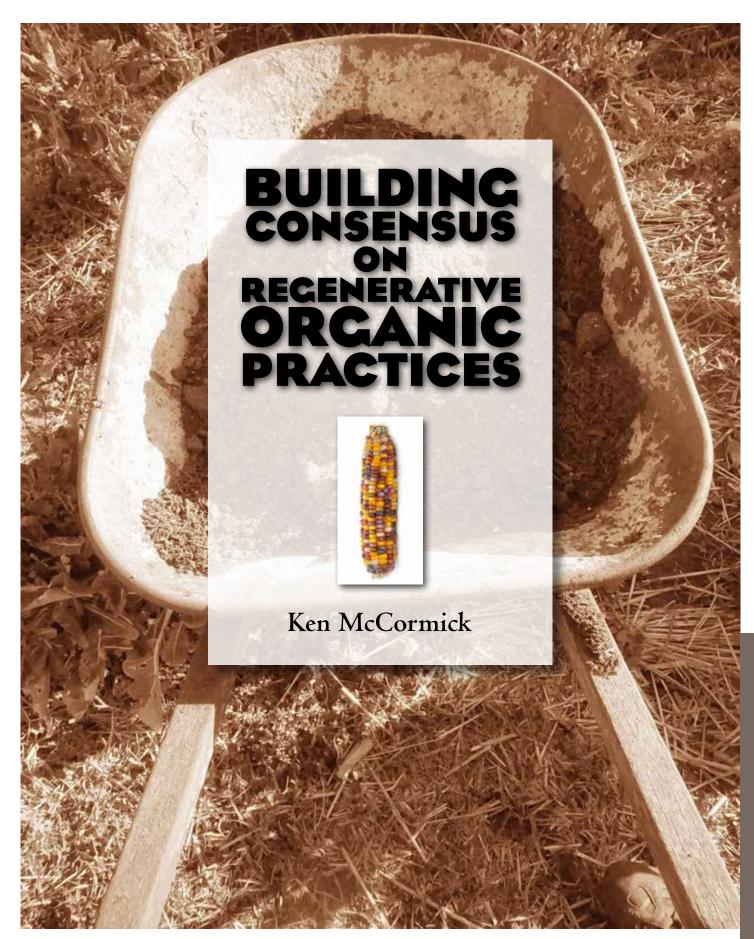
Rodale Institute Textile Exchange The Brice Institute Vikrant Giri

Westbridge Agricultural

Products '

Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates

Cultivated Quarterly is published by IFOAM North America as a service to its members. The IFOAM North America board includes: Brian Baker, Jennifer Taylor, Margaret Scoles, Shannon Jones, Steve Walker, Marla Carlson, and Allison Squires. Copyright 2021. All rights reserved. IFOAM North America, P.O. Box 12256, Eugene OR. All editorial photography not directly credited was produced by Ken McCormick. Please contact us if you'd like to reproduce any of our material, we will generally give permission if you offer us credit for our work. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors, and are not necessarily shared by IFOAM North America or IFOAM Organics International.





# A CONVERSATION ON REGENERATIVE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE BETWEEN SOME OF ITS LEADING ADVOCATES

Conventional agriculture is staking its claim on regenerative production practices. As part of the discussion of Organic 3.0, what can the organic community agree upon, and what do we need to address in defining the scope of regenerative organic agriculture?



### **Our Goals**

Jeff Moyer: We need radical change and a shift towards the goal of regeneration. The word regenerative is being co-opted by many, and we must define the word ourselves. Saying it is regenerative doesn't make it so.

Rodale Institute lays claim to that space. It's our word, and it needs to be packaged with the word organic.

Climate change and soil health is where regenerative starts, but there is so much more. We speak of regenerative organic impacting the climate, however our program has focused on much more than carbon. We want to move the conversation in a positive direction, and we need to get the message out.

Regenerative Organic Certification supports and builds on organic standards, and there are more components that we can add to it. ROC adheres to the

USDA standard, but we add to it.

The ROC Standards build on best practices. ROC then adds in three additional pillars; soil health, animal welfare and social justice, since to be fully regenerative we need to improve the health of our soils, consider the welfare of the animals we use in the systems and protect the rights of farm workers. For example, ROC does not allow hydroponic systems, since there is no soil, or CAFOs.

ROC is a showcase for the quality of your soil and rewards farmers for constant improvement, best practices, and our regenerative standard is firmly based on science.

Farmers themselves pick the practices that work for their operations, adding practices to their operations as they move forward with continuous improvement. You can engage in

A farm is not just a food factory,

ROC transition, whole or in part.

This is a new service. Right now, our challenge is a lack of ROC product in the marketplace as demand is already greater than the supply.

Dag Falck: Organic agriculture with its focus on farmer health, soil health, and biodiversity, and a track record of capturing more carbon than any other system of agriculture, offers humanity a path to reducing carbon in our atmosphere back to preindustrial levels, if there is a significant uptake of organic practices in all agriculture. We need to have a goal to reach

more than 50% adoption in the short term. Some non-organic regenerative programs focus on measuring carbon capture in order to justify the use of the term, but this is too easily gamed because there are so many environmental factors which come into play that building a consistent measuring matrix will not be very accurate and can easily be manipulated. This will make a mockery of the efforts to address climate change.

### Partnership

Jeff: We're looking to build a partnership of government, NGOs and industry with our

program. We are certifiers, but are not here to break the bond with other certifiers.

We have partnership with other certifiers, and ROC Certification will grow over time. We promise to do all we can to facilitate this.

We're not lobbying USDA, but we are talking directly to consumers via brands. Brands are important members of the program, helping to fill consumer demand. Rodale has a megaphone, and the brands can amplify that message.

### **Media Response**

Jeff: Early in the debate, the



Jeff Moyer CEO of The Rodale Institute, Berks County Pennsylvania, founding the Regenerative Organic Certification program.



Dag Falck Organic Programs Manager at Nature's Path Organic Foods, Richmond, BC Canada.



Jean-Paul Courtens
founder and former
owner of Roxbury Farm,
and the founder and
owner of Philia Farm in
Johnstown NY.



Doug Crabtree and
Anna Jones-Crabtree
Steward Farmers of
9,600 acre Vilicus
Farms in Havre,
Montana

mainstream media contacted us. Since the election, the transition team has talked with us, and we're looking for a seat at the table with the new administration.

We're also having talks with the governments of Australia and New Zealand. There's lots of interest in China and India. Lots of interest and dialog with our friends in the EU, particularly Austria. We have inquiries from South America, Eastern Europe and Brazil for grains. Some even want to leapfrog to ROC over organic.

We've received a good response, particularly in grains production. The wine industry is very interested, along with coffee and beef. There's no ROC dairy operation yet, but we do hope to have beef and poultry in process.

### On Tillage

Jeff: We define Best Regenerative Practices as a set of positive outcomes where: A. Tillage is reduced, B. Cover cropping is encouraged, and C. There are not mandates, just choices.

The days of heavy iron are numbered. We recognize that disruption from tillage is natural, and if we help it along with livestock and cover cropping, it becomes much less of an issue. We support no-till, zone-tillage and strip-tillage.

We have to manage weeds, and

there will be compromises. ROC has 3 levels with tillage as one option. We encourage practices from our list. Improvements are the goal to Gold.

**Dag:** As there are regional differences, so must regenerating practices also differ by region. Standards should not be custom built for the conditions in only one region.

Cover crops cover soils with living plants. Green manures are grown for the purpose of feeding the soil biology and are typically tilled into the soil. Organic farmers grow green manure crops between cash crops. This is done either a) in the growing season, b) if there is not enough season available due to cold temperatures, the full next season may be used for the green manure, or c) or it may be inter-seeded with the crop and turned under through tillage after the termination of the cash crop.

Tillage should be understood for the role that it plays, and for what it can accomplish. To hold no-till as the ultimate goal for regenerative organic farming is an oversimplification of the issue and will do disservice to the aim of sequestering carbon. Careful dialog and much more research on ways that tillage can be used to benefit carbon capture should be undertaken.

Largely missing from the regenerative conversations is the effects and benefits of cycles of disturbance and recovery, like those seen in nature through events like pruning from storms, regrowth after fires, or nutrient sediments after floods. A disturbance event with appropriate conditions for recovery builds a stronger ecology, just like a body building program rips tissue through resistance exercises, allowing stronger muscle development after a recovery period. So instead of fearing the disturbance of tillage, we need to learn to think of it as an opportunity for resilience building in the recovery process. Through carefully understanding the difference between acute and chronic disturbances, farmers can benefit their land by utilizing the energizing effects of acute disturbances and an appropriately planned recovery process. This is essentially what organic farmers do when terminating a green manure crop through tillage: it disturbs the soil biota, and it allows it to recover and thrive through the addition of plentiful feeding of the decomposing green matter. The organic farmer's job is essentially to understand the balance of natural soil and not place obstructions in the way of it unfolding, all the while working to allow the best conditions to evolve for

the life cycle of the life in the soil.

The question is not how to eliminate tillage, but rather the question is how to use tillage to enhance soil health and thereby address climate change.

### **Jean-Paul Stewart-Courtens:**

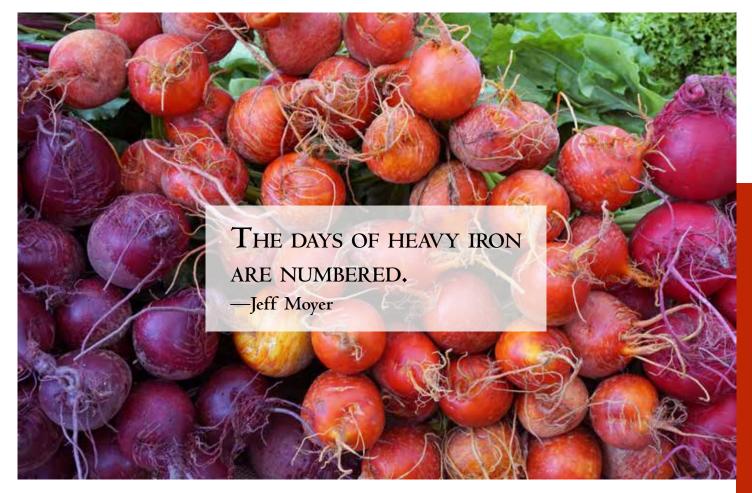
I started off as a traditional European using a moldboard plow. I quickly realized that this can have terrible consequences due to the adverse weather conditions we have in the Northeast. I've experienced a sort of evolution of learning to grow vegetables under extreme weather events, and a lot of it came down to improving soil health and changing my tillage practices.

In the biodynamic community there is sometimes a love relation-ship with tillage, but it depends on what tillage and the equally important, when and how. We need to find alternative methods of working the land if we want to survive as a species.

For example, what I've found is that even though we apply frequent tillage in our vegetable system, we were able to double the organic matter in IO-I2 years. We started out with about I.8%, and despite a

lot of tillage, it hit a ceiling of about 3.5%.

Doug Crabtree: Why should we want to practice no-till in the first place? We need to stop apologizing for tillage, because in my experience, not only is tillage not necessarily damaging, but necessary to build the soil. Nature didn't make soil without disturbance, and we can't either. Tillage is how we practice disturbance in an annual cropping scenario, and if we're going to grow annual crops, we need that. The tillage itself is not destructive. Tillage done wrong can be just like any other practice: it can be



done wrong and be made destructive. But that's where the farmer comes in. Tillage is the true art of farming: When, Where, How. What depth to employ. Tillage is an art not a science, and that's why it has to be site-specific.

To say no-till is a *gold standard*, and if you use any tillage you can't achieve it, that's wrong. Tilling is not (necessarily) damaging and eliminating tillage does NOT make a system more regenerative. In most instances, eliminating tillage requires reliance on poisons. That's certainly not regenerative.

Anna Jones-Crabtree: Tillage is a part of a whole system, it's not just a yes or no practice. It's a dialog about when and how disturbance is needed and useful. What you are giving and what you are taking? Conventional agriculture is a recipe-based system. We run the risk of organic becoming similar.

Doug: One of the dangers of organic no-till is that it implies that we are doing something damaging, and that there is a trade-off. On our farm, we avoid tillage when it is unnecessary, such as direct seeding green manure crops into stubble. But, in most cases, appropriate tillage is very beneficial to the soil and the crop. You cannot park the plow without being willing to substitute

the sprayer.

I believe that tillage has a beneficial role and all evidence I've seen supports that. The only systems that have maintained and built soil over the long term are the ones that have a diverse rotation, incorporate livestock manure and feature tillage. None of those who have used no-till have built any soil. It's about the diversity and what you add. You cannot build by what you don't do. The tillage is about how you introduce the food to the microbial life.

### **On Animals**

Jeff: The animal component is not required under ROC, but it makes weed control much easier. It's not mandatory, but we suggest it as a Best Practice. Rotating animals on land helps the process. We do it on our own Rodale Farms. Every farmer will tell you that weed management is ridiculously simple with an animal component.

Doug: Integrating livestock into our cropping system is another way to enhance diversity. Our next step is to add multiple species, bringing in more diversity. Cattle can 'plow down' green manure crops. Grazing is also a disturbance and can be very detrimental, if not managed appropriately. We are supporting a young person to launch

his own grazing enterprise integrated into our cropping system, thus adding additional capacity to manage the added diversity in the system.

Jean-Paul: From a biodynamic perspective, whereby the farm is considered a self-contained individuality, I have struggled with reducing the inputs that come from outside the farm as the production of our own manure was never sufficient. I've always had cattle, but the market of vegetables was always greater than the market for beef or lamb.

Dag: Returning carbon material to the soil always has a positive effect. Livestock automatically does this when kept on the land, as everything they consume— whether it's from farm-grown feed or imported— their manure is left on the land.

In traditional cash-crop farming, a crop is harvested and removed from the soil, often draining the carbon in the soil. The important thing is to return carbon to keep the balance. This can be done with animal manures or it can be done with returning crop residues and green manures. Both are driven by the engine of photo-synthesis.

Another benefit of ruminant manure is the biology it adds to the soil, becoming a constant beneficial biological inoculant. This also can be accomplished in other ways, including through compost, compost teas, and seed coatings. It's a farmer's choice, whether farming with livestock or not, but in either case the farm can be successful in capturing carbon and building soil health.

### **Economics**

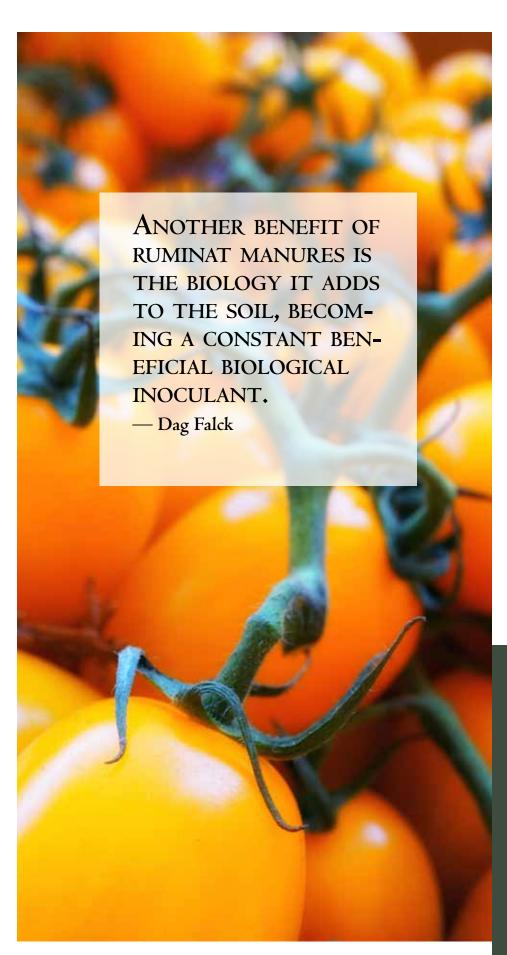
**Jeff:** Economics is not just the dollar basis of farming.

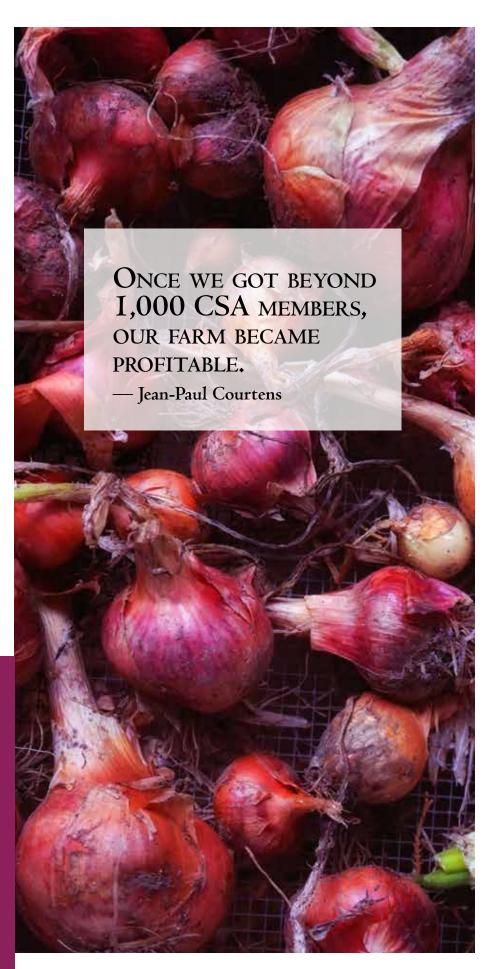
Doug: If there is to be a meaningful regenerative standard, it should encompass the relationships along the value chain. All we see are top-down standards to be imposed on the farm, with no commitment of any kind from processing, manufacturing or consumers, and that's what needs the most change.

If we're going to change agriculture, we have to change how our relationships are managed. We must have more than the transactional nature we are in now. The lack of recognition from the value chain to create a regenerative economy is missing from this discussion.

Anna: Let's talk about: Whose bottom line? There are a lot of systemic pressures and operating norms that drive our agricultural and food system.

Unfortunately Regeneration currently is only defined in relation to the (farm) production system. The hidden notion is





that if the collective 'we' fundamentally fix the farmer's relationship to the soil, then 'we've' fixed the system and everybody else in the supply chain can operate business-as-usual. Yes, if farmers shift to a lower-input system their profit & loss statement may be marginally better. But they are still trying to carve out a living in a system that pays them last. Everyone else in the supply chain, other than the farmer, has a regular paycheck.

As an example, Regenerative standards ask of us: Are you paying your staff a fair/minimum wage? If farmers are to be required to pay a fair wage, their buyers must first be required to pay a fair price for the crops and/or livestock products produced on the land; landowners must accept a fair rent for the land; and seed, fuel, machinery and parts suppliers must accept a fair price for their inputs into the farm. Until all of these factors are in harmony, priced as a portion of each year's actual production, and long-term farm viability is the central goal vs. just another marketing strategy, there can be no true regeneration. Soil organic matter cannot be built on quarterly profit reporting cycles. In an era of climate change, building soil organic matter can be even more challenging.

**Doug:** A regenerative system would include a 1% tax on food to pay for certification, which is

really a consumer protection system.

**Anna:** What is the responsibility of the regenerative certifying organizations to enact greater change throughout the supply chain so all relationships in the food system become much more collaborative and symbiotic? We need supply circles. This community often refers to nutrient cycling: green manures feed the soil. Tree leaves cycle into food for the forest. There is the water cycle, and the carbon cycle. What's the farm viability cycle? Regenerative asks every farmer to invest in long term relationships with their soils, their plants and the animals, but we're not requiring that same level of long term investment by others in the supply chain.

**Doug:** Industry wants a commodity. They don't want differentiation.

Anna: Part of the problem is the commodification of the organic market. More organic acres does mean change at the farm. But everyone wants to process, manufacture, and ship and distribute and sell to consumers exactly the same commodified way. In an era of climate change, this commodification isn't going to work. Crop quality and production levels are becoming increasingly variable. That's a tough

reality for good farms who might not have income in any given year for reasons that are totally out of their control. What's the responsibility of the supply chain to show up and help?

There is difference between a relationship vs a transaction. If we are going to have a relationship between the farmer and the soil, how are we going to build that same sense of relationship between every other player in the supply chain? Collaboration and much more equitable sharing of risks and rewards offer us a place to start a different dialog.

Jean-Paul: Once we got beyond I,000 CSA members, the farm got out of the mode of "scarcity." It was like hitting a sweet spot. I could make a living at 500, but at I,000 we could start re-investing in the farm, pay better wages to our employees, and transition some from seasonal to full-time year-round employees. It really made things happen when we made that jump.

This developed out of a conversation with many key members of the farm. During these conversations these members would ask: "are you offering health insurance to your workers? How is the land cared for? And who is going to own the land when you retire?"

So, without creating direct connections between producers and consumers (or buyers) it will be difficult for me to imagine how farms will ever become truly regenerative. An anonymous economy works for many things, but when it comes to agriculture, to food, we need a different kind of relationship, because we're talking about our own source of life, the sacred relationship we have with soil.

### **Community and CSAs**

Jeff: To get out of this mess we need multiple voices to build bridges. No farmer is saying: My goal is to destroy the health of my soil. More are saying that the present chemical model is financially non-viable.

**Jean-Paul:** How do we create a dialog with our CSA customers to make sure that we serve them with their needs, and where they can ask back: What are Your needs? This creates a dialog-based economy. As a CSA farm we were able to have some very deep conversations about where our farm was going and how we were going to develop it. We ended up in this curious conversation where our members would say: Oh, you're not charging quite enough! I answered that with: We need to be inclusive of all incomes in the community and I rather focus on becoming more

efficient by opening up the membership than raising the share price for a few. When you open up your books and everything is transparent, it changes the dialog. In fact, I would argue that it's helped the business of Roxbury Farm. I find this also much more interesting than filling up a truck and driving it over to Whole Foods.

The most important part of the conversation was when we started looking at land ownership: whether there should or shouldn't be private ownership of lands. We looked at buying land with the community by working with Equity Trust Inc., which now owns most of the land. They hold the title, while providing the farmers with a 99-year ground lease and the ownership of the improvements. These improvements are subject to a re-sale restriction ensuring that it will be affordable to the next generation.

This model is about creating a balance between public and private ownership of land, whereby the ground lease allows for a form of ownership, while the equity portion is held in trust. Chuck Matthei, the founder of Equity Trust Inc., had the perspective that ownership is a bundle of rights which can be divided between a number of parties. A proper balance between

private and public ownership can create equitable access to land and improvements, while providing sufficient autonomy to the farmer.

### Bring more people to the land

Anna: Part of our challenge as a regenerative community is how do we bring more people into it. We need to bring in the next generation that's not from agriculture and give them opportunities to farm and steward land. That means we'll need new models of ownership, and tools to help them succeed. You think farming is tough now. Try it on a planet with a variable climate. We are a 9,600 acre farm that is cultivating a community of new agrarians.

**Doug:** We need to bring more people onto the land to help do regenerative. What is our social vision in this country as to: *What is a farmer?* The current vision is that a regenerative farmer is someone who is out there with their draft horses, while their customers all drive a Prius.

We have to build a cadre of stewards. We need more people devoted to stewardship and get them to where the land is. 90% of the new organic farms are local fruit and vegetable farms. The market is saturated and there's not much living to be had from it. Come back to

the farm. Come back to the land and practice stewardship as a model for others, and there's a rewarding life to be had in it.

Anna: Our neighbors say Wow! Sure nice to see young people in this neighborhood. Community is part of regenerative. Our apprentice program is teaching us to think much differently about our business structure and how that can be a lever for change.

Doug: There are fewer people living on the northern plains then there have ever been, even before European settlement. The land is relatively uninhabited. There are ten abandoned homesites for every one being used. For generations, we've been sending people away from agriculture because it's too hard, too risky. And that's after thoughtlessly removing indigenous peoples. Anything bringing people back gains some favor locally.

Anna: Being organic is more a mindset than a checklist. We as a society do not value the people who are doing our farming. Let's support a new generation of thinking agrarians that engages people from all walks of life. People who are farming, speaking from a place of solid reality around policy change and their lived reality on the land. We're soon just going to have a system of

a bazillion non-profits working on behalf of farmers, and a bazillion brands saying they're working on behalf of farmers. Another regenerative scorecard focused at farmers is not the magic lever we need.

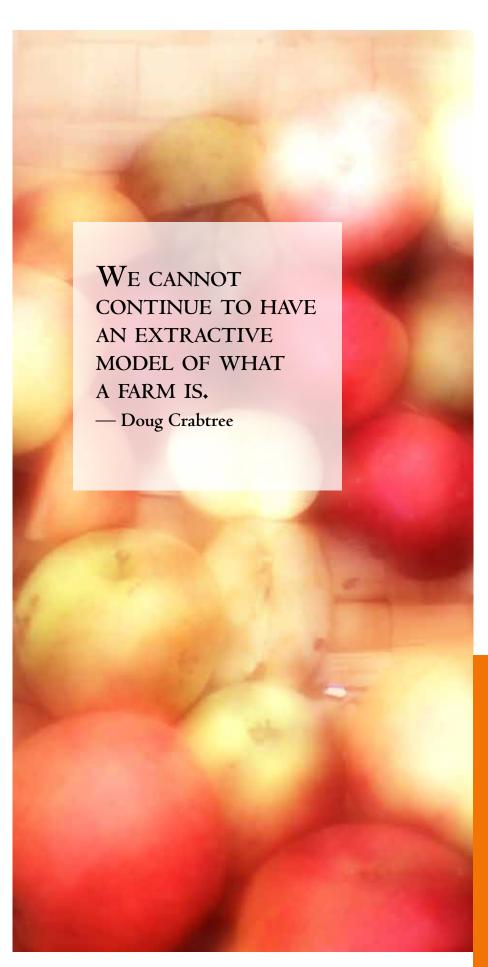
A farm is not just a food extraction device. It's a living organism and should be cared for and treated with respect.

### **Systems**

Jeff: Consumers come to the marketplace with a sweep of values, including animal welfare and social health.

**Dag:** Organic farming is a balancing act. Every decision the farmer makes is balancing a positive effect and a negative effect in such a way that it results in a net gain. Simply eliminating the acts that have some negative effects will not work. For instance, a tractor is used to pull a seeder to plant seeds in the ground. One positive effect is a seeded crop. One negative effect is the compaction from the weight of the equipment. The farmers job is to think of practices that will mitigate the negative effects, like increase the soil organic matter content to make it more resistant to compaction. This is the life of an organic farmer from sun-up till sun-down.

Jean-Paul: When you have a I,000 member CSA, there are many exports of nutrients that can be offset by bringing in



composted poultry manure to complement the livestock manure. Unfortunately, chicken-based compost doesn't build the soil very much.

We can offset carbon and nitrogen losses by harvesting this out of the air by growing green manure crops. Over time, I developed a rotation that removed 50% of our lands out of production and dedicated the other half to green manure crops.

Since we used heavy equipment, we were able to use green manure crops that grow up to 9 feet tall. When you allow a crop to grow to full size you increase the amount of lignin in the plant and nitrogen in the soil that in return, contributes to long-term organic matter. Lush green manure crops can help to fertilize cash crops, but mature green manure crops contribute to long term soil health.

Many farmers told me they can't afford to take 50% of their land out of production for green manure crops.

Since I have a love of doing on-farm trials I tried to see if we could directly plant through a rolled and crimped leguminous cover crop. Corn and broccoli were planted through hairy vetch, producing some very good to rather poor results depending on the weed pressure. We knew we had

fantastic weed control with I00% rye or triticale, but our cabbage and corn performed poorly due to the low nitrogen levels in the soil. I received a SARE grant to find out what rates of triticale and vetch are ideal to get the right carbon/nitrogen ration in order to plant cabbage or sweet corn. So far, the results between the seeding rates have been somewhat inconclusive, but planning some vegetables through a cover crop can be very promising.

When we talk about regenerative agriculture, we need to come up with an agronomy that allows the land to produce its own fertility, as opposed to bringing it in. Much of organic vegetable production is based on *stealing from Peter to give to Paul.* The compost brought into the farm is removing fertility someplace else. Closing this loop is a key element of biodynamics and a key element of regenerative as well.

Organic is now a commodity and the label, brand or trademark we adopted has a monetary value. In hindsight, we should have kept organic as a wholistic approach instead of allowing the standards to be determined through the narrow lens of our agronomic practices.

Then we handed the standards

of organic agriculture to the government, and while that does a good job of ensuring a level playing field and opening it up to a very large market, there is a price to pay. The present certification system requires us to meet a minimum agronomic standard and does not reward someone who exceeds it. With the current standards being watered down, we find ourselves fighting with each other about who is real organic or regenerative and who is not. This has the danger of becoming ever more divisive.

This is an area where I see the CSA model offering temporary refuge to some organic farmers. While this offers no solution for the market-place, small farmers who have a direct relationship to their customers can ask their members how they want their food to be produced. By including questions around equity, energy use, and labor, there is a way to cater standards for each farm individually.

**Doug:** We cannot continue to have an extractive model of what a farm is.

Jeff: Putting the NOP under USDA has lowered the bar. The government is moving slowly and is subject to lobbying and money.

### **Relationship Organic**

Jean-Paul: What kind of

relationship do we want to have with our coffee farmers? Developing an international associative relationship means creating associative relationships with other associations. It's complicated.

IFOAM has does a tremendous job of defining what agriculture should be in the future. Not only creating international relationships, but incorporating issues like the use of energy inputs on farms. Where is that in today's regenerative organic certification? An organic farm should take responsibility for their energy use, and their waste. That's what the regenerative agriculture community should be talking about.

Doug: Organic certification is deemed a right, and you need to have overwhelming evidence to take it away rather than a privilege you have to earn. That is a philosophical decision that's been made. It's not the standard that lacking, it's the enforcement that is lacking, and which parts of it are enforceable.

This can change. We just have to ask for it and make our voices strong enough to make it happen.

There's no way you can be regenerative or sustainable if poisons are part of your system.

We also need to stop fighting

amongst ourselves. There's a real danger in splitting up the organic pie into smaller and smaller slices. I'm concerned that some of the regenerative movement is trying to co-opt the organic standard and split it up. There's a real danger with the in-fighting.

### **Conventional claims**

Jeff: Conventional ag is going to claim regenerative, and their claims for regenerative practices is confusing consumers. We're going to lose the war if we don't fight for it. There's too much at stake. It won't be easy, but we will prevail.

It's good that more people are having a part of the regenerative conversation today. But the Savory Institute and the Carbon Underground are not organic, and if you say: 'We spray the soil,' people get only half the story.

Let's give people the whole story. We need bigger ideas for regenerative.

Non-GMO is moving into marketing and they say that their products are healthy, but Non-GMO is not good for us. It can still contain glyphosate and other toxic substances.

Dag: Some voices within the conventional no-till movement insist that glyphosate is required to prevent erosion. But research shows that repeated glyphosate applications (a

chronic disturbance) negatively impact the micro-organisms and fungal networks in the soil. Organic farmers conclude that this negative effect cannot be balanced with a mitigating practice, so we do not use glyphosate.

#### **Conclusions**

Dag: To the younger generations who will be facing increasing climate degradation in their lifetimes, I would say: Don't make the same mistakes previous generations made. Go organic and take care of the soil, and it will take care of you.

Anna: We need to keep in mind that just centering change efforts on production methods at the farm level isn't going to create fundamental change in our food system. It's really about how we collectively look after our one and only planet and care for each other. It's so much bigger than a checklist of practices on individual farms.

In order to create a better integrated and more sane organic food system, we need to look at the entire system and build something that reflects the values that connect us all. That doesn't exist yet.

Jean-Paul: When the European colonists came to America; they didn't recognize the cultivation practices of Native Americans as agriculture.

IFOAM NORTH AMERICA

Only now are we acknowledging that this continent was highly managed and farmed. It's remarkable how sustainable and regenerative their practices were.

Biodynamic practitioners have to be careful not to claim that we have all the answers, and that we know how to do this or that. There is a lot in biodynamic systems that is the result of summing up indigenous perspectives thousands and thousands of years old. There are practices and perspectives within biodynamic farming that are quite new, but many are based on traditional peasant-farmer insights, and we are honoring that. Steiner referred to the peasant's wisdom and would repeatedly refer back to: how did the peasants do that?

We need to have more humility, and we're not very good at this. We know how to get high yields. We know how to feed people. But we don't really know how to co-exist. How to be nature.

We are made of bacteria and our food is becoming us. We have this relationship to this place.

I don't want to ingest chemicals when I buy organic, but it's much deeper than that. It's how we collectively have this relationship to the sacred earth. And I don't think that conversation is happening.

Jeff: Farmers are health care professionals. We've lost track of that in our goal of efficiency and managing weeds. We must include the health of the people.

Consumers are saying my health is important. I will improve as I use it. So let's get consumers to say: Wait a minute! My goal is health.

Glyphosate works, but our goal is not just to kill weeds, it is to produce healthy people. Glyphosate is in the fat tissues in Antarctica. More and more we understand the health issues behind it, and at what point does glyphosate not work?

We've asked the chemical industry: Will we be still using gly-phosate in 1,000 years? 100 Years? 50 years? and they just laughed at this.

I,000 years from now we'll be asking why we didn't go into this sooner. Give people a beacon of light and a direction to move, And let's move on it as quickly as possible.



### In memoriam. Amigo Bob Cantisano.

photo from Brian Baker

A true revolutionary of the organic movement left us on December 26, 2020.

"Amigo" Bob Cantisano was from the Bay Area of California, where at an early age he became involved with natural foods. He became a part of the back-to-the-land movement of the late-I960s, early-1970s, living on hippie communes that were supported by organic farming. While the communes where he farmed faded, organic agriculture endured, and with it, Amigo Bob. In 1980, he helped organize the first Ecological Farming Conference in Winters, California. Amigo started Peaceful Valley Farm Supply. As a consultant, he guided the transition of hundreds of farms stewarding hundreds of thousands of acres.

Amigo Bob was an innovator and visionary who was not content with the world as it was. An autodidact with little formal education, he was

able to challenge conventional wisdom and upend the thinking of how to manage farming systems. Amigo was able to gain credentials as a California Pest Control Advisor without an academic degree. As a gadfly, he prodded academic inquiry into the science of organic agriculture and played a key role in the passage of the University of California Sustainable Agriculture Education Program Act. Amigo was part of the drafting and passage of the California Organic Foods Act of 1979, which became the de facto standard for most organic food in the U.S. and a template for the Organic Foods Production Act. His final years were spent on Heaven and Earth Farm in the Sierra Foothills. In 2001, Amigo founded the Felix Gillett Institute to conserve heirloom varieties of fruit and nut trees. While Amigo Bob Cantisano has left us, his legacy lives on. His dedication and leadership will be sorely missed by the North American organic movement.



# IFOAM North America's Presentation to the NOSB

### United States Department of Agriculture - National Organic Program 2020 National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)

Virtual Fall Meeting

IFOAM North America Public

Comment

by Jennifer Taylor, PhD - IFOAM North America Board Member October 20, 2020@I:50pm EST

Good afternoon, I am Jennifer Taylor, an organic small farmer in Georgia and Associate Professor at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

I am here today representing IFOAM North America, a regional body of the IF-OAM-Organics International. IFOAM has members in over 100 countries and territories, with over 700 affiliate members worldwide.

As National Organic Standard Board Members you have an opportunity through your great service to be good organic stewards of Organic Agriculture.

I have served on the National Organic Standards Board



and I know how difficult and challenging your work will be. You may have an impact on millions of lives in the United States and all over the world, potentially for generations to come.

It is important to pause, and reflect on the bigger organic picture - and understand the context of our vital work.

The IFOAM Principles of Organic Agriculture—Health, Ecology, Care, and Fairness—

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
NEEDS TARGETED
PARTICIPATORY EDUCATION,
HANDS-ON TRAINING, AND
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON
ORGANIC FARMING SYSTEMS
FOR BLACK INDIGENOUS FARMERS AND FARMERS OF COLOR.

### — Jennifer Taylor

are essential for the organic good, well-being, and quality of life. These Principles form the foundation or root of organic agriculture and the standards.

The standards should be established not only for the economic benefit to organic farmers, agribusiness, and the organic marketplace, but also to support wellbeing and health of environments, build-

ing healthy soils and healthy plants and healthy animals; for the health of consumers, and the wellbeing and fairness to local, national, and global communities.

Access to healthy organic foods and the benefits of organic farming systems is for everyone.

IFOAM holds that inclusion and social justice are an essential part of organic capacity building and should be a

central factor when promoting organic growth.

As important as the standards are, the standards can only do so much.

Our work builds capacity to facilitate the transition of farmers to organic agri-

culture, raises awareness of the need for sustainable production and consumption, and advocates for a policy environment conducive to agro-ecological farming practices/organic farming systems practices and sustainable development.

Organic agriculture needs targeted participatory education, hands-on training, and technical assistance on organic farming systems for black indige-

nous farmers and farmers of color and their communities, socially disadvantaged farmers - for underserved small farm populations and their communities.

Small scale organic farmers hold a vital role in our communities as resources for fresh local seasonal organic produce.

We ask the National Organic Standards Board to recommend and promote participatory capacity building strategies on organic farming systems and wellbeing to support and enable the thriving participation and organic livelihoods of Black indigenous farmers and farmers of color and their communities, socially disadvantaged farmers - for underserved small farm populations and their communities.

This would enable and increase the organic benefits to all neighborhoods and communities - and to all human beings.

We ask that your service on the National Organic Standards Board support an organic agriculture that promotes organic farming systems, wellbeing and quality of life - in the United States and globally, that is inclusive of all human beings. Thank you.

Jennifer Taylor/8508796895

### **Hello World**

Imagine a gathering of farmers and agriculturalists from all around world, all from their own homes, all at the same time.



IFOAM North America's We-Share webinar initiated the first live, on-line international community-building activities joining IFOAM members from around the world into the kinds of conversations that are critical for solving the issues organic farmers wrestle with right now.

We're all farmers, skilled at adapting to changing local conditions, and how we responded to marketing and distribution challenges in our own regions during this pandemic was a learning experience for everyone involved.

On December 10, 2020, our one-and-a-half hour session was an opportunity for us to share a conversation common to all of us, but unique in our

own experience.

The topic of this webinar was: How farmers around the world have developed unique local solutions to a global pandemic.

What we discovered was that during the COVID-19 crisis, the issues facing farmers on the ground were similar everywhere in the world. Direct-to-restaurant sales have vanished, and our food service market has mostly disappeared. Farmers markets were disrupted and keeping our workers safe was everyone's priority.

WeShare offered each of our five panelists five minutes to introduce themselves and speak to their situation.

We heard stories of how farmers have been nimble and resilient during this unprecedented time, and how they adjusted to massive disruption.

Panelists offered comment to the following questions:

- Your local markets. How have they changed? At first, many farmers here totally lost their restaurant and food service business. Many successfully gained strong increases in direct organic sales, local CSAs and farmers markets.
- Collectivization and Food Hubs. Are you now sharing processing, refrigeration, preservation or production equipment with other organic

farmers in your region?

- Organic Inspection. Has social distancing impacted your organic inspection process?
- Government support. Have you received any local government support for your operations, such as: loans, fee reductions, or support for infrastructure development this year?
- Access to resources. Has your access to land, seed, organic inputs or labor been disrupted this year?

### **Panelists included:**

#### From Latin America:

Thales Mendosca, Agroforestry farmer and colleague from Rede Ecovida, Brazil

The Ecovida Network's mission is to provide training spaces and develop material in the field of agroecology and rural education, organize its members in a network without hierarchies, and fight for food security and sovereignty.

### From Asia:

V.M.B.Athula Priyantha

BSc(Agri) MSc(Natural Resource Management)

Athula is from the Lanka Organic Agriculture Movement of Sri Lanka. Since 1990, he has been involved in organic farming and analogue forestry with the participation of small-scale farmers throughout

the country. Farmer organizations were developed among organic farmers for training and education, marketing of organic products, group certification and fair trade certification systems.

In 2000, he began serving as an executive committee member of the Lanka Organic Agriculture Movement (LOAM) and currently serves as secretary of LOAM, the national movement representing the organic agriculture sector in Sri Lanka.

#### From Africa:

Wanjama Daniel, Organic Farmer and colleague from Seed Savers Network, Kenya

His organization safeguards plant genetic materials through on-farm seed-saving, community seed-banks and field gene-banks for agro-biodiversity conservation and seed sovereignty.

Seed Savers Network-Kenya anchors its work on traditional science of plant breeding for easy understanding and uptake by all in the community.

### From Europe:

Hans Bartelme, Organic Farmer and colleague from Naturland, Germany.

Hans is a farmer in the southwest of the Federal Republic of Germany with 50 hectares of land, laying hens, and a few fattening pigs. He cultivates soy, spelt, wheat, and produces pasta. Half of his sales go directly to end customers on weekly markets. The other half through natural food retailers, smaller grocery stores, other farmers with stores or weekly markets.

#### From North America:

Jennifer Taylor, Organic farmer and IFOAM NA Board member, Glenwood, Georgia USA.

Jennifer is the grand-daughter of a sharecropper and an organic small farmer. She is an advocate for underserved farming populations including: small-scale farmers, indigenous farmers, minority farmers, and their communities. Jennifer supports participatory capacity building strategies that enable well being and organic farming systems to enable change, and is presently both an IFOAM NA Board Members and Associate Professor & coordinator of Small Farm Programs at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

## Want to hear the webinar yourself?

Go to:

https://youtu.be/GP-s2qFt17X8



### Brian Baker

# Charting the Course for Organic Agriculture's Future

The roots of organic agriculture are very deep. It is an often-told tale that organic agriculture was the product of an early- to mid-20th century response to the concerns that grew out of the industrialization of agriculture and the introduction of farm chemicals. The identity of organic agriculture and its allied movements in biodynamic and biological agriculture as being a different approach is a modern idea. Organic agriculture was based on traditional farming systems and the knowledge that evolved from site-specific farming systems. Far from being a European invention, organic agriculture has a long

history of practice on every arable continent. It is the awareness of organic agriculture that is credited with being Organic I.O.

The works of philosophers from the I920s to the I970s gave rise to a demand for organic food, and a move from theory to practice. With this move, organic in the market-place required a set of standards and a mechanism to enforce those standards. Standards and regulations were also a means for the organic label to be viewed as a legitimate economic interest, not simply a fringe group.

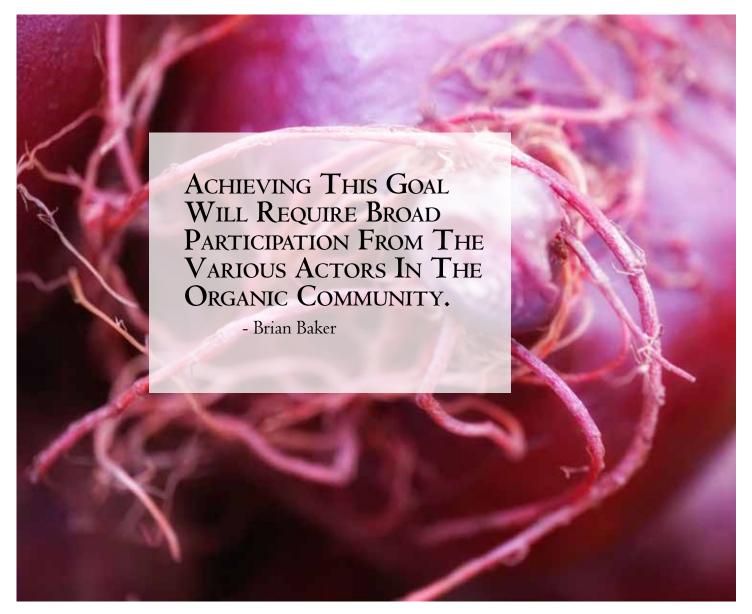
Some have made the case that government and corporate involvement has undermined the fundamental purpose of organic agriculture. Without the standards, there is little doubt that organic agriculture would have remained small. marginal, unprofitable, and insignificant. Once organic agriculture became profitable, and once it began to cross state lines and international boundaries, retailers, processors, and handlers responded to this consumer demand, and there was no keeping corporations and the government out of it. There is no way to go back to the way organic was before the standards and regulations—that is to go back to Organic I.O. We in the organic community need to

continue forward.

To overcome the limitations of organic being relegated to a niche market and to achieve the goal of making organic agriculture mainstream, IFOAM Organics International has developed Organic 3.0. Its key features are: (1) A culture of innovation. (2) Continuous improvement towards best practice. (3) Diverse ways to ensure transparency and integrity. (4) Inclusion of wider sustainability interests. (5) Empowerment from farm to the final consumer. (6) True value and cost accounting.

Achieving this goal will require broad participation from the various actors in the organic community. The Organic Value Chain Round Table in Canada formed a Task Force to see how Organic 3.0 could be applied in Canada. Organic 3.0 has been met with much interest in Europe, but to date, little has been done in the U.S. to implement Organic 3.0.

A recent study published in the peer-reviewed journal Organic Agriculture looked at Swedish stakeholders' views on Organic 3.0. The research—carried out by Rebecka Milestad of the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology and others at the Swedish Agricultural University in Uppsala—compared the opinions and responses of: first a large group of diverse stakehold-



ers, then smaller focus groups organized by their interests as farmers, consumers, people in the food industry, and those in non-governmental organizations. The study found broad support for the themes of Organic 3.0. However, groups had differing opinions about: how to interpret Organic 3.0, what the priorities should be, and perhaps most importantly, what actions were needed to achieve the overall goal of bringing organic agriculture

into the mainstream.

These tensions and conflicts were organized around four main themes. The first looked at the tension between the drive for greater efficiency and those interested in a more agroecological approach. The second was about the availability and safety of recycled nutrients. The third was related to how new technologies are to be addressed within the precautionary principle, and the preference for natural

inputs and techniques. Finally, the regulatory framework is seen by some as in conflict with innovation. Some participants noted that organic agriculture started as a grassroots movement that has been 'hijacked by bureaucrats.' with Organic 3.0 a way for the movement to reclaim it. Farmers, researchers, those in the trade, consumers, and civil society had differing opinions about what Organic 3.0 meant and how it was to be implemented.

The organic movement is diverse, leading some to say that there is no one organic agriculture movement, but there are instead several different aligned movements. It has long been a challenge to maintain the identify of: organic, Agroecology, Biodynamics, agroforestry, permaculture, regenerative agriculture, sustainable, low-input, holistic, and biological agriculture, each of which have co-existed throughout the history of organic agriculture. For more people and land to transition into organic agriculture, we must work with those who are not organic. If organic agriculture is on the right side of history, we can be confident in reaching out to organizations and institutions who have been adversarial with us in the past. At the same time, Organic 3.0 seeks to assure the participation and empowerment of the vulnerable and historically disadvantaged, with full respect to their rights. Such an inclusive approach will require compromises, with a clear purpose and an understanding that the underlying principles and other landmarks of organic agriculture are non-negotiable. Compromises will undoubtedly lead to difficult conversations. The forum to have those conversations has historically taken place in the

standard setting process. Standards and the marketplace are limited in their ability to bring about change. Organic 3.0 is not abandoning the standards, but instead seeks to find other venues for these conversations. Rather than create additional standards and regulations to advance organic agriculture, Organic 3.0 seeks to improve organic agriculture through the adoption of best practices. Over time, as the best practices become the norm, these can be incorporated in the standards with a minimum of disruption. However, this comes into conflict when the adoption of best practices by organic farmers puts them at a competitive disadvantage to those who farm to the letter of the law.

There is a growing recognition that the market can only do so much to advance organic agriculture. Other approaches are also needed. Innovation is needed to overcome production challenges. The standards and the precautionary principle can be a driver of innovation, but it is more often seen by producers, researchers, and others as stifling innovation. Economic incentives are important, but until the full or true costs of agricultural products are reflected in the prices paid, organic will continue to be

at a disadvantage. The way to change that is to make polluters pay. Organic farming systems provide valuable ecosystem services that are not always captured in market prices.

Inclusion of wider sustainability interests and empowerment of smallholder farmers and consumers may come into conflict, or at least create dynamic tension between those who seek to scale up organic agriculture and those who seek to scale out. The value chain that begins with the farmer and ends with the consumer needs to be fair at every step along the way. What are seen as moral issues related to achieving greater sustainability through food sovereignty and social justice also comes into conflict with a legal and political system that is not built on such a foundation.

For organic agriculture to thrive and be widely adopted, it must adapt to changing times. In doing so, practitioners need to remain true to organic agriculture's underlying principles. IFOAM — Organics International has called for action by all organic stakeholders and institutions at the regional, national, and global level to move this process forward. Your participation can help organic realize its true potential.

# **News Updates**

# Hartman Group reports on organic consumer behavior

The Hartman Group's *Organic & Beyond 2020* report finds that as consumers become more knowledgeable about organic, it doesn't symbolize everything they care about. The annual report states that there are three main spaces where consumers are seeking more than what organic currently offers, including animal welfare, workers' welfare, and soil health:

- 78% of consumers would prefer more stringent animal welfare requirements for USDA organic certification.
- Consumers are concerned about the welfare of workers in the food system: 76% of consumers wish the USDA organic guidelines were more stringent on conditions for workers, and
- Soil health is a unifying factor across the three key drivers of organic, connecting better flavor, better nutrition, and better ecology.

### Organic Achievement Award from the American Society of Agronomy

Dr. Girish Panicker, professor and Director of Conservation Research at Alcorn State University in Mississippi, was recently honored with the 2020 Organic Achievement Award from the American Society of Agronomy (ASA)

His studies have focused on understanding how cropping and management practices affect erosion rates, with a special emphasis in cover-management factor (C-factor) calculation.

### Canadian Organic Trade Association reports rise in organic sales

Data shows that organic products sold in Canada now account for 3.2 % of all grocery sales. Canadian consumers are spending \$6.9 billion annually on organic products. This is up from 2.6 % and \$5.4 billion in 2017.

The Canada Organic Trade Association (COTA) commissioned Leger 360 to poll I,000 consumers nationally in August to gauge the perception and appetite for organic food during the pandemic.

Organic food consumers tend to be younger, beginning with centennials (age 18-24) for whom organic products comprise 46% of their weekly grocery purchases. For millennials (age 25-34) organic products are 32% of their weekly grocery purchase. This is followed by xennials (age 35-44) at 25%. Of those who buy organic groceries, fruits and vegetables are purchased most often—roughly eight-inten (78%) usually buy organic fruits and vegetables. Purchases of meat and poultry grew from 26% in 2016 to 32% in 2020—the largest increase of any product category.

More than half of Canadians (55%) trust products with the Canada Organic Certified logo (regulated by the Canada Food Inspection Agency), up from 39% in 2016. Trust in *Made in Canada* products also jumped significantly from 53% in 2016 to 63% in 2020.

### Calendar

### IFOAM North America Annual Meeting

Welcome to all IFOAM North America Members. Our Annual Membership meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, I:00 -3:00 pm EST

Our proposed agenda includes:

- Call to Order and approval of agenda
- Welcome members, explain procedures, revise and approve agenda
- President's Report with a review of the previous year and planned activities in 2021
- Treasurer's Report with a presentation of the 2020 actuals and 2021 budget
- IFOAM Organics International Report, with a presentation by IFOAM Organics International Staff and World Board on Network Reform
- Members Participation, facilitated discussion by the members: What do the members want from IFOAM

North America?

- Elections, with the Announcement of the New Board Elected
- Wrap up, summarize brainstorming session and final resolution
- Informal discussion afterwards

### IFOAM 2020 Organic World Congress

On September 6-10 2021, more than 2,500 organic stakeholders, farmers, researchers, and citizens will come together at the world's largest organic gathering to address questions around resilience, societal transformation, ecosystem regeneration, health, and food sovereignty.

The 2021 Organic World Congress will offer a global, diverse space that inspires positive change through knowledge exchange, learning, and the formulation of organic, sustainable solutions, for a better tomorrow. 600 speakers have been selected, and thanks to our members from around the world, we are able to prepare a programme as rich and engaging as the movement it reflects.

The Organic World Congress will be both an in-person and virtual event. Starting in mid-January 2021, tickets will be able for purchase for the in-person sessions in Rennes. In March, we will provide further information on the virtual sessions and indicate how you can join them.

# BIOFACH 2021 goes digital

The world's leading trade fair for organic food has been moved to a digital platform. The February 17 - 20, 2021 trade fair will carry over key aspects of the familiar in-person event and the accompanying Congress into the digital world. Industry representatives can look forward to three full days of company and product presentations, knowledge sharing, matchmaking and networking,

