



## ORGANIC RESEARCH IN THE FARM BILL

**ISSUE OVERVIEW:**

Investing in organic research has significant benefits that serve more than just organic farmers. Organic research should prioritize helping organic farmers adapt to climate disruption, quantify the multiple benefits of organic production for the environment and public health, develop regionally-appropriate publicly-available seeds and breeds, and address organic production challenges with methods that reduce the need for inputs.

**THE 2023 FARM BILL SHOULD:**

- Direct ARS to create a new Organic National Program and dedicate \$100 million to organic research to bring to parity with growth of organic market share.
- Authorize and fund Long-term Agroecological Research network at \$50 million per year.
- Increase funding for the Organic Agriculture and Extension Initiative at the National Institute for Food and Agriculture up to \$100 million by year 5.
- Reauthorize the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE) with higher funding levels.
- Add climate resilience and regionally-appropriate cultivar development to the overall purposes of SARE.
- Reauthorize the Organic Production and Market Data Initiative to further understand the extent of the organic production. Add questions about impact of chemical and genetic drift on organic operations to data collection efforts from organic farms.

- Authorize and direct the Economic Research Service to do an updated economic impact analysis of the growth of organic agriculture, including assessing consolidation in organic markets.

**FUNDING ORGANIC RESEARCH WILL:**

- Build resiliency to both climate and supply chain disruption through research that empowers organic management and regionality.
- Demand for organic products continues to grow while domestic production has not kept pace, resulting in consumers purchasing more and more imported organic products.
- To expand organic production, intentional investment into actionable research for organic producers is essential.
- Brings \$\$\$ into rural communities that continues to positively impact the general rural economy through providing cutting edge research to increase profitability of agricultural operations
- Provides producers with the tools and resources necessary to choose and implement the farm practices, systems, and business models that work best for them and the land they farm.

Organic research helps ALL farmers. Public agricultural research is the first step needed to put new tools and innovations in the hands of farmers to address the growing challenges they face and build resiliency.

