OFA FACTSHEET

Organic Research

Organic Science and Research Investment Act of 2025 (H.R. 5703 / S. 1385)

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.

SUPPORT POLICY SOLUTIONS

The Organic Science and Research Investment Act of 2025 (H.R. 5703 / S. 1385) introduced by Senator Fetterman (PA), and introduced by Representative Newhouse (WA-04), with Representatives Pingree (ME-01) and Panetta (CA-19) as original cosponsors, will provide continued, needed investments into organic agriculture research and market analysis in order to increase resilience of U.S. agriculture, create economic opportunity for producers, and improve the ecological vitality of the landscape.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Investing in agricultural and economic research is crucial for the US to boost domestic organic production in response to rising demand. Despite organic agriculture comprising over 6% of food sales, NIFA allocates only around 2% of its budget to direct organic research. Programs like OREI and ORG require producer involvement to ensure actionable research outcomes, benefiting both economic profitability and ecological sustainability in farming.

FUNDING OSRI ACT WILL PROVIDE

- **Coordination and Expansion of the Organic Research Initiative** – Directs USDA's Research, Education, and Economics agencies to catalog and enhance organic research, ensuring effective coordination and growth across programs.
- **Increased Funding for the Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)** – Funding will rise from $60 million in 2026 to $100 million by 2031, expanding priorities to include climate change, organic alternatives to prohibited substances, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge.
- **Authorization of the Researching the Transition to Organic Program (RTOP)** – Provides Congressional authorization for the RTOP (currently called the Organic Transitions Research Program (ORG)), with an annual budget of $10 million from 2026 to 2027, and $12 million from 2028 to 2031.
- **Double Funding for the Organic Data Initiative (ODI)** – An investment of $10 million over the life of the Farm Bill will enhance data for risk management and market development. Additionally, it mandates the ERS to carry out a comprehensive study on the economic impacts of organic agriculture.

ORGANIC FARMERS ASSOCIATION

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