

Canadian Organic Growers

Launches Novel Supply Chain Research:

'Barriers and Solutions in Canada's Organic Food Supply Chain'

Ottawa, ON (January 26th, 2023) - [Canadian Organic Growers \(COG\)](#), Canada's oldest organic regenerative association and educational charity supporting producers across the country will release six **'Barriers and Solutions in Canada's Organic Food Supply Chain'** bilingual research reports representing over 2.5 years of research. The reports will be officially introduced January 29, 2023 at the Guelph Organic Conference, Guelph Ontario.

Organic growers and processors face several critical barriers preventing them from meeting the rising demand for organic food domestically and from export markets. These comprehensive reports conclude with achievable recommendations that all levels of government need to consider and implement to advance Canada's ever growing \$9.35B Canadian organic market.

Researchers identified several common barriers across the six supply chains that were examined, and developed recommendations to address each barrier. As examples:

- Issues with the high cost and low availability of farmland can be mitigated with the development, support, and promotion of land-matching programs
- Impacts of extreme weather events on production can be lessened through multi-level collaboration in promoting best management practices that increase soil health and climate resiliency

Dr. Allison Squires - a large scale Saskatchewan organic grain producer and Board President of Canadian Organic Growers - sees many tangible benefits beyond just economic:

"Organic farming has a long history of making farms more resilient to extreme weather conditions, such as the drought and flooding events we experienced in Western Canada in 2021. This latest COG research provides the blueprint for much needed support to the ever-increasing demand for organic products. This support will move Canada's entire agriculture sector forward to be better able to adapt to the changing climate and ensure a more stable food supply for all Canadians."

The Research

In 2020, COG was awarded funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agriculture Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP) to create a targeted strategy to identify and address barriers in Canada's organic supply chain.

Six organic commodities were selected by an industry-wide Advisory Committee: blueberries (cultivated and wild production), carrots, salad greens, oats, field peas (also known as dry peas), and beef. The selection criteria employed by the Committee took a wide range of factors into consideration including: the potential for import substitution; consumer and industry interest; the potential for production in multiple regions; carbon sequestration potential; and international demand for the commodity. These criteria were favoured for having a higher probability to help Canadian producers reach their full economic potential, and foster a more robust and stable domestic organic supply chain.

All six ***Barriers and Solutions in Canada's Organic Food Supply Chain*** reports will be publicly available to download for free beginning Sunday January 29th via [COG's online store](#).

ABOUT CANADIAN ORGANIC GROWERS

Canadian Organic Growers (COG) - a registered charity established in 1976 - is Canada's leading national, organic and regenerative member-driven organization dedicated to supporting farmers in their path to certification and adoption of more climate-friendly practices. COG provides training, educational resources, networking opportunities, and leadership to help build an agricultural system that empowers farmers, enhances human health, builds community and mitigates climate change while increasing Canadian food security. In collaboration with its national network, COG also engages in advocacy to advance the policy priorities of the organic sector. We work to ensure that Canada's organic and regenerative farmers, gardeners, and consumers are represented in our pursuit to advance the organic sector.

To learn more about Canadian Organic Growers, visit their website at www.cog.ca. To follow COG:

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For more information, please contact: Jenna Spencer
Director of Marketing and Communications, Canadian Organic Growers jenna.spencer@cog.ca