

Value Added Products

There is enormous potential for value-added organic products that address changing trends in the food industry. Fresh-cut and processed convenience foods, ethnic and specialty products, health foods and snack foods are being developed in the processed vegetable market.

Regulated Marketing System

Regulated marketing is a system of programs which controls the supply of commodity goods by establishing market need, then matching production and demand. The intent of supply management is to avoid food surpluses, maintain price stability, ensure producers market access, and avoid market volatility. Organic commodities under regulated marketing systems include potatoes, cows' milk, chicken – eggs and meat, and turkey.

12. Research Activities

British Columbia Organic Sector Development Program (OSDP)

The OSDP is based on the goals of the COABC Strategic Plan (2002) and manages a fund of \$1 million to be allocated to projects that fulfill priorities of the program. The fund comes from the Agri-Food Futures Fund (AFFF) (see section 13.2). Any person or organization with an interest in the organic sector may apply provided the project addresses one of the following priorities:

- 45-65% of the fund allocated to projects addressing production capacity for organic agriculture
- 30-40% towards marketplace development and promotion
- 5-10% towards organic environmental stewardship

AFFF OSDP funds are awarded up to a 50:50 (project applicant/AFFF OSDP) cost shared basis. Generally, funding is provided on the condition that matching industry funds are put towards the project. The fund can not be used for capital costs or to fund business start-up costs.

Applicant information, and reports on completed OSDP research projects can be viewed on the COABC website: <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/osdp.htm>

Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC)

OACC coordinates and collaboratively develops research projects and web-based courses in organic agriculture in affiliation with agricultural schools at the universities of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Guelph, McGill, and Laval and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC). The OACC also collaborates in research with AAFRC researchers across Canada. The OACC has national offices at NSAC, and at the University of Saskatchewan.

For more information about the OACC, see their website: www.organicagcentre.ca

Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre (PARC)

PARC is a research centre of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Branch. PARC has two facilities located at Summerland and Agassiz. PARC's areas of research include: horticultural and field crop production and protection, including tree fruits, small fruits, greenhouse vegetables, special crops, and forages; advanced processing, utilization, and quality of plant products; the cellular and molecular biology of plant pathogens of significance to agricultural crops; soil resource conservation and land evaluation; and poultry production. PARC – Agassiz's Integrated Pest Management research program is particularly relevant to organic agriculture.

For more information about PARC's research areas, see their website:

http://res2.agr.ca/parc-crapac/index_e.htm

The University of British Columbia: Faculty of Land and Food Systems

The Faculty of Land and Food Systems has several research initiatives in areas relevant to organic production.

- Dr. Art Bomke and the Agroecology Soils Group projects include on-farm composting of poultry manure and yard trimmings in Delta.
- The UBC Farm located at the Vancouver campus provides field research facilities for several ongoing projects with applications for organic farmers: the evaluation of cover crops and green mulches for wireworm control by Dr. Andrew Riseman; and weed management trials by Dr. Nancy Furness and Dr. Mahesh Upadhyaya.

For more information on agricultural research at UBC, see the Faculty of Land and Food Systems' website: www.landfood.ubc.ca

12.1 Research Priorities in British Columbia

In 2003, the COABC conducted a research needs study to identify areas of research and to prioritize them. Table 12.1 presents a summary of the research areas identified in the study.

Table 12.1 Summary of Research Priorities for British Columbia

Research Need*	Relative cost of conducting research	Relative return on investment	Availability of research or information	Expected spread of research benefits	Rank
Soil fertility and management	Medium to high	High	Many & diverse sources	Many producers	1
Information needs	Low	High	Many & diverse sources	Many producers	2
Pest control	High	High	Scattered, little regionally specific work	Some producers	3
Marketplace development	Medium	High	Many sources	Many producers	4
Weed management, cover cropping, green manures	Medium	Medium	Many sources, many research projects	Many producers	5
Infrastructure development	High	Medium	Many sources, requires private enterprise partners	Some producers	6
Livestock management and infrastructure	Medium	Low	Many sources	Some producers	7
Seed production	Low	Low	Many sources	Some producers	8

*Needs ranked in descending order

Source: http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/osdp/COABC_research_needs.pdf

13. Government Programs and Initiatives

13.1 Provincial

BCMAL Trade and Intergovernmental Relations Branch

Activities include ensuring export market access through equivalence, regulations, and monitoring initiatives and negotiations of international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO). With the upcoming national organic regulation, the Branch will establish a memorandum of understanding between British Columbia and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for federal regulation of products in British Columbia.

BCMAL Food Safety and Quality Branch

Provides independent auditing of BCCOP accreditation and certification process.