

## Sample Abstract

### **Mainstreaming Organic Research: Canada's New Organic Science Cluster.**

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Organic research in Canada over the past few decades has been led by a relatively small group of researchers whose dedication to finding ecological approaches to crop production has helped to build the credibility for the science and practice of organic agriculture. The fruit of these efforts has now been recognized with the development of Canada's new Organic Science Cluster (OSC). Research priorities for this cluster were developed from consultation with farmers across Canada in all areas of organic production. The OSC has identified 10 sub-projects including 30 research activities that will be conducted by over 50 researchers plus 30 collaborators in approximately 45 research institutions. The OSC is part of the Canadian Agri-Science Clusters Initiative of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Growing Forward Policy Framework, with additional support from industry partners across Canada. Activities of the OSC will include work in fruit horticulture, agronomy, cereal crop breeding, soil fertility management, vegetable production, greenhouse production, dairy production systems, parasite control in ruminants, environmental sustainability, and food processing. This research comes at a time when there is renewed emphasis on innovation, efficiency (energy, labour, economics), and capturing value-added markets. Most of this research directed toward organic agriculture can also be applied to conventional production systems, drawing interest to this cluster from producers across Canada. Here an overview of the OSC will be provided, with examples of linkages between organic and conventional.

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