



THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

October 2012

Updates on Organic Trade Agreements

- Canada is making progress in the negotiation of trade agreements with [Japan](#) and Costa Rica. Japanese representatives visited two Canadian Conformity Verification Bodies in late summer to understand how the Canadian Organic Regime is managed. Costa Rica is currently assessing whether the Canadian Organic Standards are equivalent to its own national standard.
- India has applied to become an organic business partner, with negotiations focused on the exchange of information.
- The EU is reconsidering the full organic equivalency with Canada, as agreed upon in June 2011. It seems that the revised EU organic wine production standard may be more stringent, which could result in Canadian organic wine production no longer being deemed equivalent. Canada is pursuing discussions to allow export to the EU of Canadian multi-ingredient organic products including ingredients from other countries.
- Discussions with Switzerland are progressing. Switzerland and Canada agreed to administrative facilitation of trade while awaiting an official agreement to be signed. In the interim, Switzerland indicated that it would accept import certificates for COR certified products when accompanied by a Swiss import authorization.

Organic Science Cluster II

Some 100 Research Projects Submitted to OACC

Organic research appears promising: the call for [Letters of Intent](#) for the submission of research project proposals under the [Organic Science Cluster II](#) has been fruitful! At the October 15 deadline, the OACC had received some 100 Letters of Intent from Canadian researchers proposing research activities in organic production. As Andy Hammermeister reported in an [OFC article](#) posted on September 17, "... the research community has evolved and [so has] the credibility that organic agriculture has gained in the eyes of the academic and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research community." The number of proposed projects is confirming that declaration! The whole sector will benefit from this future research.

Standards Interpretation Committee Nominations

The Canada Organic Office, in cooperation with the Organic Federation of Canada, has established the [Standards Interpretation Committee \(SIC\)](#). The [SIC Terms of Reference](#) outline the function of the committee as well as the selection criteria for its members.

The terms of three committee members, Rochelle Eisen, Maureen Bostock and Gérard Bouchard are ending in December 2012.

You are invited to submit nominations for these three positions. Each nomination must be accompanied by an outline of the candidate's credentials; nominees must be:

- voting members of the CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture (the CGSB member list is attached); or,
- stakeholders having experience in the standard process as well as technical expertise in at least one aspect of organic production, or
- stakeholders having experience with any other kind of standards drafting.

Committee members ending their terms may run for re-election, but must be renominated. Appointments to the SIC are now for three years. Other current members of the Standards Interpretation Committee are Jean Duval, Dag Falck, Janine Gibson and Ted Zettel.

We will accept nominations until November 9th 2012.

SIC nominations should be sent to the OFC at info@organicfederation.ca

Questions and Answers on Issues Related to the Canadian Organic Standards

How should the minimum buffer zone be measured in an orchard? Can green char be used in organic agriculture? Can livestock feed harvested from the buffer zones around organic cropland be fed to livestock in transition to organic?

The Organic Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) provides interpretive guidance to the Canada Organic Office on issues related to the National Standards for Organic Agriculture (CAN/CGSB 32.310 and CAN/CGSB 32.311).

[Click here](#) to consult the proposed answers to the various questions (also attached), raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture.

The proposed responses are subject to a 60 day comment period starting October 4th and closing December 3rd 2012.

All comments regarding these answers should be sent to OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca

Organics Olympiad 2012

[Oneco](#), the Organic News Community, has granted medals to honor the farmers “inspired” by organic agriculture. Twelve categories of organic leadership, with awards medals of gold, silver and bronze were selected to acknowledge leadership and achievement amongst the 160 countries where organic producers are active. Some results below.

- **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE LAND** Australia remains the unassailable leader accounting for 32.4% of the world’s organic agricultural land. The three lead countries, Australia, Argentina and USA, together account for 48.9% of the world’s organic agriculture hectares.

Medal	Country	Statistic
Gold	Australia	12, 001,724 hectares
Silver	Argentina	4, 177,653 hectares
Bronze	USA	1, 948,946 hectares
...and Canada		703,654 hectares

- **ORGANIC PRODUCERS** - Global organic producers total 1,578,407 entities. **India is the leading country** and accounts for 25.4% of the global total. The leading three countries, India, Uganda and Mexico, together account for 45.5% of the world’s producers. No data was available for China.

Medal	Country	Statistic
Gold	India	400,551 producers
Silver	Uganda	188,625 producers
Bronze	Mexico	128,862 producers
...and Canada		4,120 producers

- **ORGANIC SHARE** - The **Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is now the standout leader** in terms of the percentage of agricultural land devoted to organic, with organic accounting for 35.9% of its total agricultural hectares. Liechtenstein follows with 27.3% of its agricultural land managed as organic, and this is followed by Austria with 19.7%. Australia rates 2.9% on this measure, and the global figure is 0.9%.
About Canada: 1.073% of agricultural land is devoted to organic.
- **ORGANIC CONSUMPTION Per Capita** - Global sales of organic food and beverages are estimated at C\$57.8 billion. Three European countries lead in the per capita consumption of organics. **Switzerland is the world leader** with an annual spend of C\$208.4 per capita, followed by Denmark and Luxembourg. **About Canada: C\$59.74 per capita.**

- **ORGANIC SALES VOLUME** - The **USA is the market leader** in organics sales and accounts for 45% of the global spend on organics. The three leading countries, USA, Germany, and France account for 67% of global sales.

Medal	Country	Statistic
Gold	USA	C\$26.12 billion
Silver	Germany	C\$8.22 billion
Bronze	France	C\$4.6 billion
...and Canada		C\$2 billion

- **RESEARCH OUTPUT** - Organic Eprints (www.orgprints.org) is the largest depository of research papers on organics. It is an open access archive, with 12,726 items currently available. This digital archive is a project of the International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS; www.icrofs.org). Sixty countries are associated with contributed research papers in this data base. The leading contributor to this archive is Germany with 3325 contributions and accounting for 26% of the total entries.

Medal	Country	Statistic
Gold	Germany	3325 entries
Silver	Denmark	3000 entries
Bronze	Switzerland	1900 entries
...and Canada...		17 entries... and more to come

ORGANIC OLYMPIAD MEDALS TALLY 2012

Twenty seven countries are identified as organic leaders, each scoring at least a single medal. **No country scored more medals than Germany, which achieved a total of four medals.** Six countries scored more than a single medal. [Click here](#) for all the results. **Canada does not appear on that list of 27 countries.**

To see all data, 3 links:

Part 1 <http://oneco.biofach.de/en/news/?focus=55d56e08-cab1-4924-b621-158ea242fd23>

Part 2 <http://oneco.biofach.de/en/news/?focus=2dad4343-58a2-4d56-970e-9abc462a42dc>

Part 3 <http://oneco.biofach.de/en/news/?focus=597e444b-dd30-42b7-a10f-240daf34257c>