

## Expansion of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Organic

### ***Double your giving through The Organic Center's partnership with the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR)***

The Organic Center has focused much of its recent work and fundraising to improve networking and resource-sharing that will increase the success of organic research, extension, and farming in under-served communities. Recent USDA grants and cooperative agreements will allow The Organic Center to expand promotion in under-served markets, and professional development opportunities for students and early career faculty, with an emphasis on partnerships with Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Funds from this program will support efforts in partnership with OTA's initiatives that will complement and supplement all of The Organic Center's activities aimed at advancing organic agriculture across the supply chain.

### **HOW YOUR SPONSORSHIP WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture has committed over \$700,000 in funds to match industry donations, effectively doubling the value of any sponsorship. The funds from this program will be used to directly expand markets, networks and resource-sharing from TOC and FFAR to under-served academic institutions, outreach organizations, farmer groups, and farmers. The goal for this program is to increase collaboration, training, and leadership opportunities for agricultural professionals who support or wish to support organic and agroecological farming.

### **SPECIFIC GOALS FOR 2025**



- Increase networking capacity for researchers, students and extension agents by developing a comprehensive, public-facing and interactive database of research and extension contacts and resources for historically underserved academic institutions, outreach organizations, and farmer groups. This will enhance communication, training, support, and education in organic and agroecological farming practices.



- Expand education and outreach services to organic farmers and consumers in minority-dominated regions through creative promotional campaigns informed by these communities themselves (e.g. dedicated recipe campaigns featuring family recipes and stories).



- Enhance professional development opportunities for minority students and young professionals through fellowships and curriculum development.



- Increase accessibility of information to communities whose first language is not English by upgrading The Organic Center's website to be available in multiple languages, by creating information products in different languages, and by translating existing reports and resources into multiple languages.



- Measure and share the impact of our funded work to date, communicating outcomes broadly to potential funders and academics to highlight the value of public-private partnerships in advancing organic farming efforts.
- Support knowledge exchange by covering the travel and accommodation of farmers, students, and researchers to attend industry- and farmer-focused events (e.g. Organic Week).

Your financial support is crucial in helping us prove to consumers and industry leaders that organic practices are the right choice for their families and the planet for generations to come. By investing in this program, you are fostering the growth of the agricultural sector and paving the way for a more sustainable and resilient food system. Join us in making a lasting impact and be a part of the future.