

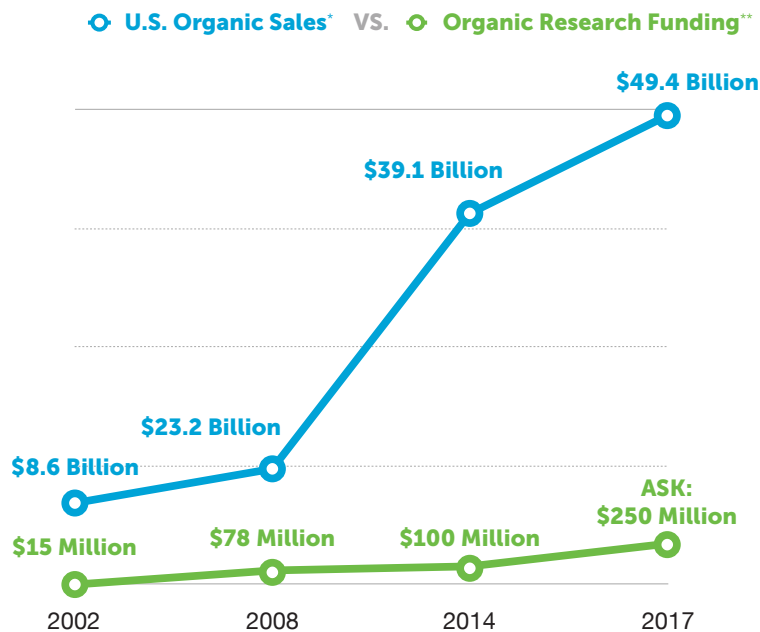


Invest in Organic Agriculture Research

Robust and stable funding for federal research on organic production methods and organic ingredients, pest control, and weed management is critical to the survival of organic farms.

Increased support for USDA's flagship Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) program in the next farm bill will ensure that organic farmers can continue to meet the unique challenges they face. Established in the 2002 Farm Bill, OREI has funded 179 projects worth almost \$170 million since its inception.

Federal funding for organic research has not kept pace with the growth of the nearly \$50 billion per year organic industry.



* Total U.S. Organic product sales (both food and non-food)
** Mandatory 5-year spending authorized in Farm Bill

OREI funds important research to:

- Develop new organic crop varieties
- Develop best management practices to increase yields and production
- Identify future marketing opportunities
- Create regionally adapted production practices
- Improve soil health
- Discover sustainable solutions to combat weeds, pests and disease pressure
- Evaluate the economic benefits of organic agriculture to rural communities
- Address barriers to transitioning farms to organic
- Increase organic agriculture production in the U.S.
- Facilitate marketing by connecting growers to distributors.

The Next Farm Bill Should: Increase mandatory funding for OREI from \$20 million to \$50 million per year by 2023 to achieve stable, baseline funding for the program.

ASK: Support The Organic Agriculture Research Act

House: Cosponsor H.R. 2436 introduced by Representatives Pingree (D-ME), Newhouse (R-WA), and Panetta (D-CA)

Senate: Cosponsor S. 2404 introduced by Senators Casey (D-PA) and Collins (R-ME)