



Press release

2nd Canadian Organic Science Conference

The most important science event in Canadian organic agriculture

Quebec, June 23, 2016. – This week, ten organizations are launching the 2nd Canadian Organic Science Conference program under the theme: “Sharing research that grows organic”. The three-day event, to be held from September 19-21 in Longueuil, Québec, will consist of two days of conferences on crop and livestock production and a full-day of visits to organic farms. The conference will be the not-to-be-missed science event in organic agriculture this year.

Researchers, students, stakeholders and producers are invited to this unique conference focused on the scientific research related to the main issues and challenges of organic agriculture in 2016. The conference will feature invited keynote speakers from the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy and Canada, who will discuss the latest science relating to livestock well-being, pest and weeds control, as well as the use of science to support the evolution of the organic sector.

Four organizers have been asked to share a few words on what they expect to achieve by uniting top organic researchers.

Josée Boisclair, researcher at the Research and Development Institute for the Agri-Environment (IRDA), co-chairs the conference. She explains: “We hope to foster fruitful discussions between farmers, stakeholders and researchers. This synergy will allow us, on one hand, to nourish research and, on the other hand, to facilitate knowledge transfer to support the growth of the organic sector.”

Dr. Caroline Halde teaches at Université Laval. As co-chair of the conference, she adds: “A conference of this size is fertile ground for exchanging ideas that could lead to new research collaborations. Scientists learn from their peers and are inspired to take their own research to the next level.”

Dr. Andrew Hammermeister, Director of the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC) at Dalhousie University, says: “This conference presents an opportunity unlike any other science conference in Canada through its focus exclusively on organic production and processing systems. It is an unparalleled occasion to link organic knowledge between researchers themselves, but also within the organic community from across Canada. “

Nicole Boudreau is the Coordinator of the Organic Federation of Canada (OFC). She concludes: “The organic sector is happy to count on the support of scientists and their research, which focuses on improving the quantity and quality of organic production. This conference will be a vibrant exercise of organic knowledge sharing.

The organic sector distinguishes itself with its innovation and creativity. With 60 presentations, workshops and focus groups, this Canadian Organic Science Conference will no doubt be a source of inspiration to both farmers and researchers. It is a “rendez-vous” that you don’t want to miss.

To register and to view the program, please visit www.craaq.qc.ca/cosc2016

About the organizers

IRDA

The Research and Development Institute for the Agri-Environment (IRDA) is an applied research centre that conducts research and transfers knowledge to promote innovation in sustainable agriculture.

AAC

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada works with farmers and food producers to support the growth and development of the agriculture and agri-food sector. Our policies, programs, research and technology help them succeed in Canadian and global markets.

OACC/Dalhousie University

The Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada at Dalhousie University facilitates the development of science in organic agriculture and transfers the resulting knowledge to stakeholders.

CETAB+

The Centre of expertise and technology transfer in organic agriculture and local food systems (CETAB+) of the Cegep de Victoriaville conducts applied research in organic crop production and offers technical, management and marketing advisory services to farms. It also offers training and coaching.

CRAAQ

The Quebec Reference Centre for Agriculture and Agri-food (CRAAQ) relies on its network of experts and profits from its integrated information technologies. It assembles and disseminates knowledge with tools that contribute to the progress of agriculture and agribusiness.

OFC

The Organic Federation of Canada is a pan-Canadian Association. Its mandate is to maintain and to interpret the Canadian Organic Standards. The OFC also co-manages the Organic Science Cluster II.

MAPAQ

The *ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation* (MAPAQ) is dedicated to fostering the prosperity of the Bio-food sector and to overseeing the quality of food from a sustainable development perspective. Let us note that this project was made possible through the financial assistance of the *Innov'action agroalimentaire* Program from the Growing Forward 2 Framework.

UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

The first institution of higher learning in French in America, open to the world and imbued with a culture of high standards, Université Laval contributes to the development of society by educating qualified and responsible individuals who become agents of change and by seeking and sharing knowledge in a stimulating environment of research and creation.

VALACTA

Valacta is a dairy center of expertise whose 300 employees contribute to the sustainable development and prosperity of the dairy sector through knowledge transfer and its analytical and information management services.

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