Plan to Go Forward

https://mosesorganic.org/organic-2051-plan-to-go-forward/

1) PRODUCTION

1a) Cover Crops, Crop Rotations, Soil Health
   Gaps & Opportunities:
   • On-Farm research: “The farmer in the lab”
   • Carbon sequestration: “Balancing the carbon checkbook”
   • Soil health: “Unleash a soil health pandemic”

1b) Drift, Pollinators, Conventional Juxtaposition
   Gaps & Opportunities:
   • Policies, incentives & regulations to phase out use of problem pesticides
   • Policy/staffing for monitoring, enforcement; food safety
   • “Drift catchers” for organic farmers

1c) Tillage, Water Quality, Carbon Sequestration
   Gaps & Opportunities:
   • Policy incentives that accurately reflect the real costs, risks and benefits
   • Principles-based, systems-focused best management practices that allow for reduction of tillage
   • Recognition of farming as a skilled, viable profession with education and career development opportunities
   • Robust networks to develop on-farm research and farmer-to-farmer information exchange

2) COMMUNITY

2a) Organic Certification, the Label, Competing Labels
   Gaps & Opportunities:
   • Current NOP Standards do not fully represent the principles and values of the organic movement
   • Uphold organic integrity across the supply chain
   • Public understanding of the broad benefits of organic food & farming

2b) Vertical Integration of Organic Agriculture and Its Impact
   Gaps & Opportunities:
   • Society-wide cultural change based on long-term thinking of agricultural impacts that drives behavior change
   • Build relationship through supply chain, services, policy change, laws, education to insert organic everywhere

2c) Rural Community Revitalization
   Gaps & Opportunities:
   • Health care and social safety nets
   • New narrative: map migration, advance profession of farming, rural vitality metrics
   • New community economics
3) SOCIOLOGICAL

3a) Barriers to Converting to Organic

Gaps & Opportunities:
- Investment in supply chain
- Generate demand – messaging
- Build community – peer networks

3b) Reaching Disadvantaged and Underserved Farmers

Gaps & Opportunities:
- Offering career pathways – training, technical support, leadership opportunities
- De-risking farming for the individual
- Using a racial equity lens across all of these farming topics

3c) Market Infrastructure

Gaps & Opportunities:
- Physical infrastructure
- Social infrastructure – fair price, market protection, supply management
- Economics of scale at all scales

4) ENERGY

Fossil Fuel Reduction, Power Alternatives, Machinery, Waste Reduction Conservation

Gaps & Opportunities:
- Build local energy networks
- Local energy production
- Energy policy reform

4b) ECONOMICS

Business Planning, Viability, Co-ops, Labor, Justice, Scale, Local, Social Capital, Consumer Education

Gaps & Opportunities:
- Parity and supply management
- Folks don’t understand what else organic can do - carbon sequestration, reduce carbon footprint
- Cost of production is still a big question – measure full costs, teach farmers how to measure

4c) LIVESTOCK

Regenerative Systems, Humane, Breeding, Pasture-based

Gaps & Opportunities:
- Laws and policies that exclusively support regenerative agriculture
- Antitrust laws need to be enforced across the country
- Optimal scale for regenerative production, aggregation, distribution

4d) CLIMATE CHANGE

Human Health, Resilience, Pests, Seeds, Mitigation

Gaps & Opportunities:
- Public funded research, farmer driven, accessible on farm-level climate change issues
- Public understanding of organic as part of climate solution
4e) SEEDS
Perennial and Ancient Grains, Meeting Expanding Need, New Crops
Gaps & Opportunites:
• Breeding for organic systems
• Truly participatory methods
• Breeding for human health and culture

4f) “THE EDGES”
Issues Not Met in Other Categories
Gaps & Opportunites:
• Need information on non-monetary value of organic
• Information on what practices improve the quality and nutritional content of foods
• Need farming systems research approach and techniques used and taught