Community Supported Organic Fund

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NOSB Definition

“Organic agriculture is an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity.”

Any organic research and promotion program must support organic agriculture, as defined by the NOSB.
Basics Principles

Independent (non-political)
Transparent
Accountable (democratically elected)
Inclusive (all stakeholders)
Efficient (minimal bureaucracy)
Innovative and Flexible
Comply w/ Organic Definition
Basic Principles

Meet regional needs for both research and promotion (SARE model)
Equitable (scale neutral)
Culturally adjusted
Broad-based (accommodate all production types – fruits, veggies, grains, forages, livestock, processing, etc.)
Basic Principles

Support basic, applied and on-farm research
Allow for both comparative and progressive research and outreach
Follow clear grant award criteria (e.g. OREI or OFRF)
Basic Principles

Integrate education and technical assistance (field days, webinars, videos, publications, social media, Organic Ag in the Classroom)

Sustainable, community-supported funding system
Set Budget Goal

Organic Research and Extension Initiative to reach $50 million/year under 2018 Farm Bill

Reasonable for community funding, in 10 years, to meet or exceed government support
Here Come the Bucks!

1. Checkout Checkoff
Retailers, including food coops, Big Box stores, grocery stores, natural food stores, online sellers ask shoppers to “round up” their checkout totals to support organic research and promotion.
Quick Fact!

1. Checkout Checkoff
   Natural Grocers, at its 150 stores, raised nearly $100,000 for the Organic Farmers Association in September 2018.
More Bucks!

2. Retailer Match
Retailers match the amount of money donated by shoppers. Greatly increase awareness of benefits of organic thru point of purchase materials and Web/social media campaigns.
4. Producers Pay Too
Establish voluntary contributions, based on organic sales.

Use Organic Integrity Database to identify certified organic handlers and producers.
Foundation Funds!

5. Solicit foundational support from foundations. Sponsorships, grants, engagement and partnerships to advance a healthy organic future.
Input Suppliers!

6. Solicit funds from input Manufacturers, suppliers and distributors – Fertilizers, pesticides, machinery, seed companies, nurseries to help grow organic.
Settlement Funds!

7. When members of the supply chain commit fraud and are sued in court, a portion of the settlements could be directed to help support organic research and promotion.
Governance

Organizational Representation (trade groups, farm groups, at-large producers, scientists, sponsors, regional reps)

Regional and National Elections
Community Supported Organic Fund
Let’s Do It!