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## Organic farm group 'disheartened' by NRC's sustainable ag report

OFRF's Scowcroft said farm, food system need transformational change 'now'

by Sustainable Food News  
June 30, 2010



OFRF's Bob Scowcroft

The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) said Wednesday it is "disheartened" by the National Research Council's new sustainable agriculture report.

The Santa Cruz, Calif.-based think tank said despite the "multiple crises challenging American farmers and ranchers today," the report only called for "incremental change" and a "transformative approach" to design profitable sustainable farming systems.

"At a time when climate change, obesity and health, ground water pollution and ocean dead zones have all been irrefutably linked to our current agro-industrial farm and food system, we had every expectation that the NRC would issue an urgent call to action," OFRF Executive Director Bob Scowcroft said in a statement. "Yes, we need transformational change, but we need it now, not in some distant future."

"In the organic community, we believed that this new report, published 21 years after the NRC's initial forward-thinking analysis in the report Alternative Agriculture, would be hard hitting and build on past findings. It appears that is not the case," said Scowcroft.

Scowcroft said a more detailed analysis of the report, "Toward Sustainable Agricultural Systems in the 21st Century," will be provided once OFRF has been able to fully vet the entire report.

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