



**Progress toward
instituting organic
research in the U.S.**

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2002 Farm Bill Organic Initiatives

- *Organic agriculture research and extension initiative:* \$3 million per year for the next 5 years = \$15 million
- *National organic certification cost-share program:* \$5 million for FY 2002, will pay up to 75% of certification fees, to a maximum of \$500 to a producer or handler
- *Exemption of certified organic products from assessments:* a person that produces and markets solely 100 percent organic products

2002 Farm Bill Organic (cont.)

- ☛ ***International organic research collaboration—not funded***
- ☛ ***Report on producers and handlers of organic agricultural products—not funded***
- ☛ ***Organic production and market data initiatives—not funded***

Milestones in U.S. organic policy

- ☞ 1970s: energy crisis, research on organic as energy-saving approach**
- ☞ 1980: USDA Report and recommendations on organic farming; shredded by Reagan admin.**
- ☞ 1980-1992: dark ages; grassroots development continues**
- ☞ 1988: glimmer of light: SARE is born**

Milestones (cont.)

- 1989: Minnesota and California begin long-term studies featuring organic**
- 1990: OFRF spins off from CCOF; Organic Food Production Act**
- 1997: Searching for the O-Word; USDA releases proposed Rule**

Milestones (cont.)

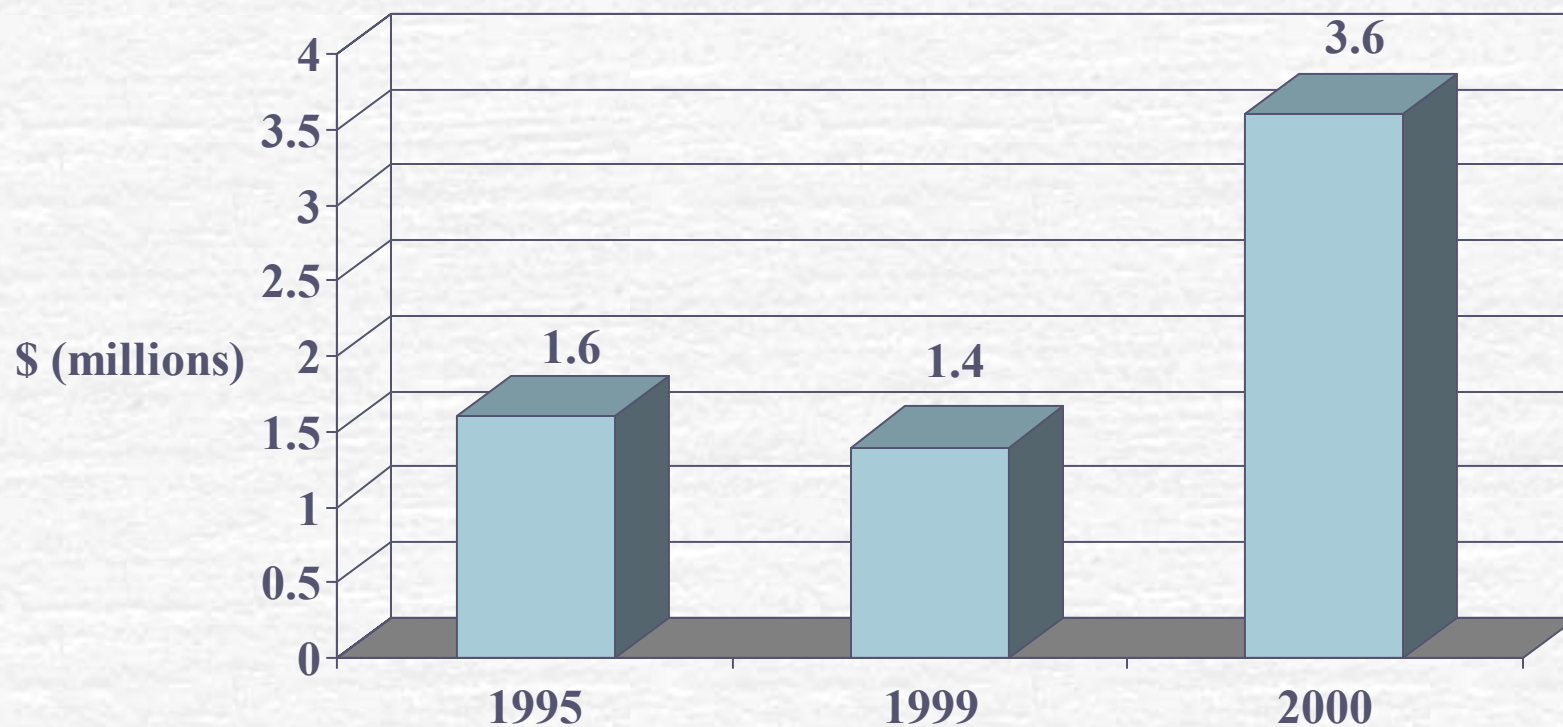
- **Late 1990's: interdisciplinary organic research started at 5 land grants (IA, OH, NC, MN, WV)**
- **2000: Final National Organic standard; \$1.8 million awarded to Organic Agriculture Consortium**
- **2001: \$1.2 million awarded to Northeast Organic Network (NEON)**

Milestones (cont.)

- 2002: Farm Bill includes record levels of support for organic research; USDA label instituted**
- 2004: remaining organic initiatives funded**
- The future:**

The World Goes Organic

U.S. funding for organic research



Innovative organic research partnerships

- ☞ SCOAR**
- ☞ NEON**
- ☞ CEFS, North Carolina**
- ☞ LTAR, Iowa**

Scientific Congress on Organic Agricultural Research (SCOAR)

- ☞ Farmer-researcher network to identify organic research needs**
- ☞ Pursues multi-disciplinary research and extension on organic farms**
- ☞ Creating National Research Agenda; made administrative recommendations to USDA on managing Farm Bill funds**

Northeast Organic Network (NEON)

- Multi-state, multidisciplinary consortium of farmers, researchers, extension educators and grassroots nonprofits**
- Conducting research, extension and education programs**
- Cornell University, the University of Maine, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers, the Northeast Organic Farming Associations of New York and New Jersey, the New England Small Farm Institute, the Organic Materials Review Institute, and New York Certified Organic**

Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS)

- Interdisciplinary research team working with farmers, non-profits, and agency personnel**
- Ecological studies of 5 systems: strong organic component**
- North Carolina State University, North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Rural Advancement Foundation International, Carolina Farm Stewardship Assoc., No-Till Alliance, American Livestock Breeds Conservancy**

Searching for the “O-Word,”

Mark Lipson

- ✓ 1997 report on USDA-funded research based on 1995 data**
- ✓ 0.1% (one-tenth of 1%) of 30,000 projects were “strong organic”**
- ✓ Funding was \$1.5 million, slightly less than 0.1% total USDA R&E budget**