

12-18 September 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

Organic Farming is key to building resilience to adapt to a changing climate

Increased severity of global warming leading to extreme climate weather patterns has become unmistakably obvious. Severe storms, extreme flooding events and droughts are expected to continue more frequently in the future, creating a severe impact on global food systems affecting crop harvests, reduction in food production and higher food costs to consumers.

To adapt and be resilient in the changing climate, we need to produce food in ways that actively restore the health of the planet. Organic farming practices have proven to deliver multiple benefits that not only support natural systems of regeneration and biodiversity, but also help mitigate the impact of climate change.

The practice of organic farming has these benefits to the environment:

1. Stores carbon in the soil – High level of organic matter in soils help to prevent nutrient and water loss, therefore making soils more resilient to extreme floods and droughts.
2. Increase soil's ability to retain water and reduce excess run-off. This can minimise nuisance flooding during heavy rain and flooding events.
3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the environment's exposure to synthetic pesticides and chemicals that can cause long term contamination in the soil and water supply.
4. Promote a sound state of health and resilience for the farmland - Using compost as organic fertilizer promotes soil organic matter and fertility which will boost biological activity within the soil.
5. Combats soil erosion and degradation - organic farming builds healthy soil and helps combat serious soil and land issues, such as erosion

Mr Eric Love, Chairman of the Centre for Organic Research & Education (CORE), says "Agricultural resilience is critical to human survival. Meeting the goal of resilient agriculture will require urgent changes arguably more advanced than any other measures previously implemented in human history. Agricultural productivity must dramatically increase, and it must do so while contending with complex and interacting drivers of a dramatically fluctuating global environment."

"Scientists have warned that Agricultural production must increase by more than a massive seventy percent (70%) by 2050 to meet the world's demand for food, fuel and fibre. Alarming many agricultural systems are facing decreasing productivity due to loss of soil quality, erosion, biological invasions and overuse of land. This is compounded by broader environment issues such as drought, floods, diminishing water quality, clearing and increasing negative impacts from global warming." says Mr Love.

Mr Love continues, "So, what can we do about it? Research and practical experience demonstrate that regenerative organic systems increase productivity by significantly strengthening resilience to these ubiquitous challenges and can deliver the dynamics of resistance and recovery that are needed before we reach critical devastation events. Resilient organic agriculture is robust and adaptable to the accumulating environmental, economic, social, and institutional challenges of today's world."



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“Sooner or later, organic production systems are likely to be the only way we can sustainably feed the world. The upside is that organic farming can be profitable, and organic food appeals to consumers as both a healthy and ethical choice that also results in numerous climate actions and environmentally positive benefits.”

National Organic Week (NOW) will be held from 12th September to 18th September in Australia this year. The Centre for Organic Research & Education (CORE), who championed this cause in Australia for the past 17 years is urging everyone to get involved by organising or participating in organic events held by your local community.

Events can be registered and promoted on the official NOW event calendar -

<http://www.organicweek.net.au/core/events/register-an-event/>

Another way you can promote and support organic products is to vote in the annual Organic Consumer Choice Awards (OCCA's). These awards promote and reward the best organic stakeholders around the country. The OCCA's is the only industry organic awards program decided solely by consumers. Online voting will open to the public from 12th September to 13th October on the National Organic Week website www.organicweek.net.au.

Media interviews:

Eric Love – Chairman
(02) 9922 1591 or 0419 619 455

General enquiries:

Charmaine Cheung – Marketing & Communications Manager
(02) 9922 1591 or 0419 621 054

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