
Resources for a Sustainable Agriculture

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Introduction

There is an increasing interest in low input agricultural systems which minimize inputs of off-farm, non-renewable resources, such as agricultural chemicals, while maximizing the use of on-farm, renewable resources. "Sustainable agriculture" is a term frequently used to describe low input, ecologically-oriented farming, but also includes the entire food production, marketing, and distribution system. This publication is intended to provide information on major organizations involved in sustainable agriculture activities, and selected periodicals, books, and journal articles dealing with this subject.

Organizations

Alternative Farming Systems Information Center. A division of the National Agricultural Library established to provide information on alternative farming practices from both popular and scientific literature. Center staff can answer questions, refer requests to experts, identify current research, and perform literature searches. For information contact: AFSIC, National Agricultural Library, Room 111, Beltsville, MD 20705, 301/344-3704.

Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA). Sponsored by the National Center for Appropriate Technology and the Cooperative Extension Service. ATTRA collects and disseminates information on low input agriculture and community resource management to extension agents, farmers, and rural communities through direct technical assistance, publications, research projects, and workshops. Write ATTRA, Agricenter International, 7777 Walnut Grove

Road, Memphis, Tenn. 38119. Toll free hotline 800 346-9140.

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association. Rt. 1, Box 155, Madison, NC 27025. A membership association of farmers, gardeners, businesses, and consumers "who are concerned about the health of the land, the life it sustains, and the quality of the food it produces". General membership meetings are held twice a year, and an annual Alternative Agriculture Field Day is jointly sponsored with North Carolina State University in July.

Institute for Alternative Agriculture. 9200 Edmonston Rd, Suite 117, Greenbelt, Md. 20770. Organizes scientific symposia on topics relating to alternative agriculture, serves as an information clearing house, and publishes *Alternative Agriculture News*, *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture*, and the *Alternative Agriculture Resources Report*.

International Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture. 1701 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Promotes legislation supporting sustainable agriculture, coordinates environmental protection efforts, and publishes *MANNA*, a newsletter of international activities in sustainable agriculture. Membership/subscription fee: \$25/yr.

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). 33 E. Minor St., Emmaus, Pa. 18049. Publishes *IFOAM Bulletin*. IFOAM is an international organization of groups working in organic and sustainable agriculture. International scientific conferences are held every other year.

Regenerative Agriculture Association. 222 Main St., Emmaus, Pa. 18049. A research and educational organization "working to restore people, profit, and biological permanence to America's food system". Publishes *The New Farm*, conducts on-farm research, and sponsors educational seminars and workshops throughout the country. Membership/subscription fee: \$15/yr.

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Rural Virginia. P. O. Box 105, Richmond, VA. 23201. A statewide membership advocacy organization working on a range of issues affecting the quality of life in small towns and rural areas in Virginia, including environmental concerns, economic development, agriculture, and human services.

Steering Committee for Sustainable Agriculture. P.O. Box 1394, Davis, Ca. 95617. Organizes an annual Ecological Farming Conference, hosts field days and other education events, coordinates sustainable agriculture activities in California, and publishes *SCSA News Briefs*. Membership \$10/yr.

Virginia Association of Biological Farmers. Box 252, Flint Hill, VA 22672. An organization of farmers, gardeners and consumers interested in biological agriculture. VABF holds three meetings yearly, as well as field days and farm tours, and publishes the quarterly journal, the *Virginia Biological Farmer*.

Virginia Committee for Sustainable Agriculture. 312 Price Hall, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. 24061. An interdisciplinary, interagency steering committee involved in coordinating research, Extension and teaching programs in low input, sustainable agriculture in Virginia.

Research Groups and Educational Centers

The Agroecology Program. College Eight, University of Calif, Santa Cruz, Calif. 95064. Graduate and undergraduate research and teaching programs in agroecology. Also a 6-month "Ecological Horticulture" program. Publishes *The Cultivar*, a quarterly newsletter on agroecology.

Elm Farm Research Centre. Hamstead Marshall, Near Newbury, Berkshire RG15 OHR, Great Britain. Publishes a "Practical Handbook Series" and other reports on biological agriculture.

The Land Institute. Route 3, Salina, Ks. 67401. Conducts research in perennial grain breeding and crop ecology, sponsors a 6-9 month intensive course in sustainable agriculture, hosts seminars and workshops. Publishes *The Land Report* and other reports.

The New Alchemy Institute. 237 Hatchville Rd., East Falmouth, Mass. 02536. A non profit research and educational organization which conducts holistic systems research, and offers 6-month intensive courses in biological agriculture and appropriate technology.

Publishes *New Alchemy Quarterly*, and *Journal of the New Alchemists*. Membership \$10-35/yr.

The Rodale Research Center. Box 323, RD 1, Kutztown, Pa. 19530. Conducts innovative research in regenerative agriculture, conducts educational programs, and publishes a research reports series.

Note: An extensive, annotated directory of agriculture and horticulture organizations, entitled *Healthy Harvest II*, edited by Susan Sanzone, is available from Potomac Valley Press, Suite 105, 1424 16th St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036. Information is provided on more than 600 organizations, with detailed descriptions of 120 groups.

Sustainable Agriculture Research Sourcebook is a compilation of current activities on sustainable agriculture at U. S. Universities. Available from Sustainable Agriculture Public Research Project, Wisconsin Rural Development Center, P.O. Box 504, Black Earth, WI 53515.

Periodicals

Acres, USA. P.O. Box 9547, Raytown, Mo. 64133. A monthly tabloid newspaper billing itself as "a voice for eco-agriculture". The Acres organization also sponsors annual conferences on ecoagriculture.

Alternative Agriculture News. A monthly 4 page newsletter featuring short news articles on activities in alternative agriculture. An excellent source of national information on who is doing what, where, and new publications, conferences and workshops, and legislative activities relating to sustainable agriculture. Published by the Institute for Alternative Agriculture, 9200 Edmonston Rd, Suite 117, Greenbelt, Md. 20770.

The American Journal of Alternative Agriculture. A refereed scientific journal, this quarterly publishes in-depth technical articles from a wide array of disciplines. Published by the Institute for Alternative Agriculture, 9200 Edmonston Rd, Suite 117, Greenbelt, Md. 20770.

Biological Agriculture & Horticulture. Published quarterly, this international journal includes articles on comparative farming systems, soil fertility and manage-

ment, biological control methods, and energy utilization. A B Academic Publishers, P. O. Box 97, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2PX, England.

The IPM Practitioner. A monthly tabloid of feature articles and information on integrated pest management for IPM practitioners in both agricultural and urban environments. This publication features cultural and biological control alternatives to conventional chemical pest control. Published by the Bio Integral Resource Center, 1307 Acton St., Berkeley, Ca. 94706.

The New Farm. A bi-monthly news-features magazine which features stories about farmers from the U. S. and Canada who have reduced inputs of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. *The New Farm* also provides information on conferences, workshops, and other topics related to regenerative agriculture. Published by the Regenerative Agriculture Association, 222 Main St., Emmaus, Pa. 18049.

The Virginia Biological Farmer. A quarterly journal featuring how-to information on organic and biological farming and gardening, as well events sponsored by the Virginia Association of Biological Farmers. Published by VABF, Box 252, Flint Hill, VA 22672.

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