

OSCIA Research Priorities

January 2016



The research committee is made up of Provincial Directors with support from OSCIA staff as well as Dr. Ian MacDonald, OMAFRA. This year the Committee met by conference call to scrutinize and adjust the research priorities that had been previously created. These priorities play a valuable role in directing where our research efforts should be directed. OSCIA sits on many committees and are approached frequently to help with funding and otherwise assist in various research efforts. Our resources are limited so the research priorities help direct our efforts to where they will be most effective while addressing the interests of you our members.

Role of OSCIA Research Committee:

- ✓ Monitor similar organizations' research priorities such as the Ontario Field Crop Research Coalition and Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO);
- ✓ Assist in connecting partners for research collaboration;
- ✓ Monitor on-going research progress and attempt to direct research in areas where research is deficient;
- ✓ Identify several priorities as highlighted by membership input, rather than providing a comprehensive review of other organizations' priorities;
- ✓ Identify and pursue leading-edge research, demonstrating ownership by direct involvement of staff and directors; Examples include:
 - The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) grants. Working in partnership with OMAFRA field staff are also excellent examples of direct collaboration;
 - Compost Council of Canada, along with Peel Region proposal request for funding research;
- ✓ Help fill the gaps. OSCIA's Research Committee is to:
 - Report at least annually to the full board at the summer meeting in preparation for the fall/winter meetings;
 - Meet with other industry partners (e.g. GFO, Ontario Forage Council, etc.) to discuss common research interests and collaboration opportunities;

Purpose of OSCIA Priorities:

- ✓ To have a paper approved by the OSCIA Board to prioritize the research topics;
- ✓ Send priorities to the OMAFRA Research Advisory Network (ORAN) structure;
- ✓ Focus on agronomy and nutrient utilization but also support areas that could be augmented;
- ✓ Provide input through strong representation on research committees, including representation on TAG (Environmental Sustainability);
- ✓ Include direct involvement (transfer of funds and opportunity to sit on the research committee) in research such as with the 'Soluble Phosphorus' research, the 'Bio-economy R & D' project, Soil Health, SuperFoods agronomy, and 'Species at Risk' project.

OSCIA Research Priorities Ranked to Include:

- i. Long-term soil health and biological interactions of soil, including additives to enhance crop production.
- ii. Residue and tillage management for crop production, soil erosion control, and reduction of nutrient loss from fields.
- iii. Economics and agronomics of emerging cropping systems and new crop development, especially related to adaptation to climate change and provincial cap and trade policy.
- iv. Manure and municipal bio-products such as green bin materials and biosolids.
- v. Bio-economy impacts, such as from biomass production, residue management and biosolids application as it relates to soil management.