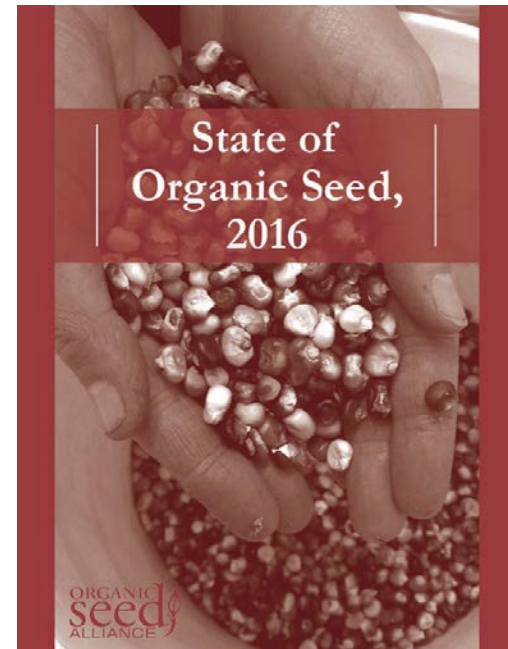


State of Organic Seed, 2016

Kristina (Kiki) Hubbard
Presentation to the NOSB
November 18, 2016

State of Organic Seed

Measuring progress in increasing the availability, quality, and integrity of organic seed available to US farmers

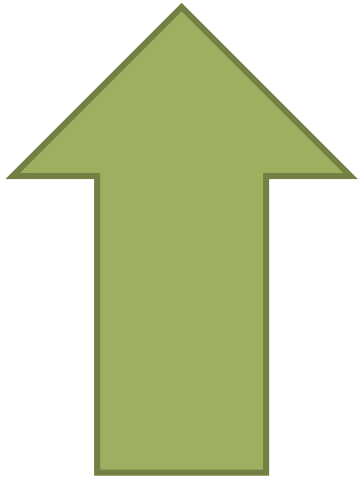


State of Organic Seed

We envision an organic food supply built on a foundation of organic seed



State of Organic Seed



What progress have we made?

- Organic seed sourcing
- Organic seed satisfaction
- Support for organic seed
- Organic seed investments

State of Organic Seed

Using organic seed for all acreage: **27%** (20% in 2011)

Increased over last three years: **31%**

Table 1. Over the last 3 years (2011-2013) have you decreased/increased the percentage of organic seed that you use in the following crop types?

	Vegetables	Field crops	Forage crops	Cover crops/ green manure	Across all crop types
Already at 100%	18%	30%	30%	29%	27%
Increased the percentage	46%	29%	25%	30%	31%
About the same percentage	31%	38%	42%	38%	36%
Decreased the percentage	5%	3%	3%	2%	6%

Figure 8. In general, do you have more problems with seed quality issues in non-treated conventional seed or organic seed?

- Problems are about the same for both non-treated conventional and organic seed
- Problems with organic seed are greater than with non-treated conventional seed
- Problems with non-treated conventional seed are greater than with organic seed

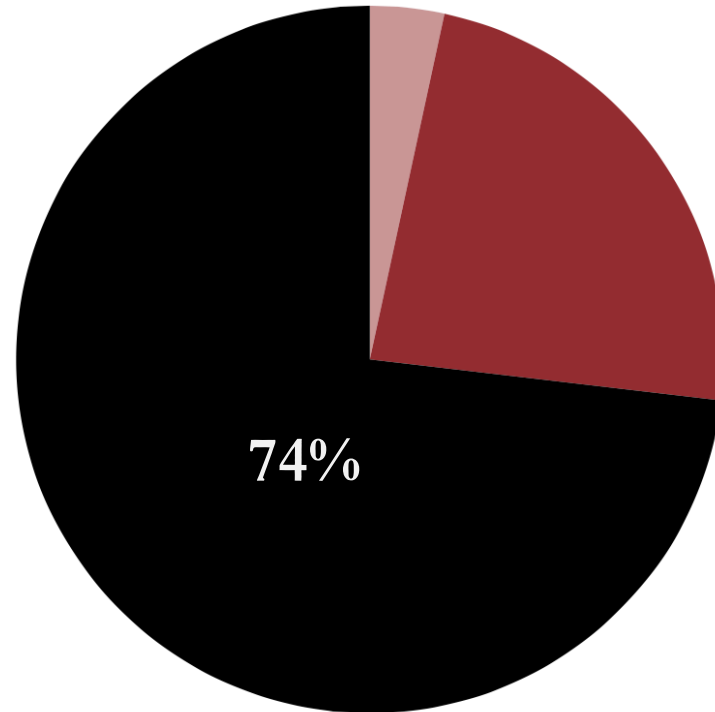
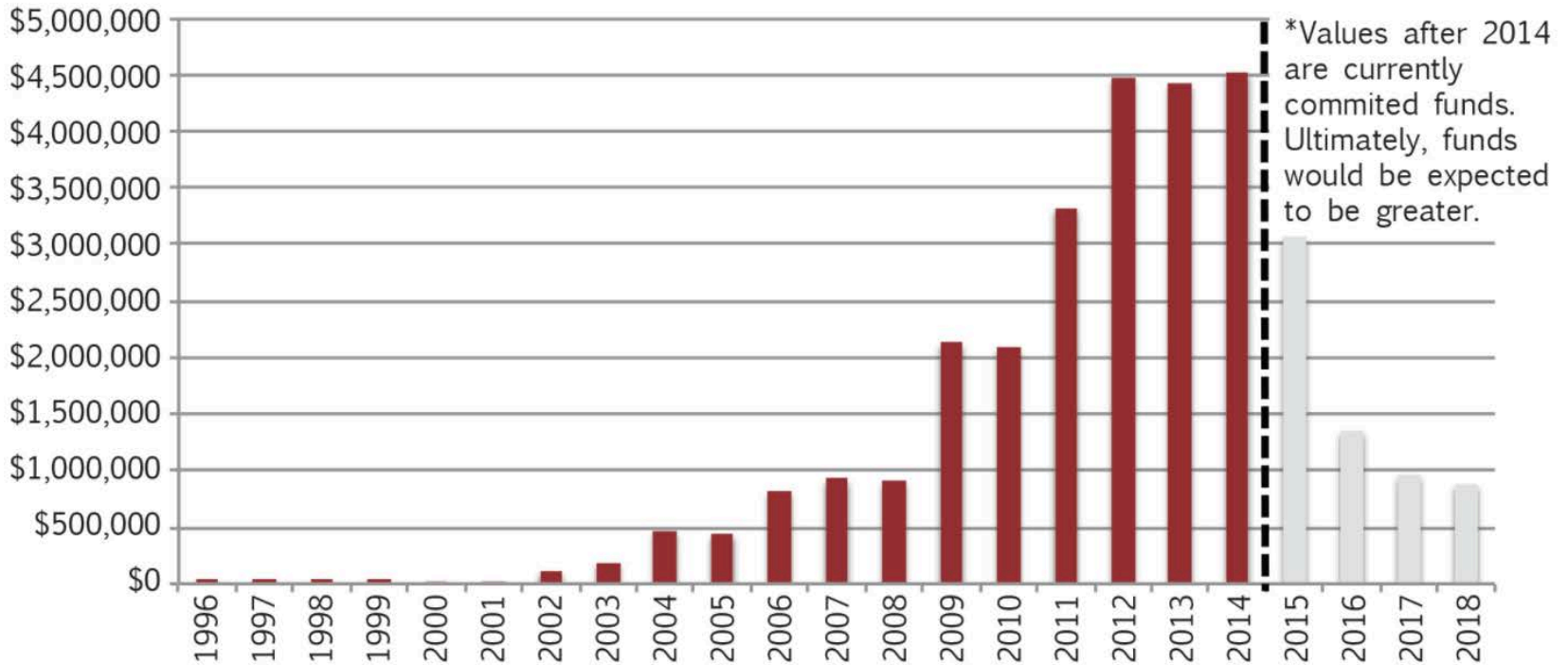
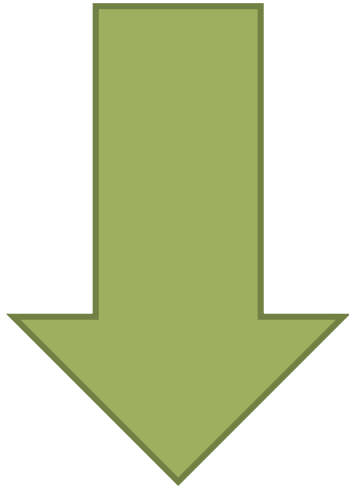




Figure 2. Funding for public organic plant breeding and other organic seed initiatives by year



State of Organic Seed



Little or no progress

- Most farmers still rely on non-organic
- Forage crop acreage
- Largest operations use relatively little
- Certifiers could use better guidance

Figure 6. Average percent acreage planted to organic seed

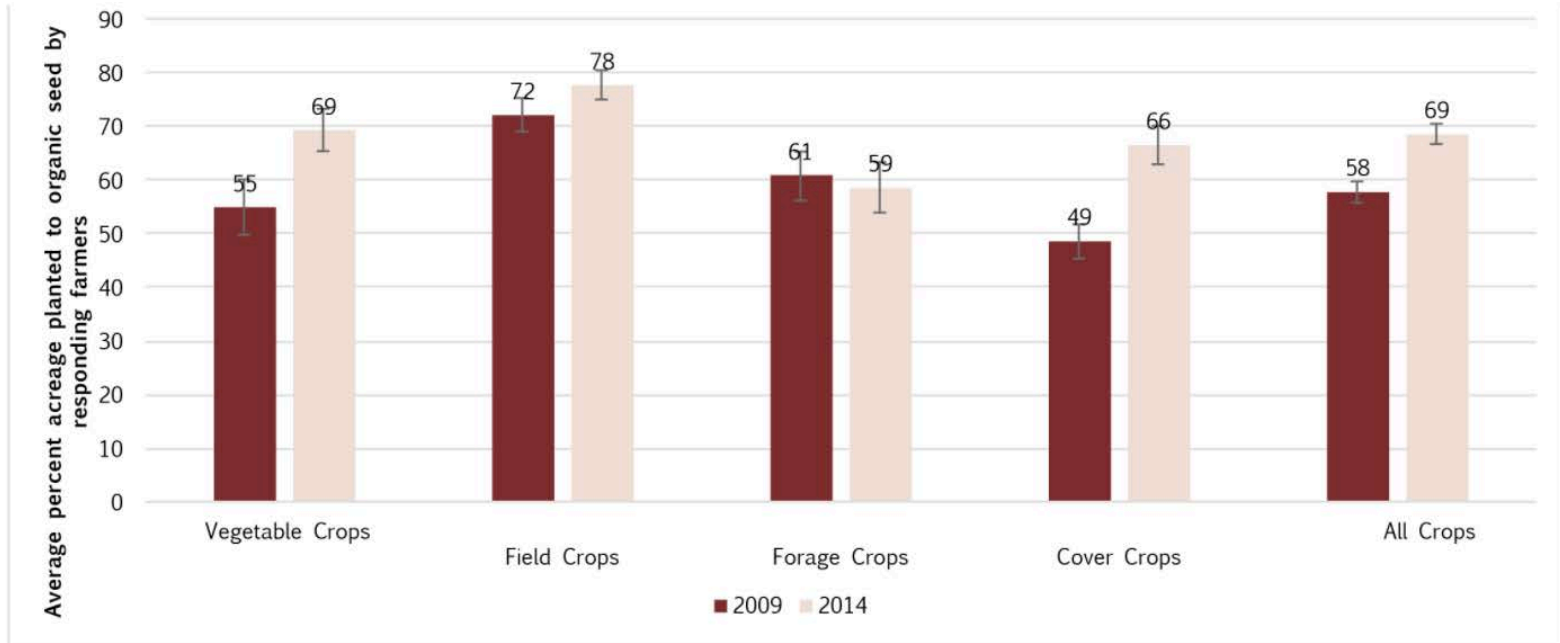


Figure 7. Organic vegetable seed use by acreage

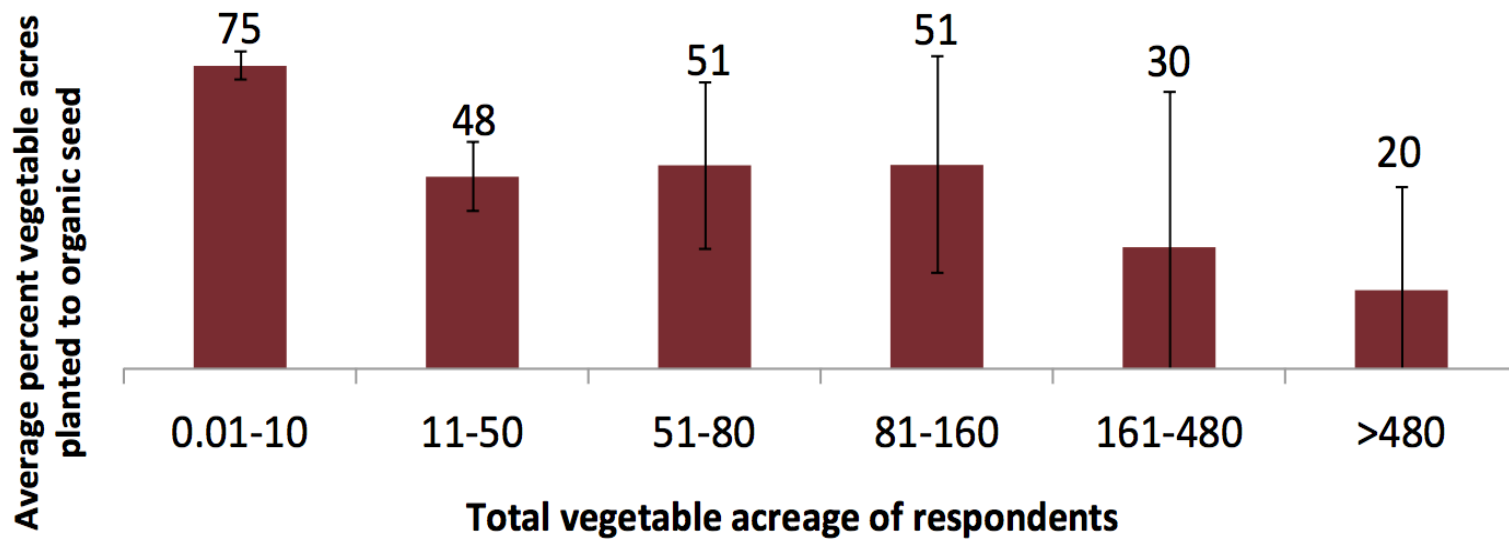


Figure 9. Over the last three years has your certifier requested that you take greater steps to source organic seed?

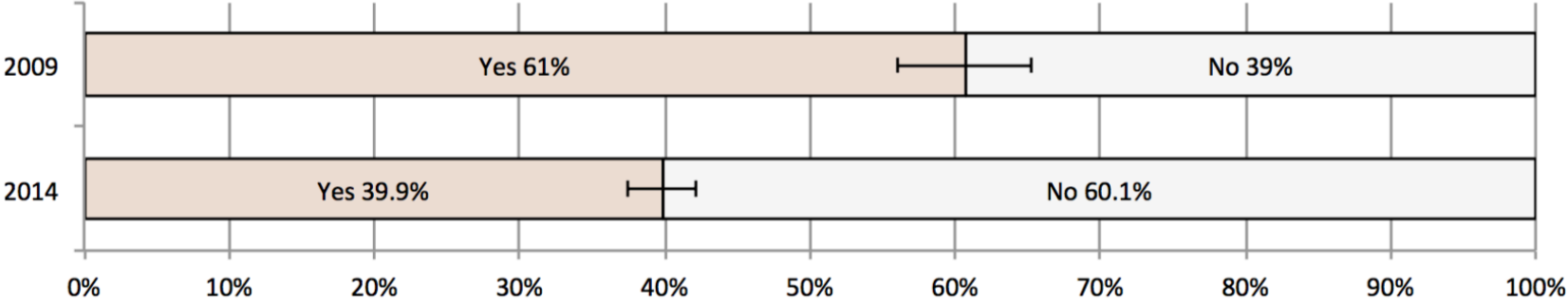
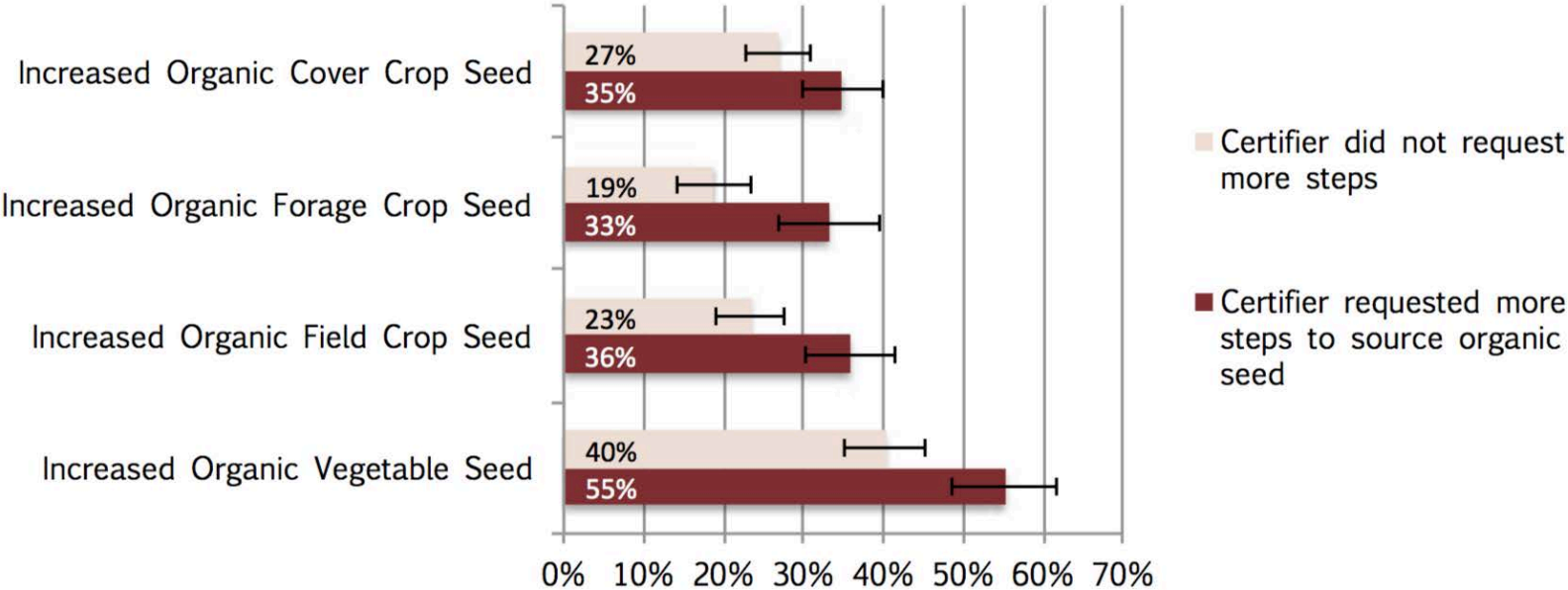


Figure 10. Certifier requests compared to increased sourcing of organic seed



Ongoing challenges

- Inconsistent enforcement of organic seed regulation
- Data to track organic seed supply
- Funding and infrastructure constraints for research
- Insufficient capacity for organic seed production
- Burden of GMOs and restrictive IPRs

Recommendations

- Improve organic seed guidance
 - Measurable improvements
 - Extra measures: 5 sources + variety trials
 - Handler responsibilities
- Increase certifier and inspector trainings
- Establish a review of organic seed availability
- Support organic seed database
- Publish (quickly!) guidance on excluded methods
- Continue to address seed purity

Thank you



kristina@seedalliance.org

(406) 544-8946

www.stateoforganicseed.org