

Interview with Patrick Zanichelli
Zanichelli's Garlic

Profile of a grower:

survivalist
individualist
vulnerable to mother nature
out of the box

A gap exists between traditional agricultural science (Agrologists) & the small-scale traditional/organic farming community.

There seems to be little relationship between these two groups

GAPS:

The small farmer does not know where he fits in
The system is fragmented & there are few links
There is no readily recognizable relationships or longitudinal commitments between small organic farmers & Department of Agriculture, Universities, researchers, environment sector
Short sighted vision no long-term plan in the market place / No 5-10 year plan
Too many farm factions

What we need:

Working partnerships with relation to

- public policy
- agricultural policy
- health policy / health connections = cost effective savings – multiplier effect
- environmental sustainability

Research - an inventory of BC's overall agricultural sustainability

- organic food production capacity
- state of environmental ecology & biodiversity
- a look at what is working in other regions and countries

Long-term Vision for the organic sector

- Where do we (organic sector) want to be?
- What does it take to get there?

Increased Sector Identification / leading edge team

- integration
- systems analysis
- a voice to liaise with gov't / policy making & educational community
- growers should be part of the process
- government protocols need to be inclusive regardless of size of farm operation