



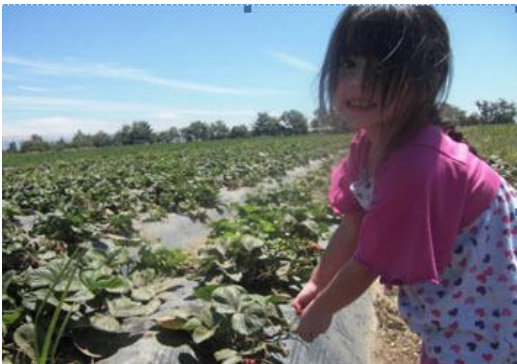
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Organic Agriculture: Socially Just & Sustainable

- **Organic agriculture** is a system of production that:
 - “Enhances biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. It is based on minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain, or enhance ecological harmony. The primary goal of organic agriculture is to **optimize the health and productivity of interdependent communities of soil life, plants, animals and people**” (USDA 1997).

Why does CRPE support organic agriculture?

1. **SOCIAL JUSTICE**: *Workers*
 - *Industrial farms* rank among the most hazardous of all industries.
 - *Accidents*: Meat packing trauma disorders affect around 920 out of 10,000 workers, compared to approximately 35 to 144 in other industries.
 - *Health*: workers on industrial farms face lung disease, hearing loss, skin disease, cancers associate with chemicals, sun exposure and heat.
2. **CONSERVATION and PRESERVATION**: *Reduce and reuse resources*
3. **BIODIVERSITY**: *We depend on living systems*
 - Diverse plants and animals provide: pest control, pollination, productive soil, disease resistance, among many other ecosystem services.
4. **ANIMAL WELFARE**: *Unsafe*
 - Industrial factory farms are at odds with the well being of animals
 - Animals are given antibiotics and exposed to pesticides which remain in their bodies, and therefore these chemicals are in the food animals produce.
5. **ECONOMIC VIABILITY**: *Short-term gains, long-term losses*
 - Industrial agriculture does **not account for the true human and environmental cost** of low price food production



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