

# Scottish Organic Action Plan

2026 - 2029

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# Ministerial Foreword

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Organic food and drink will play a vital role in Scotland's transition to a more sustainable and resilient food system. Producing high-quality food can, and must, go hand in hand with supporting climate action and nature restoration. As Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, I am pleased to present this **Scottish Organic Action Plan**. It sets out the shared ambition of the Scottish Government and Scotland Food & Drink to grow a thriving organic sector that delivers for our environment, economy and communities.

Scotland is leading the way on organic production within the UK. In 2021, the Scottish Government committed to doubling the area of land under organic management by the end of this parliamentary term. We are making strong progress towards this ambition, with six consecutive years of growth in organic land area. This has been driven by targeted support through the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme, which continues to help farmers convert to and maintain organic practices.

Momentum is building – not just in Scotland, but across Europe. More people than ever are choosing food that supports nature, climate and animal welfare. They are reassured by the robust standards that underpin organic certification. The organic label gives consumers confidence that they are backing sustainable farming, and we want to be able to meet that demand with the high-quality food produced here in Scotland.



**Mairi Gougeon MSP**

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

We recognise that organic producers face supply chain challenges, but there are also clear opportunities. The actions set out in this plan will add value to Scotland's world-renowned food and drink offer, helping organic producers grow and meet rising demand. This plan is the result of strong collaboration across the organic sector. I want to thank Scotland Food & Drink for leading its development, and for the crucial role it plays in connecting industry and government.

I also thank the many partners who shared their insight, experience and time to shape this plan. Their input has ensured it is both ambitious and grounded in practical delivery. I look forward to seeing how the sector develops as we work together to deliver this plan.

# Introduction – Scotland's Organic Opportunity

Scotland is globally recognised for its natural abundance, rich cultural heritage and exceptional food and drink. From our clean waters and fertile land, skilled food producers create high-quality ingredients and products that underpin our national reputation. The Scottish organic food and farming sector plays an increasingly important role in that story.

This has been recognised and supported by the Scottish Government's long-standing commitment to organic production, including targeted investment that has helped drive six consecutive years of growth in land under organic management.

That growth – alongside rising demand for organic produce in both domestic and export markets – makes this an ideal moment to launch the new Scottish Organic Action Plan. Developed collaboratively by key stakeholders across the sector and the Scottish Government, the plan sets out clear priorities to scale up production, meet demand, and support the long-term development of organic food and farming in Scotland.

By delivering on this vision, we can build Scotland's global reputation as a leader in sustainable, high-quality food and farming. With continued government support and strong collaboration across industry and academia, the Scottish organic sector is well placed to grow its impact and influence in the years ahead.

Building on strong foundations, the Scottish Organic Action Plan provides the framework to grow the sector's scale, profitability and sustainability – while contributing to net zero, biodiversity, and Scotland's global food reputation.

## The sector's vision is clear:



**See organic food and farming expand and thrive** – with profitable, resilient businesses across the supply chain.



**Deepen public understanding** of organic production, connecting people of all ages and backgrounds with how food is grown.



**Grow domestic and international demand** for Scottish organic products, supported by coordinated marketing, strong brand positioning, and improved market intelligence.



**Strengthen cooperation across the sector** – stimulating investment, innovation and supply chain development.



**Support those entering the sector** and ensure businesses have access to high-quality advice and the latest research.

# What is Organic and Why it Matters for Scotland

Organic is a legally defined system of farming and food production. It represents a whole-farm approach rooted in environmental stewardship, high animal welfare, and natural processes. Under current GB regulations, organic production is defined as:

*“An overall system of farm management and food production that combines best environmental practices, a high level of biodiversity, the preservation of natural resources, the application of high animal welfare standards, and a production method in line with the preference of certain consumers for products produced using natural substances and processes.”<sup>1</sup>*

In practical terms, organic farming:

Avoids the use of artificial fertilisers and synthetic pesticides.



Prohibits genetic modification and the use of artificial colours or preservatives.



Ensures high welfare standards, with no routine use of antibiotics in livestock.



Is certified annually to ensure compliance with legally defined standards.




Products must meet strict criteria to carry an organic certification logo, offering consumers confidence that at least 95% of the product's ingredients are certified organic.

Organic farming matters because it delivers trusted, high-quality food in a way that supports Scotland's environment, economy and long-term food security. It is a model for sustainable production that aligns closely with Scotland's strategic ambitions for nature, climate and rural prosperity.


<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91

The benefits of organic are wide-ranging:


**For nature –**  
greater biodiversity,  
improved soil health,  
and reduced  
chemical inputs.



**For climate –**  
increased resilience  
to projected weather  
events and improved  
carbon storage  
in soils.



**For people  
and animals –**  
high animal  
welfare and trusted  
production standards.



Organic is increasingly recognised as a key part of regenerative agriculture – combining food production with climate resilience and ecological restoration.

A 2023 [ClimateXChange evidence review](#) highlighted how organic practices could help Scottish farmers adapt to climate change and support net zero goals by 2045.

# Support for Organic in Scotland

Scotland is leading the way on organic farming within the UK. Backed by significant Scottish Government investment, and a clear policy commitment to sustainable and regenerative agriculture, the sector is expanding rapidly – supporting climate action, biodiversity, and rural resilience.

Indicator	2021 <sup>2</sup>	2024 <sup>3</sup>	Change
Fully organic land	89,600 ha	105,000 ha	+17.2%
Total organic land (inc. in-conversion)	103,900 ha	131,500 ha	+26.6%
Organic land as share of total agricultural land	1.8%	2.6%	+0.7%*

*\*Figures do not sum due to rounding*

In 2021, the Scottish Government committed to doubling the area of organic farmland (from 1.8% to 3.6%) by 2026, as part of its wider approach to sustainable agriculture and nature restoration.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/organic-farming-statistics-2021>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/organic-farming-in-scotland-2024>

This ambition is already delivering results:

Between 2023 and 2024 alone, Scotland saw a **13%** increase in organic farmland (fully organic and in-conversion).



Land entering conversion grew by **102%**, compared to **7%** in England between 2023 and 2024.



In 2024, **20%** of Scotland's organic land was in-conversion, signalling strong future growth.



The area of organic land under Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) management for both conversion and maintenance has increased by over **63,000 ha** between 2021 and 2025, representing around an **89%** increase.



This growth reflects both increasing market demand and confidence among producers in the long-term viability of organic systems.

The Scottish Government has supported organic farming through a suite of funding and advisory mechanisms. These continue to play a critical role in scaling up the sector.

## Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS)

AECS is the Scottish Government's principal funding mechanism for environmental and sustainable land management.

It supports land managers in adopting practices that protect Scotland's natural heritage, improve water quality, manage flood risk, and address climate change. The scheme offers targeted support for organic farming.





Since 2015:

**5,508** contracts have been awarded, an investment of over **£339 million**.

**£41.6 million** specifically directed to organic production (707 contracts).



The removal of the previous 1,000 ha cap on AECS organic applications in 2023 has unlocked further growth, allowing farms to bring more land into organic conversion and access long-term support.

## Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS)

The FFIS is a competitive capital grant scheme opened in 2025, offering up-front capital support to help eligible farmers and crofters invest in improvements that deliver business efficiency, climate and biodiversity benefits.



Organically certified and registered businesses are prioritised for support.

The scheme is designed to enable long-term investment in sustainability by providing capital support up front, helping to make sure farmers and crofters can invest without putting pressure on cash flow.



## Farm Advisory Service (FAS)

Scotland's Farm Advisory Service delivers high-quality, accessible advice to farmers, crofters, and land managers, helping them improve profitability, sustainability, and resilience.

This includes:

One-to-one advice, technical guides, benchmarking tools, and events.



Specific support for fully certified organic farms and those using partial organic practices.



Resources to help build business capacity and sector cohesion.



## Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Fund (KTIF)

KTIF supports innovation and skills development aligned with the Scottish Government's Vision for Agriculture and has funded a number of organic-focused knowledge transfer projects. Applications open periodically with funding available for:

Eligible Non-Governmental Organisations to promote informal vocational training, skills development and knowledge transfer projects focused on agriculture.



Innovation projects that enhance competitiveness, resource efficiency, and climate resilience.



# Embedding Organic Food in Public Sector Catering: Food for Life Scotland

Since 2009, the Scottish Government has supported and championed the Soil Association's Food for Life Scotland programme, which engages and supports caterers to achieve a 'Food for Life Served Here' certification. This standard backed scheme ensures that at least 75% of meals served in certified locations are fresh and unprocessed, with increased servings of fresh fruit and vegetables, fish, and wholegrains.

Accredited catering providers also serve high-quality, farm-assured meat, which leads to more local sourcing through wholesalers. Through the 'Food for Life Served Here' certification, increased use of organic produce is encouraged through progression into the Silver and Gold tiers, which require 5% and 15% of ingredient spend, respectively, to be on organic produce (see examples on page 14).

There are now<sup>4</sup> one Gold and five Silver award holders across Scottish local authorities and the wider public sector. They are sourcing ethical and environmentally friendly produce such as organic, free range, MCS 'Fish to Eat', RSPCA Assured, Fairtrade, LEAF, sustainable palm oil and organic or fair-trade drinks. FFLS is expanding into the wider public sector, including at Scottish Government



workplaces, the Scottish Parliament, Courts, Higher and Further Education institutions, as well as care homes and tourist attractions.

The Scottish organic sector is growing rapidly, underpinned by a strong policy framework, growing demand, and increasing investment.

Through continued government support and targeted delivery across schemes like AECS, FFIS, FAS, and KTIF, Scotland is well placed to expand its organic offering and contribute meaningfully to a fairer, greener food system – an important aspect of the Good Food Nation ambition.

16 local authorities hold certification of either Bronze, Silver or Gold across **1,486 sites** delivering around **109,000** certified meals daily to pupils across Scotland.



<sup>4</sup> Award holders accurate as of August 2025.

# The Organic Market – Demand and Growth



## UK Overview



£3.7 billion in annual sales.



13 years of consecutive growth.



Growth across all channels – retail, home delivery, and foodservice.



~70% of consumers, including those on lower incomes, actively choose organic for health, environmental and quality reasons.<sup>5</sup>



## Scotland



£98 million in organic grocery sales (0.8% of market).



Accounts for 7.1% of all GB organic sales.



+20.6% growth over five years (+£16.7 million).



Dairy and fresh produce dominate (20% of sales).



## London Comparison



2.1% of food and drink sales are organic.



£311 million annual value.



Growth of +10.6% in past year – major commercial opportunity for Scottish brands.



## European Context



Organic market share:

- Austria: 9.8%
- Germany: 4.9%
- France: 4.8%



Strong volume growth in Czechia, Romania, Italy, The Netherlands.



Organic growth abroad is often linked to sustainability and public procurement policy.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bioecoactual.com/en/2024/10/02/consumer-insights-report-uk-organic-organic-research-centre>

Sources - Kantar (April 2025), Soil Association Scotland Market Report 2025, The Knowledge Bank.



# Organic in Action – Examples from a Thriving Sector

Organic food and farming have a rich history in Scotland with many passionate, talented people involved in it. We want to see it grow in scale, value and influence – bringing benefits not only to health and the environment, but to farmers, businesses, consumers and communities. We have a collective duty to make sure the next generation picks up the mantle, and seizes the many organic opportunities across Scotland.

Scotland's organic sector is delivering impact - economically, environmentally and socially. From public procurement to premium brands, from biodiversity to business growth, organic produce is helping build a food system that works for people and the planet.

Below are examples of organic in action, across public procurement, farming and brands.

## On the Ground – Organic Farming

### Auchmacleddie Farm, Aberdeenshire – Chris Gospel

Near Fraserburgh in Aberdeenshire and known for innovative agricultural practices and dedication to organic farming. Among the first in Scotland to grow organic rapeseed oil (2020), processed locally and sold as ÒR-ganic.

- Grows organic milling oats and rye, bi-crops peas with cereals, and raises native cattle and sheep.
- Supplies organic meat to Marks & Spencer.
- Hosts student placements, field trials, and research collaborations.
- Has expanded landholding to increase scale and financial sustainability.



*“While my passion is the arable side of the farm, the cattle, sheep and arable enterprises all work together in symbiosis. I did an MSc in Organic Farming at SRUC which enabled me to see different farming practices and gave me the courage to trial them on my own farm, some with more success than others. I offer the farm for trials which means I can see how difficult it is to put theory into practice. Seeing what is realistic is important.”*

Chris Gospel

## Balcaskie Estate, Fife - Toby Anstruther

A 2,000-hectare estate in Fife that has transitioned to organic since 2016.

- Removed synthetic fertiliser use and introduced mob grazing, herbal leys, native cattle and pigs.
- Biodiversity measures include beetle banks, wildflower sowing, hedgerow planting and tall grass grazing.
- Organic system now matches or exceeds conventional returns.
- Delivers wider benefits: improved soil, lower input costs, local employment, and active community involvement.



*"You learn what animals like to eat and that they're happiest away from monoculture. Biodiversity becomes your friend. What holds you back is the complexity. How to make it all work together is a constant challenge."*

Toby Anstruther

## Whitriggs Farm, Scottish Borders – The Mitchell Family

A mixed organic farm near Hawick in the Scottish Borders. The Mitchell family rear organic beef and a herd of deer, alongside organic cropping.

- Mixed organic farm with beef, red deer and cropping.
- AgriScot Sustainable Farm of the Year 2023; active in peer learning and mentoring programmes.
- Replaced sheep with 330 red deer in 2018 – less labour, fewer treatments, higher economic return.
- Cattle mob-grazed in summer; bale grazing in winter reduces emissions, costs, and stress.
- Grows 50 ha of organic oats and barley; oats sold to John Hogarth Ltd in Kelso for oatcake and biscuit production.



*“Sheep were imported into this landscape from other environments and they then end up needing lots of treatments to fix the problems that come with that. It’s different for deer. They are native to this land and thrive without much input. It’s about working with nature, not against it.”*

*Sometimes, we do things a certain way because we have always done them that way. We went back to basics and allowed ourselves to ask questions about the need for a certain piece of machinery or chemical. Then you can find ways to farm more sustainably altogether.”*

The Mitchell Family

## Public Procurement – Driving Local Impact

The Food for Life Scotland programme – run by the Soil Association Scotland and funded by the Scottish Government – supports local authorities and caterers to serve freshly prepared, more sustainable and often more locally sourced meals. The Food for Life Served Here (FFLSH) award includes organic requirements at higher levels:

- Silver: at least 5% of the food budget spent on organic ingredients.
- Gold: at least 15% of the food budget spent on organic ingredients.

## Glasgow Caledonian University & Mossgiel Organic Farm

Achieved Silver in 2024, Gold award holder since 2025.

Upwards of 220,000 meals served annually.

Organic milk sourced from Mossgiel Organic Farm is used across the menu.

*“ Scottish produce is some of the best in the world. Using local ingredients doesn’t just support our farmers and reduce food miles – it makes the food taste better. Simple as that. Whether it’s dairy from Ayrshire or fresh berries from Perthshire, we want our menus to celebrate what Scotland grows.”*

Euan Kilpatrick – Head Chef,  
Glasgow Caledonian University





## Stirling Council



Invested in career-long professional learning for kitchen staff, boosting skills and enabling more meals made from scratch with raw ingredients.

All sites serve organic milk.

Serves 3,600 meals daily across 68 schools and nurseries.

Silver award since 2014.

## East Lothian Council

Sources organic flour from local supplier Mungoswells, used in baking on-site.

Serves over 4,500 meals daily across 58 primary and nursery sites.

Silver award since 2022.



## Aberdeen City Council – “Give Peas a Chance”<sup>6</sup>

Bronze award holder since 2015.

Serves 13,500 meals daily across 59 schools.

Features local organic split peas from Balmakewan Farm in 11 dishes.

Linked to classroom learning via Royal Highland Educational Trust (RHET) and Royal Northern Countryside Initiative.

*“Products like these organic peas are a win-win. They’re a locally sourced, sustainable product that’s good for health, the environment and the local economy. Through this project, we want to show the power of public procurement for getting more of these types of high-quality Scottish ingredients on to school meal plates”*

Lucie Wardle – former Soil Association Scotland Senior Development Manager



## BaxterStorey – Government Catering

Serves over 53,000 accredited meals annually and growing.<sup>7</sup>

Silver accreditation since 2024 across:

- Scottish Government buildings in Edinburgh.
- Scottish Government building at Atlantic Quay in Glasgow.

These examples demonstrate how organic food in public procurement:

- Delivers fresh, healthy meals.
- Supports local farms and producers.
- Cuts waste and emissions.
- Builds stronger food education and provenance.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.soilassociation.org/our-work-in-scotland/scotland-news/2024/april/15/aberdeen-city-gives-peas-a-chance/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.foodforlife.org.uk/blogs/spotlight-on-sustainable-success-baxterstorey-food-for-life-served-here/>

# Scottish Organic Brands and Products

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Scotland is home to a diverse and growing range of organic brands, a selection of which are shown above. These products are sold through supermarkets, independent shops, farmers markets, and direct-to-consumer schemes. Many also feature on international menus and export to markets in Europe, North America and Asia.



## Island Bakery – Isle of Mull

Founded in the 1990s by Joe and Dawn Reade, Island Bakery started as a small craft bakery and has grown into a leading organic biscuit producer. Their range includes shortbread, biscuits and savoury snacks, all made with strictly organic ingredients.

Sold in Waitrose and independent shops across the UK, and exported to the EU and USA.



Uses carbon-balanced cardboard packaging.

Factory powered by 100% local renewable energy – hydro, wind and wood-fired ovens.

Multiple award winner including Great Taste Awards and BOOM Awards Nation's Favourite Organic Product.

*"When we built a new bakery 13 years ago, we decided to take advantage of our location. A hydro-electric turbine on the rain-filled Tobermory river supplies all our electricity. If it's not raining it's windy, and we capture that with a wind turbine on the hill behind us. Soon we will be adding solar to the mix. And then there are plenty of conifer plantations on the island that provide fuel for our wood-fired ovens. We make efforts to reduce our emissions wherever we can and will be working on quantifying that."*

Joe Reade – Island Bakery Owner



## Nc'nean Distillery – Morvern Peninsula

Nc'nean is the UK's only fully organic Scotch whisky distillery. Founded by Annabel Thomas, it distils using 100% organic Scottish barley and local botanicals like bog myrtle and wild thyme.

Distributed across the UK, 18 EU countries, the United States of America and Asia.

Powered by renewable energy, with zero waste to landfill.

By-products are reused as feed and fertiliser by local farms.



First in the UK to use 100% recycled clear glass bottles (cutting emissions by 40%).

Offers bottle return and refill schemes.

Team is 60% female – rare in the whisky sector.

*“This is a luxury product, and while the growth of organic is strong, this is about finding the right market at a time when most people are tightening their spending. We are able to offer customers the choice of buying an organic whisky that is at the same time also more sustainable in other ways.”*

Amy Stammers – Visitor Manager and Head of Sustainability at Nc'nean

# Scottish Organic Action Plan: 2026 – 2029

This plan is a sector-led roadmap for expanding organic farming, food and drink production, and processing across Scotland, developed by industry with support from government. It aligns closely with Scotland's national food and drink strategy, '*Sustaining Scotland. Supplying the World*', and its three core missions: **Resilience**, **Growth** and **Sustainability**.

The organic sector supports all three of these missions.

## Resilience

Through agroecological approaches that enhance soil health, biodiversity and rural viability.



## Growth

By opening new market opportunities and strengthening supply chains.



## Sustainability

By supporting net zero goals, nature restoration and long-term land stewardship.



The plan's actions are designed to benefit farms, food and drink businesses, and their wider communities and supply chains. It is structured around five priority areas critical to increasing:

The land managed organically.

The volume and range of Scottish organic products.

The value and visibility of organic sales in domestic and export markets.

## Priority Areas

### **Develop Research, Training and Advisory Services**

Continue to strengthen organic-specific knowledge and support through:

- The Farm Advisory Service, including peer-to-peer learning, skills development and professional training tailored to organic systems.
- Considering potential new research via the Scottish Government's Strategic Research Programme, to grow the evidence base for organic practices in Scotland.



## **Raise Awareness of Organic in Scotland**

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Improve public, industry and policy awareness of the value of organic food and farming by:

- Promoting the full range of organic products and their benefits.
- Learning from best practice in international markets.
- Embedding organic into major initiatives such as:
  - Scotland Food & Drink marketing campaigns (with organic case study videos).
  - The Scotland Food & Drink Excellence Awards (introducing an Organic Business of the Year Award).

## **Develop Organic Supply Chains and Markets**

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Unlock growth by:

- Providing bespoke industry support to improve supply chain capability and market understanding.
- Facilitating access to market insight and commercial intelligence.
- Engaging with retailers, wholesalers and foodservice to build demand.
- Coordinating activities across sectors to support collaboration and scale.

## **Facilitate Conversion and Maintenance of Organic Land**

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Secure long-term growth by:

- Supporting farmers and crofters with financial incentives and trusted advice.
- Removing barriers to entry and strengthening confidence in organic systems.
- Maintaining regular engagement between government, industry and producers to inform policy and scheme development.

## **Promote Public Procurement of Organic Produce**

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Leverage Scotland's public sector to grow demand and visibility by:

- Encouraging increased organic content in public sector food provision.
- Investigating and promoting cost-effective organic ingredients.

# Delivery Framework

Delivering this Scottish Organic Action Plan effectively requires strong coordination, transparent monitoring, and a clear line of sight to wider national priorities – particularly Scotland's ambitions for a sustainable, low-carbon food system.

A dedicated project management resource within Scotland Food & Drink will coordinate delivery of the plan, working closely with partners across industry and government. This resource will ensure organic sector activity is integrated with the wider market development work led by Scotland Food & Drink and aligned with the broader food and drink strategy, *'Sustaining Scotland. Supplying the World'*.

The following actions link directly to the five priority areas.

## Developing Research, Training and Advisory Services for Organic

Action	Delivery Lead
Continue to provide high quality, trusted organic advice through the Farm Advisory Service. Work with providers to mainstream organic advice throughout, increasing the provision of advice whilst using the full range of communication methods adopted within the Farm Advisory Service.	Scottish Government
Encourage and enable the continuous professional development of Farm Advisory Service registered specialist advisors by providing awareness sessions on organic, with the aim of increasing the number of applications received and awarded for specialist advice on organic.	Scottish Government
Focus on the development of peer-to-peer learning, knowledge exchange and transfer within and beyond Scottish organic. Facilitate further engagement between Farm Advisory Service providers and industry bodies to ensure appropriate and effective signposting to organic support and advice for those considering conversion, or those already following organic standards.	Farm Advisory Service suppliers and industry organisations
Review the findings and recommendations from the recently completed gap analysis of farm advisory services, knowledge exchange, training and research relating to organic in a Scottish context.	Scottish Government
As part of the development of the priorities for the next ENRA Strategic Research Programme 2027–32, fully consider how the evidence base for organic production and processing in the Scottish context can be improved.	Scottish Government

## Developing Supply Chains and Markets for Organic Produce

Action	Delivery Lead
Encourage, support and enable an increased presence from Scottish organic food producers at suitable major industry and trade events, including identifying and delivering bespoke organic opportunities and facilitating learning journeys.	Scotland Food & Drink (in conjunction with Soil Association Scotland)
Looking to capitalise on the growing market demand for organic food and drink within already established markets, the rest of the UK (particularly the Southeast of England) and Europe, publish market insight reports for these two markets to highlight growth opportunities for organic producers.	Scotland Food & Drink (in conjunction with Soil Association Scotland)
Continue and expand engagement with retailers to increase the visibility and range of Scottish organic food products available in stores across the UK.	Scotland Food & Drink (in conjunction with Soil Association Scotland)
Highlight opportunities and market demand for specific organic products to producers and processors.	Scotland Food & Drink (in conjunction with Soil Association Scotland)
Linking into wider work taking place to deliver the industry strategy ( <i>'Sustaining Scotland. Supplying the World'</i> ), ways to increase the public procurement spend on organic food and drink will be investigated, including delivering knowledge around the public procurement opportunity in Scotland, supporting customers and businesses to maximise sales of organic Scottish food and drink.	Scotland Food & Drink (in conjunction with Soil Association Scotland)
Using Scottish-specific organic data, produce a report highlighting what, and how much, is produced following organic standards in Scotland. This will inform and support effective policy development as well as identifying areas where current production is not meeting market demand, presenting and highlighting opportunities for Scottish producers.	Scotland Food & Drink / Scottish Government
In order to strengthen existing supply chains and routes to market, develop a series of sub-sectoral profiles for priority areas of Scottish organic food and drink. Helping to identify 'problem areas' and where resource investment would be beneficial.	Scotland Food & Drink (in conjunction with SAOS)
Following from the sub-sectoral profiles, to identify areas with the greatest growth potential, deliver growth and development plans for priority areas of the Scottish organic food and drink sector.	Scotland Food & Drink (in conjunction with SAOS)
Identify and explore opportunities to encourage the formation of more organic producer co-operatives across all sectors of food production, learning from the experience of successful existing groups.	Scotland Food & Drink (in conjunction with SAOS)



## Facilitating Conversion and Maintenance of Organic Production

Action	Delivery Lead
Continue to provide financial support to farmers and crofters who wish to start or continue to manage their land under organic standards, through the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme and the future support framework.	Scottish Government
The Scottish Government and industry representative groups will continue to engage regularly to share insight on the challenges and opportunities facing organic food and drink producers, including supply and demand issues.	Scottish Government / Scottish Organic Stakeholder Group

## Raising Awareness of Organic Across Scotland

Action	Delivery Lead
A new organic category in the Scotland Food & Drink Excellence Awards 2025 event was created as an opportunity to showcase and highlight some of the fantastic Scottish organic produce on the national stage.	Scotland Food & Drink / Scottish Government
The portfolio of food and drink assets created by Scotland Food & Drink will be expanded to include further examples of fantastic, high quality Scottish organic produce and businesses. Providing an opportunity to demonstrate the passion, pride, and integrity that defines Scotland's organic food and drink sector.	Scotland Food & Drink
Learn from our European neighbours and other international examples of how to encourage and facilitate greater availability, purchasing and consumption of organic food and drink. This will involve looking at international examples to learn from their best practice by engaging with other governments and considering the possibility of undertaking learning or exchange visits to learn from organic market development activities.	Scotland Food & Drink / Scottish Government
Publish reliable, timely and robust data on the Scottish organic sector.	Scottish Government

## Promoting Public Procurement of Organic Produce

Action	Delivery Lead
Continue to promote the ways in which public procurement contracts can specify organic produce within tenders including developing case studies of successful examples.	Scottish Government
Continue to champion the Food for Life programme ensuring public sector organisations who wish to achieve Silver or Gold 'Food for Life Served Here' accreditation, meeting the organic spend target, are empowered and encouraged to do so.	Scottish Government / Soil Association Scotland
Develop a Scottish "basket of goods" which maps the cost differentials between organic and non-organic options, to demonstrate cost-effective product swaps.	Scotland Food & Drink (in conjunction with Soil Association Scotland – Food for Life)

# Measuring and Evaluating Progress

Having dedicated project management alongside ongoing engagement across government and industry partners, including key organic stakeholders, will help us monitor progress and adapt delivery.

Monitoring and evaluation will be central to ensuring the plan achieves its intended outcomes and contributes meaningfully to:

Scotland's **net zero** targets



**Nature restoration** and biodiversity goals



A more **resilient, sustainable and fair** food system



**This will be supported through:**

Regular review meetings involving delivery partners, government and stakeholders to assess progress, adapt priorities, and ensure accountability.

A focus on gathering robust, timely data on organic land use, production, sales and market demand.

The collaborative foundations established through the development of this plan will continue into its implementation. Shared ownership of outcomes will be reinforced through regular engagement and transparent, collaborative reporting.

By embedding monitoring and evaluation into delivery from the outset – and ensuring alignment with national strategic goals – the Scottish Organic Action Plan will provide a strong mechanism for scaling organic food and farming as a driver of economic, environmental and social value in Scotland.





# Acknowledgements

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Putting together this Scottish Organic Action Plan would not have been possible without the support of many individuals and organisations. An industry-led approach, supported by the Scottish Government and the members of the Scottish Organic Action Plan Steering Group, has created a plan that is ambitious but also realistic, and aims to drive the Scottish organic sector to new heights.

In particular, our thanks go to the members of the Scottish Organic Action Plan Steering Group who contributed their time, experience and expertise.



<b>David McKay</b>	Scottish Organic Stakeholder Group (SOSG)
<b>David Michie</b>	SAOS (formerly, now NFU Scotland)
<b>Jayne Jones</b>	Local Authority/NHS
<b>Alison Muirhead</b>	Soil Association – Certification
<b>Debs Roberts</b>	Scottish Organic Producers Association (SOPA)
<b>John Flanagan</b>	Previously of NFU Scotland
<b>Bruce McConachie</b>	Quality Meat Scotland (QMS)
<b>Sascha Grierson</b>	Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)
<b>Angus Elder</b>	Chapel Farm
<b>Ross Paton</b>	Scottish Organic Milk Producers
<b>Scott Erwin</b>	Greencity Wholefoods

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