

Funding for US organic farmers dwarfed by cost of Presidential White House parties

The US Congress has passed an amendment to the Agricultural Appropriations Bill that will increase federal funding for organic agriculture research from \$1.8 million per year to \$5 million (as a reference point, eight times that amount was spent on President Bush's last inaugural party).

Although this allocation is obviously better than nothing, observers say US organic subsidies and program funds are ridiculously small, given the USDA's annual \$90 billion budget and the \$25 billion in annual crop subsidies allocated to chemical intensive farms and genetically engineered crops.

According to the US Organic Consumers Association's National Director, Ronnie Cummins, "Since organic production represents 2.5% of all grocery sales, \$15 billion in annual sales, we deserve at least 2.5% of all USDA programme money."

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