Innovations in Organic Food Systems for Sustainable Production and Enhanced Ecosystem Services,” a two-day pre-conference, will be held Saturday and Sunday, 1–2 Nov. 2014 before the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA International Annual Meeting. This workshop-style conference is a true collaboration among ASA, CSSA, and SSSA communities and divisions. Society co-sponsors are the Agronomic Production Systems Section, Soil and Water Management and Conservation Division, Environmental Quality Section, Organic Management Systems Community, Cover Crop Management Community, and Soil Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Community.

“We felt it was important to organize this workshop to synthesize, across international boundaries, our current state of knowledge about how organic agriculture and food systems can best contribute to Society goals of sustainable food production and enhanced ecosystem services,” says Ellen Mallory, who is coordinating the workshop along with Patrick Carr and Kathleen Delate of ASA, Mathieu Ngouajio of USDA-NIFA, and Lise Andreasen of the International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS). “The workshop is structured expressly to generate discussion among participants, to identify research, extension, and policy needs, and to foster future partnerships.”

Organic agriculture is growing rapidly in adoption by producers and consumers but is not widely understood in terms of its potential for contributing to food security, economic development, and environmental health. This workshop will bring together leaders in organic agricultural systems from around the world to assess the current state of knowledge about innovations that enhance both sustainable food production and ecosystem services. Eighteen scientists from 12 different countries will present the latest findings from studies of organic systems, and participants will discuss the implications for both practice and policy.

The conference is divided into three thematic sessions: (i) Global Perspectives of Organic Food Systems, Sustainable Production, and Ecosystem Services, (ii) Opportunities for Meeting Ecosystem Services Challenges with Organic Farming, and (iii) Research and Innovation Challenges in Organic Production for Sustainable Development.

The conference takes place Saturday and Sunday before the official start of the Annual Meeting. Register at www.acsmeetings.org/tours-workshops#Workshops. The conference is designed to facilitate exchange among U.S. and other global researchers and practitioners and to develop recommendations for moving forward. Each session will close with a broad discussion of the theme and implications of the work presented; and the conference will end with a full session to summarize and synthesize the recommendations developed. The published proceedings will represent a unique source of information for use by practitioners and policymakers. The workshop is made possible by partial funding from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

For more information, or to register, visit: www.acsmeetings.org/tours-workshops#Workshops. The cost is $165 ($205 after 17 September), which includes lunch and breaks both days.

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