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Institute Information

The Institute for Alternative Agriculture is a non-profit, tax-exempt research and education organization established in 1983 to encourage and facilitate the adoption of low-cost, resource-conserving and environmentally-sound farming methods. It works closely with producer groups, public research and education institutions, and government agencies in promoting a sustainable agriculture system.

Its programs include providing a national information clearinghouse, serving as a voice for sustainable agriculture in Washington, and developing and implementing research and educational outreach programs. It holds an annual scientific symposium and publishes a monthly newsletter.

The Institute is governed by a grass roots Board of Directors, which includes several commercial-scale organic farmers, and maintains a small professional staff. It is supported by memberships and donations and grants from foundations, corporations, and individuals.

Cover Photo

The cover illustration by AADVARK, Inc., Sterling, Virginia, portrays the soil as a living system comprised of a matrix of mineral and organic material, air, water, and various beneficial microorganisms and macroorganisms. The activities of these organisms can enhance soil quality through biological nitrogen fixation, suppression of pathogens and diseases, improved soil aggregation and structure, decomposition of organic wastes, nutrient cycling, and increased aeration and permeability. These activities are vital to the development and maintenance of healthy and high quality soils for a more sustainable agriculture that will ensure the production of abundant, safe, and nutritious food and fiber both today and for future generations.