



SOUTHEAST

TRANSITION TO ORGANIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

FROM VISION TO IMPACT: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 3RD SOUTHEAST TOPP ANNUAL PARTNER MEETING

In September, 36 Southeast Transition to Organic Partnership Program (SE TOPP) representatives from around the Southeast gathered together in Huntsville, Alabama for the 3rd SE TOPP Annual Partner Meeting. The two-day event was hosted by Florida Organic Growers (FOG), the Southeast regional lead.

SE TOPP Partners used the meeting to exchange insights, highlight successful resources, and chart the program's next steps. Group sessions helped them identify what tools made the biggest impact, where support gaps remain, and how to better serve newly organic farms. One priority rose above the rest: creating a regional database of technical and input providers to strengthen coordination across the network.

Partners also participated in a community event and farm tour at Alchemy Farm and Plants, LLC, where they connected with local farmers and explored practical applications of organic farming. The event featured workshops on season extension, pollinator support, and soil health, offering practical insights into sustainable farming techniques. Following the tour, participants engaged in a lively roundtable discussion, sharing perspectives on key topics including local agriculture, market access, peanut production, and resources available to both current organic farmers and those considering the transition.

The meeting emphasized the importance of sustaining program outcomes and ongoing support for farmers and partnerships beyond 2026. Given the project's focus on mentorship, technical assistance, and community building, they discussed how to maintain collaborative efforts and expand outreach to new communities. Strategies for securing funding beyond the life of the program were also a key part of the conversation.

The 3rd SE TOPP Annual Partner meeting was a resounding success, with participants expressing enthusiastic support and appreciation. Partners embraced the gathering as a valuable chance to strengthen connections, share industry knowledge, and set meaningful goals for the future. The strength of this program lies in the dedication of farmers and industry professionals who generously contribute their expertise and resources to advance the organic sector. As the project nears its conclusion, the spirit of collaboration and shared success will continue to drive the creation of practical tools and opportunities for farmers transitioning to organic.



Group photo of Southeast Transition to Organic Partner Program Partners

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United States Department of Agriculture
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