

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (due JULY 1st, 2026)

ORGANIC SEED GROWERS MAIN CONFERENCE 2027

IN-PERSON March 26th & 27th at the Crowne Plaza in Asheville, NC

(no hybrid/remote option, though recording may be available)

VIRTUAL March 30th & 31st (Zoom, no In-Person option)

PLEASE SUBMIT EACH PROPOSAL INDIVIDUALLY:

- **Panel Discussions (Peer Reviewed)** (3 speakers max + 1 facilitator, 1.5 hrs long)
- **Roundtables (Peer Reviewed)** (2 speakers max + 1 facilitator, 1.5 hrs long)
- **Presentations of Research (Peer Reviewed)** (2 speakers max + 1 facilitator, 1.5 hrs long)
- **Lightning Talks** (1 speaker, 5 - 10 minutes long + opportunity to discuss)
- **Research Posters** (1 speaker, opportunity to discuss, Poster printed to fit within 24" tall x 32" wide)

2027 CONFERENCE PRIORITIES:

- **Nuts-and-bolts production sessions.** (EX: seed cleaning, packing and shipping, contracting) for both beginning and advanced farmers
- **Centering farmer voices**
- Presenters from a **diversity of agricultural backgrounds and approaches**
- **Meaningful inclusion of racially diverse speakers** or communities (i.e. not just as administrators or subjects but as presenters and/or experts)
- **Building equity and justice in organic seed work**, including participatory methods for building community beyond the Conference cycle
- **Interactive or audience-engaged proposals**
- **Presenters from the Southeast*** represented as experts across all tracks (seed production, plant breeding, seed stories, and advocacy & policy) **Note: we are using SARE's regional definition of the Southeast: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.*

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS: Authors of selected peer-reviewed proposals (Panel Discussions, Roundtables, Presentations of Research) will be required to submit a 1-5 page paper on the proposal in advance of the event for the Conference Proceedings. [Past proceeding examples are available here.](#)

Have an idea that does not fit into the above categories? Contact aba@seedalliance.org.

VALUE PROPOSITION FOR SPEAKERS

Please note: In 2027 we will hold two separate In-Person and Virtual components of the Conference. If selected to present during the In-Person portion, you will not be eligible to present in the Virtual portion, and vice versa – *though we encourage attendance at both*. Speakers may present in a maximum of two sessions total throughout the portion of the Conference to which they are accepted.

IN-PERSON (March 26th & 27th): No hybrid or remote presentation option; all In-Person speakers must attend in-person.

- **Peer Reviewed Proposals (Panel Discussions, Roundtable, Presentation of Research):** Eligible for free In-Person Conference tickets, including all activities and meals Fri and Sat, plus the Virtual Conference. (Please note speaker limits according to your session type.)
- **Research Posters and Lightning Talks:** Eligible for a 50% discounted In-Person Conference ticket at \$150, including all activities and meals Fri and Sat, plus the Virtual Conference.

OR

VIRTUAL (March 30th & 31st): No In-Person option; all Virtual speakers must attend virtually.

- **Peer Reviewed Proposals (Panel Discussions, Roundtable, Presentation of Research):** Eligible for free Virtual Conference tickets.
- **Research Posters and Lightning Talks:** Eligible for a 50% discounted Virtual Conference ticket at \$15.

Question: Are you applying for the In-Person OR Virtual portion of the Conference? NOTE: If accepted for In-person, you will not be eligible for the Virtual portion and vice versa.

__IN-PERSON: I am applying for the In-Person portion in Asheville, NC March 26th & 27th, 2027 (no hybrid/remote presentations).

__VIRTUAL: I am applying for the Virtual portion March 30th & 31st, 2027 on Zoom (no in-person presentations).

__EITHER: I am applying for either the In-Person or Virtual portions knowing that, if selected, I can only present during one.

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

First Name

Last Name

Affiliation (farm/organization/business/school/etc.)

Street Address

City/Town

State/Province

ZIP/Postal Code

Country

Email Address

Phone Number

Please help us understand the racial diversity of our seed community. Check all that apply. (optional)

Please share with us your background. Choose all that apply.

YOUR PROPOSAL

Question: What type of submission is your proposal? Note: Have an idea for a contribution that does not fit into the below categories? Email aba@seedalliance.org.

__PANEL DISCUSSION (1.5 hrs long)

- No more than three expert panelists (plus one facilitator) give brief presentations on their particular perspective on a topic, then interact with participants to respond to questions and feedback. Audience participation is expected to be more passive compared to a Roundtable. (Peer Reviewed)

__ROUNDTABLE (1.5 hrs long)

- Begins with ~15 minutes of presentation led by no more than two speakers (plus one facilitator), then followed by a participatory and interactive live discussion with session participants that's led by pre-determined questions from facilitators. The point of a roundtable is for speakers to learn more about a subject both from and with participants. Audience participation is expected to be more active compared to a panel discussion and audience sizes may be limited. (Peer Reviewed)

__PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH (1.5 hrs long)

- No more than two speakers (plus one facilitator) will share important results and findings from their recent or current research projects with a focus on outcomes. Please reserve at least 20 minutes for questions from the audience. (Peer Reviewed)

__LIGHTNING TALK (5-10 minutes presentation, plus the opportunity to share more in a breakout room)

- One speaker provides a succinct overview of a wide range of topics related to seed and conference priorities.

__RESEARCH POSTER (opportunity to discuss, printed to fit within 24" tall x 36" wide)

- One presenter will present a succinct overview of current or recent scientific research via a printed research poster to be displayed throughout the conference. Time will be set aside in the agenda for conference participants to interact with the posters.

Proposal Title

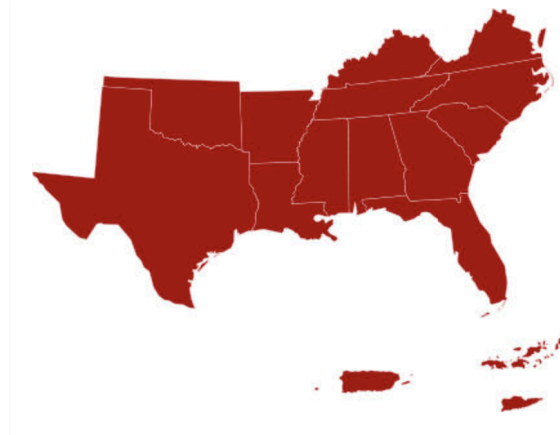
What experiences, expertise or perspective do you have with this topic?

Description/abstract of submission (~250 words) Please share a description of your submission and include name(s) of any specific methods, equipment, practices or farms that will be featured.

Please indicate which 2027 Conference Priorities your proposal addresses. Check all that apply and use the next question to share more details.

- Nuts-and-bolts production sessions. (EX: seed cleaning, packing and shipping, contracting) for both beginning and advanced farmers
- Centering farmer voices
- Presenters from a diversity of agricultural backgrounds and approaches
- Meaningful inclusion of racially diverse speakers or communities (i.e. not just as administrators or subjects but as presenters and/or experts)
- Building equity and justice in organic seed work, including participatory methods for building community beyond the Conference cycle
- Interactive or audience-engaged proposals
- Presenters from the Southeast represented as experts across all tracks (seed production, plant breeding, seed stories, and advocacy & policy)

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How does your proposal address the 2027 Conference Priorities above?

Recognizing that the following categories are interrelated and seed systems are multi-modal, the 2027 conference sessions will primarily be organized into the following "tracks". Which of these would your submission BEST fit into?

__BEGINNING SEED PRODUCTION (0-3 years):

- Seed production nuts & bolts for farmers who have grown seed at farm scale for 0 - 3 years on topics including new and novel models for organic seed production, field practices, seed cleaning, treatments, processing, quality assurance, and packing. Economic topics might also include sales and contracting, enterprise development, and commercializing new varieties (e.g., alternative approaches to intellectual property).

__ADVANCED SEED PRODUCTION (3+ years):

- Seed production nuts & bolts for farmers who have grown seed at farm scale for 3+ years on topics including new and novel models for organic seed production, field practices, seed cleaning, treatments, processing, quality assurance, and packing. Economic topics might also include sales and contracting, enterprise development, and commercializing new varieties (e.g., alternative approaches to intellectual property).

__PLANT BREEDING:

- Advancements in plant breeding and variety trials for resilience, biodiversity, organic systems, climate change adaptation and/or grower-led and participatory breeding projects.

__SEED STORIES:

- First-person seed storytelling and interactive sessions on emerging topics, and culturally significant crops and varieties, and subjects tied to current events.

__ADVOCACY & POLICY:

- Emerging policy and advocacy topics essential to expanding organic seed systems. Sessions focused on seed equity and justice are encouraged to apply.

Who is your session's target audience? Choose all that apply.

Please note that some of the topics discussed may bring up strong emotions and lead to thoughtful or difficult conversations. What spiciness reaction level do you anticipate to your proposal?

SPEAKERS + FACILITATOR

Speaker Maximums:

- **Panel Discussions (Peer Reviewed)** (3 speakers max + 1 facilitator, 1.5 hrs long)
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Including yourself, please indicate any presenter(s) *you have contacted* about this session, their email address, and the perspective they would bring to the topic (e.g. farmer, seed company representative, seed/food justice worker, etc.).

Each session will have a facilitator*. Feel free to suggest a Facilitator and, depending on the topic area, OSA may work with you to ensure supportive facilitation. Facilitators organize speakers, establish session goals and flow ahead of the event, submit written proceedings, and facilitate the session day-of.

**Note: Facilitators at our events are often tasked with balancing a wide array of perspectives, experiences, and ways of knowing. Because of this we expect that they attend at least one virtual facilitator training (hosted by OSA) in advance of the event.*

PLEASE LIST:

Speaker Names, Emails, Expertises:

Do you have a suggested facilitator? Please provide their Name, Email, Expertise:

(Note: Depending on the topic area, OSA may work with you to ensure supportive facilitation.)

LOGISTICS AND SUGGESTIONS

In the past, we have received 100+ proposals for 30 workshop slots. Often reviewers recommend combining similar proposals, amending the originals. Would you be open to being paired up with other presenters? (required)

Yes, I'm open to being paired with other presenters and my proposal being amended

No, I'm not interested in my proposal being amended or being paired

What Keynote speakers or other presentations would you like to see at the conference? (optional)

Do you have any suggestions for regional or affinity group spaces to be included in the event? (optional)

Anything else you want us to know? (optional)