A national standard for sustainable agriculture is currently being developed by one of the most far-reaching and diverse multi-stakeholder committees ever assembled. This group consists of representatives from U.S. agricultural production, food and clothing manufacturing, retail, government, environmental and labor organizations, academia, and certification institutions. It has united with the common goals of strengthening the sustainability of American agriculture and providing producers with the tools to continually improve their economic, environmental, and social performance and thereby compete in an evolving global marketplace. The current standard committee members at listed on the back.

The Sustainable Agriculture Standard is being developed in response to rapidly growing interest in practicing, defining and standardizing sustainable agriculture. Establishing a national standard for sustainable agriculture has the opportunity to serve many purposes, including:

- Encouraging the widespread adoption of agricultural production practices that are ecologically responsible, equitable, economically viable, and science-based
- Guiding producers and handlers through stages of continual, incremental improvement
- Providing a common set of metrics to gauge sustainability progress—whether in a private supply chain, an industry sector or on a state/regional/national scale
- Setting a reference benchmark for private sustainability efforts

This initiative is being conducted under the rules of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the national voluntary standards body that oversees the development of thousands of guidelines in nearly every business sector. Leonardo Academy, a charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is the ANSI accredited standard developer for this process, which was launched by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) in 2007. All stakeholders play a role in the outcome of the final standard.

SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES
Leonardo Academy invites financial contributions to support our work on facilitating the Sustainable Agriculture Standard development process. The annual budget for this project is $318,000, or $26,000 per month, which covers coordination and support of the Standards Committee and subcommittee work; communications, outreach, and education; committee meetings and conference calls; travel support for Standards Committee members; tool development; and more. Additionally, process participants and their organizations are making an estimated $2,100,000 annual in kind contributions in the form of their time and resources to create a standard that is equitable and of strategic benefit to the nation.

HOW TO DONATE
Please make a donation to support the development of this important standard! The success of the Sustainable Agriculture Standard depends on in-kind contributions from process participants, as well as financial support from individuals, companies, and organizations. Leonardo Academy is 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Contributions at any level are welcome.

For more information on the Sustainable Agriculture Standard initiative and opportunities to participate, please visit: www.leonardoacademy.org/programs/standards/agstandard.html

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- Homestead Farms Inc.
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- Earth Open Source/Global ID Group
- Michigan Organic Food & Farm Alliance
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Organic Exchange
- Rodale Institute
- Soil and Water Conservation Society
- Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Center (SARE)

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- Hector Quemada
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- Douglas Johnson
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- Al Bussan
- Jim Jones
- Bill Wolf
- Coalition of Immokalee Workers
- College of the Atlantic
- CropLife America
- Dow AgroSciences
- Energy Biosciences Institute
- Environmental Intelligences, Inc.
- Food Trade Sustainability Leadership Association
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- United Fresh Produce Association
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