

# ROADs

## Regenerative Organic Agricultural Districts



Photo: Meadowlark Farms

*Unlocking new place-based financing to expand regenerative agricultural systems and improve rural resilience across the United States\**



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### Overview

Croatian Institute is developing the concept of **Rural Regenerative Organic Agricultural Districts**, also known as ROADs, to help agricultural producers and landowners finance *soil wealth* using land-secured financing mechanisms and other place-based investing approaches. As part of the Institute's Organic Agriculture Revitalization Strategy (OARS), ROADs will unlock new sources of capital for implementing conservation practices for regenerative agriculture.

With support from USDA NRCS, Patagonia, and 20 private sector and non-profit partners, ROADs seeks to **accelerate the development of regenerative agricultural systems** at a pace and scale needed to stem the tides of soil degradation and rural economic decline. This \$1.5 million project spans two years, with activities concluding in May 2022.

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*Soil wealth* is the constellation of benefits associated with building both soil health and community wealth through regenerative agriculture.

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The ROADs Concept:  
Establish special-purpose soil wealth  
improvement districts that would  
become magnets for regenerative  
agriculture investment.



Photo: Pipeline Foods

“We know that dense regional clusters of  
regenerative, organic operators create  
tangible socio-economic benefits for farmers  
and their broader rural communities.  
However, financing the implementation of this  
regenerative organic transition remains a  
challenge that *this project aims to tackle  
head-on in new, place-based ways.*”

— Dr. Joshua Humphreys, Croatan Institute

Focusing on four distinct U.S.  
regions (upper Midwest, Southeast,  
Heartland, & West Coast), we will  
research, assess, and pilot the  
potential configuration of ROADs.

To learn more or support this project,  
please contact:



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## Farm Partners

Bender Farms  
Crews Family Farms  
Oliver's Agroforest  
Organic Valley

## Project Partners



D.D. Danforth Burlin

