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OANZ comments on the NZ Climate Change Action Plan

Recently the New Zealand Government opened for comments its Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Climate Change 'Plan of Action', to which the Organic Aotearoa New Zealand (OANZ) made a submission.

The OANZ submission strongly promoted certified organic production in future climate change policies. Among others it outlined:

- The innovative and adaptive capacity of organic producers.
- The likely effects of climate change on organic farming.
- Recommendation for conventional producers to adopt the research conducted on organic system.

- The organic industry contribution in assisting New Zealand Government in meeting its international obligations.
- Better investigation of carbon storage in soil.

OANZ believes these recommendations will result in a more secure position within a highly discerning and growing international 'green' market. ■

Electronic copies of the full submission can be obtained by emailing gavin.middleton@oanz.org.nz

Source: OANZ

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Organic farmers should account for carbon reduction plans

The Australian Government has received a call from organic farmers represented by the Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA) for agriculture to be included in an emissions trading scheme (ETS) known as the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) Green Paper. The deadline of the scheme is scheduled to be in 2015.

BFA said in its comments that leaving agriculture out of the scheme would cost farmers who use environmentally friendly methods of

production, such as organic farmers. Most farmer leaders have also warned the Government that even in 2015, the impact of ETS would be 'worse than that of another big drought'. For organic farmers an earlier deadline of 2010 is welcome as they do not 'burn-out' carbon soil. ■

Source: The Land

For more information please see <http://theland.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/environmentally-friendly-farmers-at-a-loss/1276411.aspx?>