Reducing Tillage in Vegetable Crops
Anu Rangarajan

Goals

**Environment**
- Soil health
- Climate resilience
- Soil water capture and retention
- Organic matter conservation
- Fuel conservation

**Farm**
- Crop productivity
- Fertility
- Timely harvest
- Labor efficiency
- Labor flexibility
- Crop stress resilience
- Pest management
Soil health

Stacking practices that promote soil health has an additive effect

- reduced tillage, cover cropping, perennial forage rotation
- crop, manure/compost
- reduced tillage, cover cropping
- reduced tillage
- cover cropping

Cover crops

Strip tillage
What crops are being RT grown?

- Sweet Corn
- Dry and Snap Beans
- Cabbage
- Pumpkins/Winter Squash
- Peas
- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Beets
- Carrots
Advancing Reducing Tillage in Vegetable Crops

Opportunities

• Conduct research to maximize biomass contributions of cover crops in RT

• Support regional long-term soil health experiments to serve as teaching and learning sites

• Create specialized tillage equipment incentives/coops to foster RT innovation

• Advance research on RT for organic and small farms

• Prioritize soil health practices for NY Grown and Certified program

• Incentivize protection of priority soils for long-term agricultural and food security