Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research

How FFAR and Partners are Working to Nourish a Growing World

About FFAR

**FFAR Mission:**
Build unique partnerships to support innovative science addressing today’s food and agriculture challenges.

Who We Are

- Independent 501(c) (3) organization
- 20-Member Board of Directors
  - Chaired by former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman
  - 5 ex officio members representing NSF and USDA
- Established by the 2014 Farm Bill to increase food and agriculture research and complement and further the work of the USDA

Who We Are – FFAR Board

**5 Ex officio Members**

- Thomas Vilsack Secretary of Agriculture
- Dr. France Córdova, Chair, National Science Foundation
- Dr. Catherine Woteki, Chief Scientist and Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, USDA
- Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, NIFA Director, USDA
- Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, AFRI Administrator, USDA

Who We Are – FFAR Board

**14 Voting Members**

- Dr. Kathryn J. Boor, Cornell University
- Dr. Doug Buhrer, Michigan State University
- Dr. Nancy Creemer, North Carolina State University
- Dr. Deborah Delmer, University of California Davis
- Dr. Mark Keenum, Mississippi State University
- Dr. Michael Ladisch, Purdue University
- Dr. Christopher Mallett, Cargill Inc.
- Dr. Terry F. McElwain, Washington State University
- Dr. Stanley Prusiner, University of California-San Francisco
- Dr. Yehia “Mo” Saif, Ohio State University
- Dr. Barbara Schaal, Washington State University

How FFAR Will Work

- Fund cutting-edge research and development through grants and challenges
- Build unique public-private partnerships
- Convene stakeholders and thought leaders to foster collaboration
- Build human capacity to advance innovation
- Utilize social, physical, and biological sciences to answer research questions
Partnership

- Public-private partnership is a key part of FFAR's operating model.
- All projects require matching funds from a non-Federal partner; FFAR's ability to leverage/multiply dollars sets the foundation apart.
- Charged with complementing and furthering USDA-funded efforts.

Research Target Areas

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Non-production, sustainable agriculture</th>
<th>Better health through food</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Optimizing agricultural water use</td>
<td>1. Achieving a deeper understanding of nutrition and healthy food choices</td>
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<td>2. Transforming soil health</td>
<td>2. Managing food production systems to enhance human nutritional outcomes</td>
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<td>3. Enhancing sustainable farm animal productivity, resilience, and health</td>
<td>3. Spurring food system innovation</td>
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<td>4. Improving plant efficiency</td>
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Plant Efficiency

- Photosynthesis efficiency (especially vegetable crop)
- Phenotype/genotype associations
- Non-GMO
- Transformation for new potential feedstocks/Biofuels
- Plant resiliency to climate change/phenomics

Soils

- Root/plant phenotyping
- Germplasm – cover crop
- Nitrogen fixation efficiency
- Microbiome e.g. detection of microbial diversity in soils using rDNA
- Cultivars for soil health

Other areas of interest

- Big Data/Water
- Pollinators
- Pulse crops
- Aquaculture
- Small Business
- Antimicrobial Resistance

Inaugural Programs

- FFAR announced our first two programs following our October board meeting:
  - New Innovator in Agriculture Research award
  - Rapid Response Program
- Two additional programs to be announced in early 2016
Early Career Awards

- **Unmet need:** The New Innovator in Food and Agriculture Research Award will support and spotlight the next generation of scientists pursuing innovative research in food and ag.
  - Recipients will be committed to mentoring
  - Research in 1 or more FFAR focus areas
  - Open for nominations through Jan. 20, 2016

Rapid Response Program

- **Unmet need:** Rapid deployment of funds to mitigate potential damage in the face of unanticipated threats to food supply
  - Criteria for project selection:
    - Acute
    - National
    - Tangible outcomes
  - Program under development
    - Potential for diagnostics, vaccine development, new cultivars

National Prize

- **Unmet need:** Prestigious recognition for scientists in food and agriculture
  - Anticipated award: $100,000 for one annual or biennial recipient
  - Partner: National Academy of Sciences
  - Gates Foundation

National Consortium on Soil Health

- **Unmet needs**
  - Systems approach to cover crops, soil health
  - National network to address these issues
  - Target Outcomes
    - Innovation resulting from competitive research findings
    - Widespread adoption of no till, cover crops, other soil health practices

Seeking Experts

- Nominate a leading scientists or stakeholder to serve on inaugural FFAR Advisory Councils, covering our seven research areas
  - Duties (primarily virtual):
    - Make programmatic recommendations.
    - Identify emerging issues of interest.
    - Review applications pending in respective topic areas.
    - Identify potential partners with whom the Foundation might work.
  - Details: www.foundationfar.org/advisory-councils

Thank you!

- **Contact Us**
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- **Connect with FFAR:**
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  - @RockTalking