

Science Policy Office

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www.agronomy.org | www.crops.org | www.soils.org

Congress is currently negotiating a final appropriations agreement for the remainder of the fiscal year that will include federal spending for research-funding agencies.

Now is the time to ask your members of Congress to support the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

Email your members of Congress and ask them to support the maximum possible funding for AFRI in the final Agriculture Appropriations bill.

This year, the President requested an unprecedented \$450 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) at USDA — showing the Administration's strong support for this program. The U.S. House of Representatives provided \$335 million (a \$10 million increase), while the Senate proposed flat funding (\$325 million).

Constituents, like you, have the most influence over members of Congress. Do not let this important source of funding for food, agriculture and natural resources research remain off the table during these crucial negotiations.

[Click here to email your members today.](#)

Support the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative in FY2016

Dear Representative/Senator:

In the coming decades, our agricultural system must sustainably produce food for a rapidly growing global population. The Nation's economic prosperity and security depend on our dedication to developing innovative, science-based solutions to meet our growing agricultural needs.

To meet these challenges, Congress created the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). AFRI is the premier competitive grants program in support of our Nation's food and agricultural systems.

The President requested an unprecedented \$450 million for AFRI in FY 2016, the U.S. House of Representatives provide \$335 million and the Senate proposed flat funding. Congress has been very supportive of AFRI in the past. I ask that you continue this critical momentum and provide the strongest possible support for AFRI.

I request that you work to ensure that the final Agriculture Appropriations bill includes the maximum possible funding for AFRI.

Over half of the AFRI research grant proposals rated as highly innovative go unfunded due to lack of funding.



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The U.S is losing ground to our international competitors. China now spends a third more than the U.S. in public agricultural research. At stake is not just the ability to feed the world, but the jobs, investment, and skilled researchers necessary to maintain U.S. global competitiveness in an area where it has been historically dominant.

AFRI represents one of the greatest returns on investment within the agricultural research portfolio. For every federal dollar spent on publicly funded agricultural research, \$20 or more is generated in the U.S. economy.

Please show your support for agricultural research and support at least \$335 million for AFRI to ensure we have the resources needed to discover solutions to the challenges facing agriculture.

