Pursuing a Unifying Message

Elevating Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Research as a National Priority

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A Nation Unprepared

“Our nation’s agricultural research enterprise is not prepared to meet the challenges that U.S. agriculture faces in the 21st century…”
Hunger and Malnutrition
Climate Change
Emerging Diseases
Environmental Impacts
USDA Research — $2.4B

Source: From NSF Federal obligations and outlays for R&D by agency, FYs 2012-14
Federal Research Support

Source: AAAS R&D report series, based on OMB and agency R&D budget data.
* Latest estimates.
International Public R&D

Public Agricultural R&D Spending

Constant 2005 PPP$, millions

Why So Little Support?

- Fragmented, narrow interests
- Many priorities covering many species and systems
- No advocacy for the “big picture”
• Broad coalition established in 1989
• 1993, first public campaign for increased medical research funding
USDA and NIH Funding, 1989 and 2003

Source: AAAS
Strong Voices

• “Agriculture and natural resources are at the crossroads of the world’s most critical problems . . . The challenges ... are immense, and need to be faced with the most robust research enterprise we can muster.” — Catherine Woteki, USDA

• “It is time to make U.S. agricultural research the priority it deserves to be and it absolutely must be for our common future. — Dan Glickman, Aspen Institute

• “Agriculture R&D provides a dramatic example of how neglect can undermine a scientific domain.” — Alan Leshner, AAAS

• “Overall, PCAST recommends that the United States increase its investment in agricultural research by a total of $700 million per year . . . focusing on addressing the emerging challenges.” — President’s Council of Advisors on Agricultural Science and Technology
A Pivotal Moment for a Unifying Message
The Way Forward

- A new coalition of all stakeholders
- Leaders with vision
- Common purpose, common message, a focus on public good
- Collaboration and partnerships
An Uncommon Enterprise

Trust in a partnership that supports research for the common good

Believe that increased funding is essential and possible

Support fundamental and applied sciences
An Uncommon Enterprise

• Connect the dots of every major societal challenge ahead.

• The picture that emerges: The critical importance of making research in food, agriculture and natural resources a higher national priority.
Potential Partners

- Universities
- Scientific societies
- Nonprofit organizations and coalitions
- Farm organizations, commodity organizations, trade associations and foundations
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