



*Introduction to the*  
**Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research**  
March 24, 2016





**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**

- **Sec. Tom Vilsack** Secretary of Agriculture, USDA
- **Dr. France Córdoba**, 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**, ARS Administrator, USDA

# Who We Are – FFAR Board

## 14 Voting Members

**Dr. Kathryn J. Boor**, Cornell University

**Dr. Doug Buhler**, Michigan State University

**Dr. Nancy Creamer**, North Carolina State University

**Dr. Deborah Delmer**, University of California Davis

**Hon. Dan Glickman**, *Chairman of the Board*, Aspen Institute

**Dr. Rob Horsch**, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

**Ms. Pam Johnson**, National Corn Growers Association

**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

## More productive, sustainable agriculture

- 1 Optimizing agricultural water use
- 2 Transforming soil health
- 3 Enhancing sustainable farm animal productivity, resilience, and health
- 4 Improving plant efficiency

## Better health through food

- 5 Achieving a deeper understanding of nutrition and healthful food choices
- 6 Innovating sustainability in food production systems
- 7 Spurring Post-Harvest food system innovation



# Inaugural Programs

- FFAR announced our first two programs in 2015:
  - New Innovator in Agriculture Research award
  - Rapid Response Program
- Additional programs to be announced in 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*

# 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 soil health promoting practices.



# National Prize

- **Unmet need:** Prestigious recognition for mid-career scientists in food and agriculture
- **Award:** \$100,000 for one annual recipient
- **Partner:** National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine

*First prize will be conferred in 2017.*



# New Innovator 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

*Applications underway*

# Other Potential Areas

- Point of Purchase
- Nutritional DRI (dietary reference intakes)
- Pollinators
- Big Data/Water
- Breeding for nutritional quality
- Processing for nutritional attributes
- Raising visibility of Agriculture
- Food borne illness attribution

# Who Will Be our Partners

Shared goals or shared values

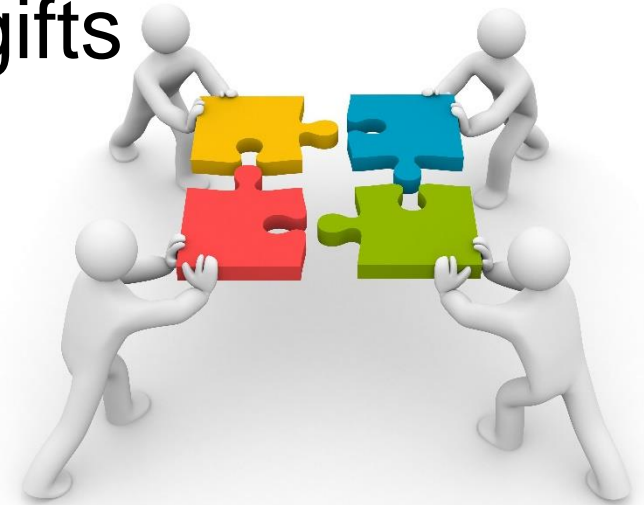
Ability to secure match

- Food Companies
- Seed and Chemical Companies
- Equipment Companies
- Universities
- Research Institutions
- Commodity Groups
- Associations
- NGOs
- Insurance companies
- Technology companies
- International Development Group (USAID, FAO, ICCA)



# Issues in Developing Partnerships

- Pre-competitive space?
- Sharing of data
- Restricted or unrestricted gifts
- IP
- Criteria for sponsorship
- COI
- Timeliness of match





# Thank you!

- Q&A
  - Contact Us
    - **Dr. Sally J. Rockey, Executive Director**  
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  - Connect with FFAR:
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