



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 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**, 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

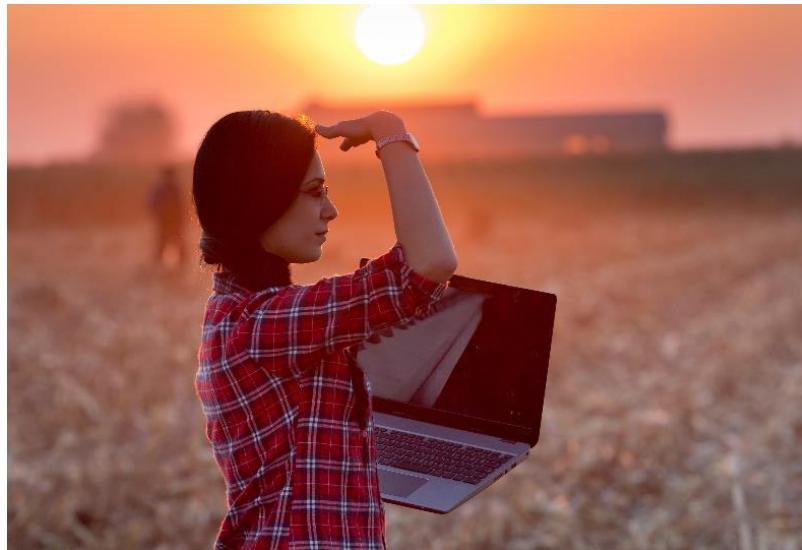
- **Unmet need:** Prestigious recognition for mid-career scientists in food and agriculture
- **Award:** \$100,000 for one annual recipient
- **Partner:** National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine

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

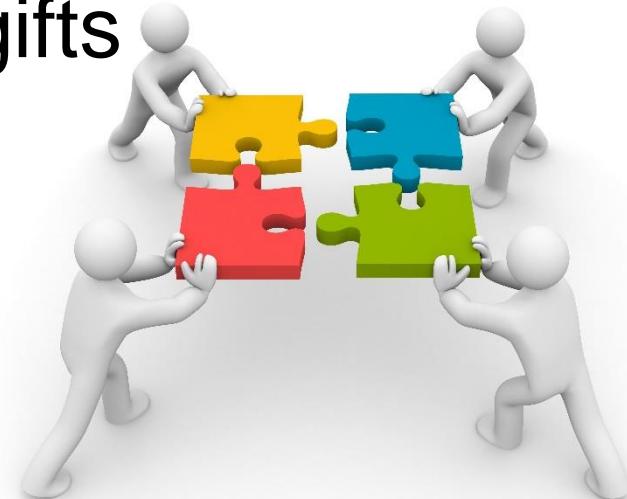
Ability to secure match

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