

2025-2035 agInnovation Research Roadmap



Who We Are:

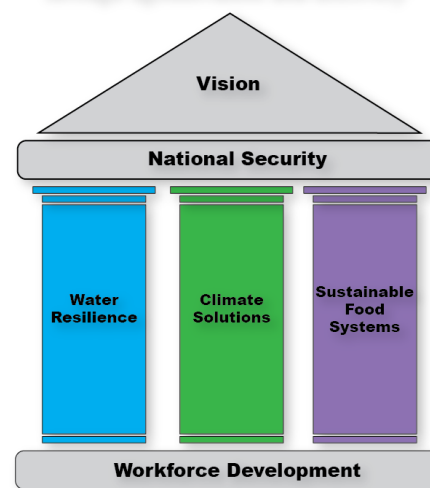
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agInnovation is the nationwide system of agricultural research and state agricultural experiment stations at our nation's land-grant universities. These scientific research centers support highly trained and dedicated scientists who work with farmers, ranchers, suppliers, and processors involved in food production and other agriculturally related activities. Scientists develop and apply science-based solutions for improving the nation's agricultural systems, environment, public health, economy, and overall quality of life of its citizens. Roughly 70% of the publicly funded research and development is conducted by universities and other nonfederal institutions, and the impacts deliver \$20 to the nation for every \$1 invested.¹ These centers also have a critical role in training the next generation of scientists and skilled leaders who'll work in the food, agriculture, forestry, natural resource, and environmental sectors. For more information, visit www.aginnovation.info.

An "Outcomes-Driven" Research Roadmap for the Nation:

In 2023-2024, the agInnovation chair launched a transformative initiative to craft and implement a focused, 10-year platform for agricultural research. agInnovation leaders worked to develop a plan that sets forth clear goals and ambitious research outcomes aimed at tackling our most critical challenges — such as combatting climate change, improving water resilience, and ensuring sustainable food systems. Grounded in the foundations of national security and an aim to cultivate the next generation of experts, the roadmap outlines bold and measurable objectives achievable through strategic investment. To ensure accountability and maximize impact, the agInnovation leadership team devised an implementation strategy that includes regular progress updates and innovative funding approaches that harness agInnovation's expertise and partnerships.

"A world where people and the planet thrive through agInnovation and discovery"



A National Imperative: Increased Investment in Agricultural Research:

Our nation faces a critical imperative: increasing investment in agricultural research. The outcomes outlined in our strategy are vital to national security, yet current funding levels jeopardize their achievement. Despite every \$1 invested yielding \$20 in economic benefits, federal support has declined, hindering our competitiveness against global leaders such as China, the current top investor in agricultural research and development.¹

To realize our ambitious 10-year goals, an additional \$1.9 billion per year in federal research funding is needed over the next decade, equivalent to only 1% of the total federal research and development investment.

To realize our ambitious 10-year goals, federal research funding support for land-grant universities urgently requires an increased annual investment of \$1.9 billion — or \$19 billion over the next decade — equivalent to just 1% of the fiscal year 2023 total federal research and development budget. This includes bolstering core capacity and competitive grant programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, alongside aligned initiatives at the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NASA, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal funding agencies. Securing this enhanced support is essential to advancing transformative research and safeguarding our nation's future prosperity.

¹ Nelson, K. P., & Fuglie, K. (2022, June 6). *Investment in U.S. public agricultural research and development has fallen by a third over past two decades, lags major trade competitors*. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2022/june/investment-in-u-s-public-agricultural-research-and-development-has-fallen-by-a-third-over-past-two-decades-lags-major-trade-competitors/>