



FY2012 Funding for the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE April 2011

Position: The Council for Chemical Research (CCR) reluctantly supports the President's \$325 million request (a 24% increase over FY10) for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's key competitive research program, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). CCR notes that this increase is accompanied by a \$141 million overall reduction in NIFA funding, and marks a significant reduction from the original FY11 request for \$429 million for AFRI. NIFA provides the platform for interactions and enhanced collaboration with industry and universities in multidisciplinary research areas of vital concern, and should not sustain further budget cuts.

Who We Are: CCR is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing multi-sector, multi-disciplinary research in the chemical sciences and engineering. Its member organizations – companies, universities and government laboratories – are represented in CCR by their research leaders.

We strongly urge the important components of funding for physical sciences research be maintained. Our studies (<http://www.ccrhq.org/publications>) and those of others demonstrate that Federal investments in chemical science research yield significant payback for the US economy. **Every dollar of Federal investment is leveraged by \$5 of private investment; this investment generates \$10 of operating income for industry (a 17% annual after tax return), the economy gains roughly \$40 in GDP and \$8 in increased tax revenues. A highly regarded CCR study showed that for 2001 the overall \$1B Federal investment in chemical R&D will create 600,000 new jobs over the following 20 year period.**

Rationale

Funding for research in chemistry, engineering and physical sciences at USDA:

- **Addresses current and emerging critical food security issues.** Research on new technologies to detect biological and chemical toxins and to make stronger, more productive crops will help protect and sustain US food resources.
- **Provides innovations for converting agricultural materials and waste materials into energy sources and chemical feedstocks.** U.S. energy and economic security requires development of new and renewable sources of energy. Agricultural products can provide an important source for both energy production and chemical feedstocks.
- **Provides opportunities for creating new jobs and strengthening the US economy.** Development of new technologies in food and agriculture represents an important mechanism for building US economic strength in the face of rising international competition. Leveraging US technological strengths to produce new food and agriculture technologies will create new jobs.
- **Produces well-trained, talented and dedicated researchers** that are required to identify alternative fuels and develop the processes to make them efficiently to help improve the security of the nation's food supply. CCR urges USDA to develop additional ways to support and increase the number of PhD students produced in the U.S.A. in the physical and agricultural sciences.
- **Allows access to modern instrumentation**, ranging from advanced computers to synchrotrons and radiation sources. These instruments enable researchers to observe fundamental chemical and physical processes and to gain much-needed insight into the chemistry, physics and engineering of new products and processes.
- **Provides discoveries** that lead to new chemical processes for agriculturally based fuels and safe food supply, new crop strains that are pest and drought resistant, bio based materials that will provide novel products and new types of energy resources to reliably and securely supply energy to the nation.