

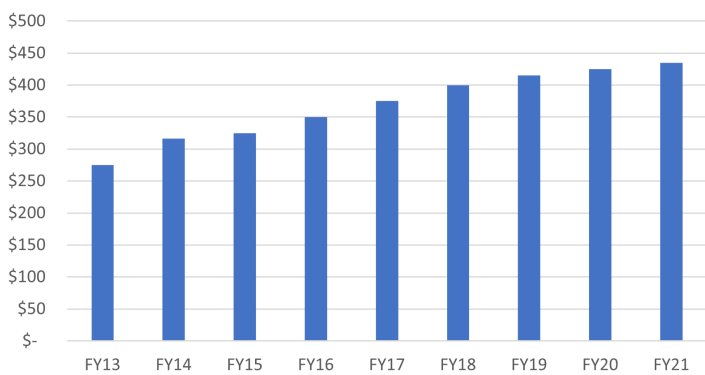


Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the flagship competitive grant program for agricultural research. AFRI awards research, education, and extension grants to ensure food safety and security, address water shortages, mitigate the impacts of climate variability, and stimulate growth in rural economies.

AAU urges Congress to provide *at least* \$600 million to fund the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative in FY22

AFRI Funding, FY13-21



Funding in millions

Established in 2008, AFRI is a competitive grant program that supports high quality science to address some of our nation's most pressing challenges. The USDA's Economic Research Service determined that every dollar of federal funds invested in agricultural research yields \$20 of economic impact. Researchers working at universities across the country are tackling tough problems and developing innovative solutions. This funding would allow AFRI to:

- Support high-priority research areas, including bioenergy, nutrition and health, global climate

change, agricultural technology, rural communities, and food safety.

- Strengthen the Institute's role in combating the pandemic, adding to the \$25 million in competitive grants made to support research or extension activities that focus on developing and deploying rapid, reliable, and readily adoptable COVID-19 agricultural strategies across the food and agriculture supply chains
- Continue to attract, retain, and develop the next generation of scientists to address increasing pressures on our natural resources and advance innovations benefiting all Americans.

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