



**Institute of Food Technologists**  
525 W. Van Buren Street., Suite 1000  
Chicago, IL 60607-3830 USA

**+1.312.782.8424**  
+1.312.782.8348 Fax  
[ift.org](http://ift.org)

Date: February 10, 2022

RE: Request for feedback on the draft outline of the updated Global Food Security Research Strategy (GFSRS), 2022 - 2026

Submitted via electronic mail: [arecords@usaid.gov](mailto:arecords@usaid.gov)

Dear members of the Feed The Future Interagency Working Group on Research in support of the Global Food Security Act,

The Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) appreciates the opportunity to provide input to USAID and USDA on the update of the Global Food Security Research Strategy (GFSRS). IFT believes that research in, and application of, food science and technology is critical for improving global food security and reducing poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. IFT is a global organization of approximately 12,000 individual members, in 95 countries, who are committed to advancing the science of food. Since 1939, IFT has engaged experts in food science, technology, and related professions from academia, government, and industry to solve many of the world's greatest food challenges. IFT provides scientific, technical, and career development resources for advancing the science of food and its application across the global food and agricultural systems. We believe that science is essential to ensuring that our global food system is sustainable, safe, nutritious, and accessible to all.

In reviewing the draft outline for the GFSRS update, IFT is encouraged to see inclusion of the middle segment of AgriFood research reflected in the research themes, such as a reduction in food loss and waste and research on food system value addition/processing opportunities. The emphasis in the outline is on poverty reduction; however, IFT would encourage USAID and USDA to consider prioritizing research on food system value addition for the purpose of improving the safety and nutritional profile of foods and the availability, accessibility, and affordability of nutrient dense foods in low-income, food insecure countries. For example, research to reduce the cost of processing technologies that can reduce microbial growth in foods while also preserving nutrient content by minimizing the use of heat, chemicals and/or water. We would further suggest USAID and USDA consider food system value addition a similar level of priority as the research themes on genetic improvement of crops and climate-

smart agriculture. Both agriculture and value added/processing components of the food supply have similar opportunities to improve global nutrition security and sustainability.

IFT is also encouraged to see the emphasis on public-private partnerships and the role of the private sector to address the global challenges of food and nutrition security. As noted in the 2016 GFSS, and reiterated in this outline, the private sector has been a critical partner in supporting and scaling innovations in global food security. IFT supports USAID and USDA as they continue to advance and strengthen public-private partnerships through the GFSRS. We welcome the opportunity to further work with USAID and USDA to create collaborative partnerships to advance the goals of the GFSRS. IFT members, primarily food scientists and technologists, from academia, industry, and government, can offer extensive expertise in food processing, food quality, food safety, and other areas related to ingredient and food production.

IFT believes the science of food and application of technology are important for transforming the food system to be more resilient and to ensure food and nutrition security for all. We hope that USAID and USDA will consider public research investment in the middle segment of the food system as great a priority as agricultural research within the GFSRS. We also stand ready to assist with future opportunities to develop collaborative public-private partnerships as part of the GFSRS.

Please contact John Ruff, Chief Science and Technology Officer ([jruff@ift.org](mailto:jruff@ift.org); 312-782-8424) if IFT may provide further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JRuff', written in a cursive style.

John Ruff MA (Cantab), CFS  
Chief Science & Technology Officer  
Institute of Food Technologists