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RE: Oral comments for 2024 Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research Public Conversation

Hello,

I am Anna Rosales, Senior Director of Government Affairs & Nutrition at the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT). IFT appreciates the opportunity to provide input on FFAR's research program, progress, and strategies. We are a global organization of over 11,000 members in more than 90 countries, committed to advancing the science of food to ensure a sustainable, safe, nutritious, and accessible global food supply.

IFT congratulates FFAR on 10 successful years of delivering solutions for food and agriculture challenges. FFAR's interdisciplinary, high-risk/high-reward research approach with public-private partnerships has proven effective in advancing food, agriculture, and nutrition. Amid stagnant federal funding for food and agriculture research, FFAR's growth in funding and leveraging of public and private funds is commendable.

We have been pleased to engage with FFAR on shared priorities like food and nutrition security, workforce development, and public funding. This past year, FFAR participated in our roundtable on food science & technology solutions to increase the use of underutilized and biofortified crops, showcasing the Harvest for Health Challenge. We believe addressing post-farm gate food supply challenges is crucial for food & nutrition security and look forward to further collaborations with FFAR.

We also applaud FFAR's efforts in scientific workforce development. At FIRST, our annual meeting, Dr. Lakisha Odom and Dr. Constance Gewa from FFAR shared their workforce strengthening programs with our Council of Food Science Administrators. Their insights on FFAR priorities, funding opportunities, and workforce efforts were invaluable, and we anticipate their participation in our expanded CFSA meeting in the fall, which will include Nutrition Science Department administrators.

We encourage FFAR to continue addressing issues like food safety and quality, essential for a resilient food system. Research on mitigating microbial and chemical contaminants, reusing processing water, and addressing pesticide and veterinary residues and nanoparticles in the

food supply are pressing issues that need solutions. We suggest considering Food Safety and Resiliency as a future challenge area.

IFT looks forward to ongoing engagement and supporting FFAR's efforts in tackling global food and agriculture challenges. We advocate for a systems approach involving all players along the food chain, from farm to fork and beyond. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Anna Rosales

Senior Director Government Affairs & Nutrition

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