



12/5/17

## IFT's Recommendations on the 2018 Farm Bill Reauthorization

### Funding for USDA food and agricultural research over FY2019-2023, Title VII

- Ensure that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies (Agricultural Research Service; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; Economic Research Service; National Agriculture Statistics Service) are fully funded. These agencies and their programs are important for the continuation of critical research and scientific innovations in agriculture, food science, and nutrition, and education and extension projects, to improve public health, to maintain competitive edge globally, and for training the next generation of scientists in agriculture, food science, and nutrition research. Maintaining robust public investment in foundational and applied research in agriculture, food science, and nutrition, conducted at USDA and/or funded by USDA is important for agricultural productivity; for access to safe, nutritious, and affordable foods; to address the many diet- and nutrition- related chronic disease risks, such as overweight and obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease; and to reduce related healthcare costs.

### Renew funding for FFAR, public-private research funding partnerships, Title VII

- Renew funding for the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research (FFAR), established by the 2014 Farm Bill. FFAR is an avenue to build unique public-private partnerships to grow the funding sources for agriculture, food, and nutrition research to: complement existing research efforts, support innovative sciences, build human capacity, utilize social, physical, and biological sciences to address pressing food and agriculture challenges, and inspire the next generation of food and agriculture scientists.

### Eliminate matching requirements across the board for competitive grants programs within NIFA, currently selectively applied to some institutions, agencies and organizations, Title VII

- The USDA REE competitive grants programs should be an open playing field for the best and brightest ideas, regardless of their institutional affiliation. The requirement in the 2014 Farm Bill for financial matching to be applied across all NIFA competitive grants programs, exempts certain types of institutions and imposes an unfair barrier for others to compete. The elimination of this requirement will help to harness the full benefits of competition.

### Continue the designation of the USDA REE Under Secretary as the Chief Scientist of the Department, Title VII

- Preserving present policy of the USDA REE Under Secretary also serving as the Chief Scientist of the Department will continue to empower both roles, improve scientific coordination, oversight, and integrity, increase responsiveness, and raise the profile of food and agricultural research and USDA's contribution within the federal research family and worldwide.

### Mandate funding for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to produce a periodic report to identify scientific opportunities and priority setting for food and agricultural research, Title VII

- Although additional research funding can help to address specific challenges, it is equally important that new funding be accompanied by a strategic vision from the agricultural science community and other stakeholders. The NASEM report should articulate gaps in current research, the greatest opportunities





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and needs within the field, areas for greater interdisciplinary focus, and the potential pathways that will lead to a new generation of scientific advancements. A regular 10-year science planning study by NASEM accompanied by a 5-year, midpoint progress review is recommended. The current NASEM *Science Breakthroughs 2030* should be accepted as the first such study and serve as a model to build upon for subsequent efforts.

**Support at least one permanent designation for a food scientist and/or a food technologist on the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) for the development of recommendations for future Dietary Guidelines for Americans (2020 and beyond), under Title IV Subtitle C, as well as inclusion of language reaffirming the need for Food Scientist/Technologists on the DGAC.**

- Ongoing advancements in the science of food and technology enable the development and production of foods to address nutritional issues, such as high salt and sugar intake, and low calcium, dietary fiber, and vitamin D intake to help reduce the risk of diet-related chronic diseases (such as overweight and obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease). Recognizing the role of science of food and technology to address the rapidly changing demands of the global marketplace and meeting consumers' needs for a safe, healthy, nutritious, affordable, accessible, and abundant food supply that contributes to health and wellness is crucial for the development of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

To enhance the integrity of the selection process of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC), the National Academies identified a set of values, including "Promote diversity of expertise and experience", and recommended that a broad range of expertise and experience must be considered to create a balanced DGAC. The DGAC should include members with a range of viewpoints and that the DGAC represent a wide variety of perspectives.

- Include language expressing the need for food scientist and/or technologists for future Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee:  
***"In developing the dietary guidance for Americans, it is important that the recommendations regarding nutrient or food intake are supported by the preponderance of credible scientific evidence. Equally important is to recognize and consider the capabilities and limitations of the food supply for actual implementation of the Dietary Guidelines recommendations. Expertise of food scientists and food technologists is critical in understanding and recognizing the technological capabilities and limitations germane to a global food supply, and to ensure that the recommendations are practical and implementable and will assist consumers in making the dietary changes to improve health and reduce the risk for diet-related chronic diseases, such as overweight and obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, and related healthcare costs."***

#### About IFT

The Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) is a global organization of 17,000 individual members from more than 100 countries committed to advancing the science of food. Since 1939, IFT has brought together the brightest minds in food science, technology and related professions from academia, government, and industry to solve the world's greatest food challenges. Our organization works to ensure that our members have the resources they need to learn, grow, and advance the science of food as the population and the world evolve. We believe that science is essential to ensuring a global food supply that is sustainable, safe, nutritious, and accessible to all. For more information, please visit [ift.org](http://ift.org).

