

In March 2023, more than 50 organizations wrote a letter urging Congress to invest in the farm bill's research title to spur scientific breakthroughs, keep pace with our global competitors, modernize facilities, and ensure nutrition security and a sustainable food system.

### The promise of food and agricultural research:



Ensure our role as a leader in agricultural innovation.



Strengthen national security and competitiveness.



Improve resilience, sustainability, and productivity.



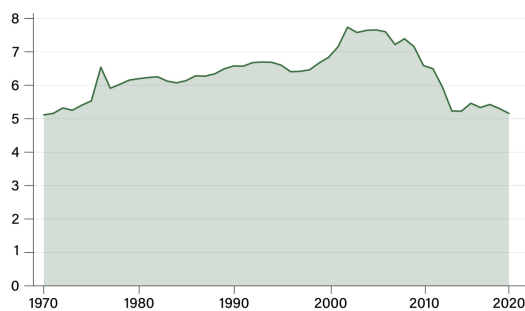
Stimulate the economy.



Enhance food and nutrition security.

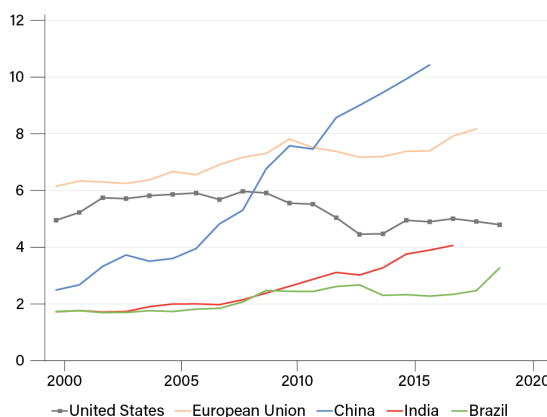
## Support Food and Agricultural Research in the Farm Bill

- Past innovations have increased food production by 300% since the 1940s.
- According to USDA, every \$1 invested in public agricultural R&D from 1900-2011 generated on average \$20 in benefits to the U.S. economy.
- But today, gains in productivity are in deep decline, putting at risk global food security. Declining R&D investment is directly tied to declining productivity.
- Crumbling research facilities and equipment is driving top tier talent to better funded disciplines. The number of agricultural scientists has dropped by nearly 30% since the early 2000s.
- The food and agriculture industry contributes more than \$1 trillion to the U.S. GDP and accounts for 21 million jobs. Robust funding is critical to maintaining our trade competitiveness.
- The farm bill is our opportunity to secure critical funding to build resilience in our food system before it is too late.



U.S. funding peaked in 2002 and has declined by 1/3 since, hitting the lowest levels since 1970.

Source: USDA ERS, inflation-adjusted 2019 dollars, billions



Meanwhile, China's funding has grown to more than \$10 billion – double what the U.S. spends.

Source: USDA ERS, inflation-adjusted 2015 dollars, billions



National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research



[ncfar.org](http://ncfar.org)

The National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based, and customer-led coalition that brings together food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and natural resource stakeholders to serve as a forum and unified voice supporting increased federal investment in USDA Research, Education, and Economics.