



## ORGANIC FARMING RESEARCH FOUNDATION

*fostering the improvement and widespread adoption of organic farming*

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman, Committee on  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Scott  
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Boozman, Ranking Member Scott, Members of both Committees,

Direct, mandatory public funding for agriculture research in the Farm Bill is vital.

The importance of this funding cannot be overstated, as it serves not only the farmers who rely on it for informed decision-making but also the broader research community, including universities and non-profit organizations. These programs significantly benefit the rural communities that actively participate in and host these crucial research projects; every dollar invested in public agricultural research, an impressive \$20 of benefits is generated.<sup>1</sup> Despite this well-documented impact, public funding for agricultural research has experienced a 20% decline since the turn of the century, while funding for other research areas has increased during the same period.<sup>2</sup>

We can no longer afford to cut funding for agriculture research. As we move to the drafting process of the 2023 Farm Bill, the following signatories strongly urges the Committees on Agriculture to safeguard and expand the existing funding in Title VII. The investments made through this title not only directly support critical research programs but also sustain the extension services that farmers across the nation rely upon to maintain profitable and environmentally sustainable operations.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2022/june/investment-in-u-s-public-agricultural-research-and-development-has-fallen-by-a-third-over-past-two-decades-lags-major-trade-competitors/>

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

Title VII includes a range of programs that were established by Congress to address needs for a wide gamut of affected communities. For instance, the Specialty Crop Research Initiative and the Organic Research and Extension Initiative were created to fill gaps in understanding within specific agricultural sectors. Programs like the 1890 Scholarships and Tribal College Endowment Program aim to support and nurture the next generation of agricultural researchers. Initiatives such as the Urban, Indoor, and Emerging Agriculture program focus on comprehending the unique challenges faced in specific growing conditions. These programs and initiatives were established by Congressional direction to address significant questions and persistent needs, and they demand continued and expanded support.

The public financial support for agricultural research, which we urge this committee to strengthen, has already experienced significant decreases over the past two decades. As a group of organizations, businesses, and research institutions deeply committed to the advancement of agricultural knowledge, we firmly believe that now is not the time to further diminish their funding, but rather to reverse this concerning trend and secure a prosperous future for our agricultural sector.

We thank the committee for its unwavering interest in supporting agricultural research and extension programs. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to collaborate closely with the committee to ensure the provision of robust funding and the continued advancement of agricultural research.

Organic Farming Research Foundation

Agricultural Justice Project

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges

American Society for Horticultural Science

April Joy Farm

Betteravia Farms, LLC.

Beyond Pesticides

Bonterra Organic Estates

Braga Fresh

Brand Pollinators

California FarmLink

Carbon180

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association

Casa Sanchez Foods

Catskill Mountainkeeper

Clif Bar & Company

Climate Land Leaders

Conscious Container

Ecological Farming Association

Evergreen Sustainability, LLC

Farm Aid

Fireplace Editions  
Fogline Farm LLC  
Friends of Alemany Farm  
Friends of the Earth  
Friends of the Mississippi River  
Front Porch Farm, LLC  
Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research  
Hanover Co-op Food Stores of NH & VT  
Healthy Way Market  
Here We Are Farm  
Humble Snacks  
Iowa Organic Association  
Jóia Food & Fiber Farm  
Kamut International  
Kind of Wild Wines  
LaRocca Vineyard's.com  
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association  
Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance  
Narrative Food  
National Organic Coalition  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
Natural Grocers  
Nature's Path Foods Inc  
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance  
Northeast Organic Farming Association Massachusetts (NOFA-MA)  
Northeast Organic Farming Association New Hampshire (NOFA-NH)  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ)  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT)  
Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council (NOFA-IC)  
Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG)  
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides  
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association  
OLIPOP  
Orchard Pond Organics  
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network  
Oregon Tilth  
Organic Farmers Association  
Organic Seed Alliance  
Organic Trade Association  
Organic Valley  
Pacha  
Pasa Sustainable Agriculture  
Pesticide Action Network

Planet FWD  
Potomac Vegetable Farms Inc.  
Premiums for the Planet  
Pure Strategies  
Rodale Institute  
Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA  
Seventh Generation  
Spottswoode Estate Vineyard & Winery  
Sprout NOLA  
Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems  
SymBio Impex Corp  
Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council  
The Cornucopia Institute  
The Food Co-op, Port Townsend  
The Synergy Company  
Tomworks  
UCSC Center for Agroecology  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
University of Vermont  
Virginia Association for Biological Farming  
Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA)  
Wild Farm Alliance  
Wolf & Associates  
Women, Food and Agriculture Network