



Increased Research and Extension Capacity

Biofuels: An Example of Need. The United States has a goal of producing 20 percent of its transportation fuels from biomass by 2030¹ and efforts to achieve that objective are well underway. However, this is a very ambitious undertaking, requiring the dedication of millions of additional acres to the production of ethanol and biodiesel; the development of entirely new methods to produce bioproducts from cellulosic materials; and the recovery of huge quantities of waste biomass from fields, farms, forests, mills, and landfills.

A recent report issued jointly by USDA and DOE² notes that many (mostly scientific) advancements are required to reach this goal:

- Yields of corn, wheat, and other small grains must be increased by 50 percent.
- Agriculture harvest techniques must be capable of recovering 75 percent of annual crop residues.
- Some 55 million acres of cropland, idle cropland, and pasture must be dedicated to perennial bioenergy crops.
- All manure in excess of that which can be applied on-farm for soil improvement must be used for biofuels and all other available residues must be similarly utilized.
- The quantity of wood recovered from forests, processing plants, municipal solid waste, and other sources must double.

As a country, how are we going to get from here to there?

Part of the answer is to put the full weight of the land-grant university system behind the undertaking—and that will take a significant increase in federal funding.



NASULGC urges Congress to provide substantial increases in FY 2008 to the following research and extension programs funded through the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES):

- Hatch Act (agricultural research) programs should receive \$322.597 million in funding to increase the capacity of the state agricultural research stations so that they have the capability to support biofuel priorities of a state, multi-state, or regional nature.
- Smith-Lever Act 3(b) and 3(c) (cooperative extension) programs should be funded at \$300 million to (among other things) expand technical outreach to farmers and others seeking to increase their contribution to America's biofuels future.
- McIntire-Stennis (forestry research) funding should be increased to \$30.008 million to increase capacity at America's forestry schools and colleges to conduct biofuels and other research efforts.

America's land-grant universities and related institutions are ready to expand our biofuels work to help lessen U.S. dependence on imported petroleum, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide enhanced economic opportunities for U.S. food, fiber, and renewable fuel producers.

NASULGC'S PRIORITY REQUESTS FOR FY 2008

■ Hatch Act	\$322.597 M
■ McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry.....	\$30.008 M
■ Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c)	\$300.000 M

1. DOE-USDA Biomass R&D Technical Advisory Committee, *Vision for Bioenergy and Biobased Products in the United States*, October 2002.

2. DOE-USDA, *Biomass as Feedstock for a Bioenergy and Bioproducts Industry: The Technical Feasibility of a Billion-Ton Annual Supply*, April 2005.