

Overview of FY2015 Request

America's land-grant universities and related institutions provide much of the research, education, and public outreach that sustains U.S. food, fiber, and renewable fuel production while addressing many urgent and important local, regional, national, and global problems.

Financial support for this world-renowned enterprise comes from both public and private sources, but the most significant funding source is the federal-state partnership managed by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)—USDA's extramural science agency—and funded by NIFA and state and local governments.

Like many other federal entities, the NIFA budget was reduced by nearly eight percent in FY2013, when sequestration's across-the-board cuts took effect on March 1, 2013.

Fortunately, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 cleared the way for enactment of the FY2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act with sufficient budgetary headroom to permit restoration of the funding cut from most NIFA programs.

That bill also increased NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), USDA's flagship competitive grants program, by \$39.4 million (compared to FY2013) and provided nominal increases to the six NIFA programs which underwrite the capacity (infrastructure) of 1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant universities.

As shown in Table 1, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities supports AFRI funding at \$325 million, the same level as in the President's FY2015 Budget Request. We also support funding for the six capacity priorities that support research, education, and extension efforts at America's land-grant universities and related institutions at not less than their FY 2014 levels. Finally, we urge Congress to continue to make NIFA funding a high priority.

For more information and updated documents, visit:

www.land-grant.org/documents.html



TABLE 1. CORE NIFA PRIORITIES	FY 2015
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	\$325.000 M+
Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c)	300.000 M+
Hatch Act	243.701 M+
Evans-Allen	52.485 M+
1890 Institutions Extension	43.920 M+
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	33.961 M+
1994 Institutions Research and Extension	6.247 M+



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Feeding 9.6 Billion by 2050

The U.S. Census Bureau maintains digital clocks which display net population growth both domestically and worldwide. Those clocks show a net gain of one person in the United States every 15 seconds and another person worldwide about every half second.

To put this in perspective, if the world population clock were an automobile odometer, the car would be hurtling along at a velocity of $\approx 7,200$ miles per hour or roughly Mach 9.4!

At present rates, the global population will reach 9.6 billion by 2050 and experts believe that agricultural productivity must *double* from current levels to feed a global population of that magnitude. One private-sector group that has been out front on this issue is Global Harvest Initiative (GHI).

Each year GHI publishes a Global Agricultural Productivity (GAP) Report[®] “to mark the progress made toward sustainably doubling agricultural output to meet the 2050 demand for food, fiber, fuel, and other industrial products derived from agriculture.” This annual report also “highlights key policies required to encourage more investment and innovation, and to build efficient, sustainable agricultural value chains.”

We believe that GHI’s 2013 GAP Report[®] could help inform the congressional debate over funding for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and is worth reading in its entirety. We would highlight the following key policy recommendation:

Investment in agricultural research and development (R&D) is a principal driver of agricultural productivity growth... The private sector is a growing source of R&D funding, but greater public-sector investment is critical for innovation, basic research and making research findings and technologies widely available. Integrative research brings together multi-disciplinary teams of scientists from the government, academia, and the private sector to create synergies, accelerate progress, and improve cost effectiveness. New technologies must then be adapted to meet local needs and conditions so the benefits of these innovations are extended to farmers and producers across the value chain. The extension and commercialization of these new technologies should be pursued through collaborative public-private partnerships. Investments in agricultural R&D make significant contributions to sustained growth in agricultural productivity, alleviating poverty and improving food security. [Emphasis added.]

QUICK LINKS:

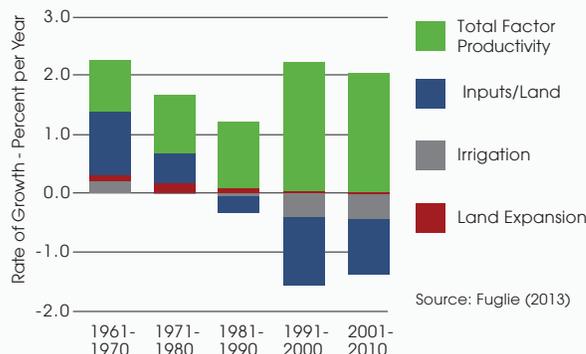
- www.globalharvestinitiative.com
- GHI 2013 GAP Report: www.bit.ly/1djltrV (pdf)
- ERS data from charts: www.1.usa.gov/1cpYkDW



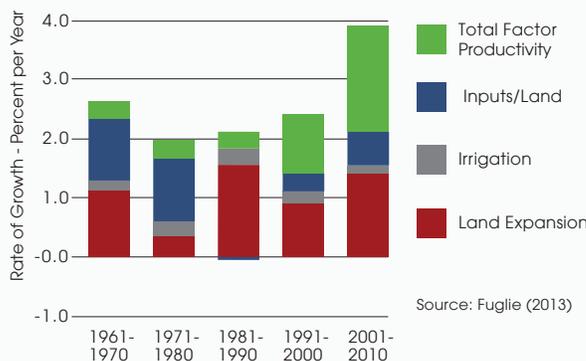
www.census.gov/popclock

Feb. 27, 2014 - 02:00 UTC

Sources of Growth in Agricultural Output
High Income Countries (1961-2010)



Sources of Growth in Agricultural Output
Low Income Countries (1961-2010)



Reprinted from GHI’s 2013 GAP Report,[®] these two charts demonstrate the profound difference that total factor productivity has made in the developed world over the past 50 years. “Total factor productivity is the ratio of agricultural outputs (gross crop and livestock output) to inputs (land, labor, fertilizer, machinery and livestock). When TFP rises, more output can be produced from a fixed amount of inputs. TFP growth can result from increased effectiveness of inputs, more precise use of inputs, or the adoption of improved production practices.”

