

# Overview of FY 2016 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.

As shown in Table 1, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities supports AFRI funding at \$450 million. 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 the levels contained in Table 1.

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative is the flagship competitive grant program within NIFA. We have - and continue to - aggressively endorse additional funding for this program. As shown in table 1, we request fiscal year 2016 funding for this program at \$450 million. Meanwhile, the Smith-Lever, Hatch, McIntire-Stennis, Evans-Allen and 1890’s Extension programs are the foundation on which America’s Land-grants meet the critical challenges of today and tomorrow. This predictable source of funding is vital to deliver extension education and sustain the basic and translational research at land-grant institutions. As such, we oppose the FY 2016 budget proposal to change the law and make a portion of several of these funds competitive.

We urge Congress to continue to make overall NIFA funding a high priority and specifically request funding for the six capacity programs that support research, education, and extension efforts at America’s land-grant universities and related institutions at the levels also outlined in Table 1.

For more information and updated documents, visit: [http://land-grant.org/appropriations\\_docs.html](http://land-grant.org/appropriations_docs.html)



TABLE 1. CORE NIFA PRIORITIES	FY 2016
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	\$450.000 M+
Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c)	304.000 M+
Hatch Act	256.201 M+
Evans-Allen	60.500 M+
1890 Institutions Extension	49.350 M+
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	35.500 M+
1994 Institutions Research and Extension	9.247 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<sup>®</sup> “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 2014 GAP Report<sup>®</sup> 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:

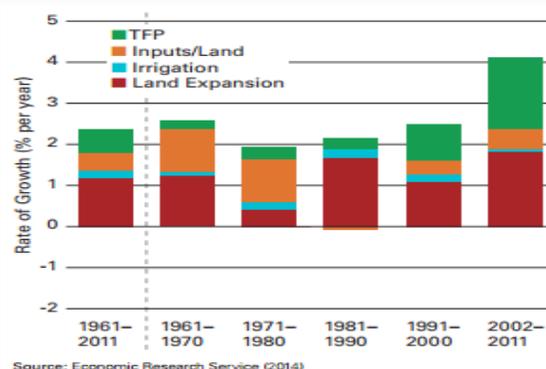
- [www.globalharvestinitiative.com](http://www.globalharvestinitiative.com)
- GHI 2014 GAP Report: [http://www.globalharvestinitiative.org/GAP/2014\\_GAP\\_Report.pdf](http://www.globalharvestinitiative.org/GAP/2014_GAP_Report.pdf)



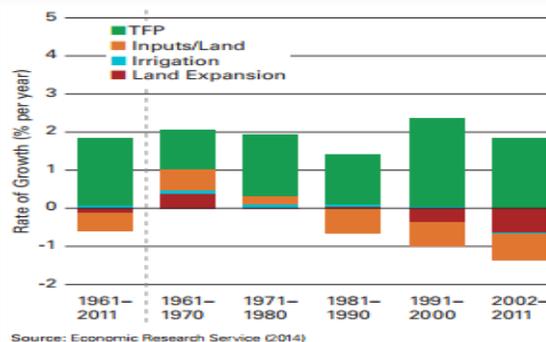
[www.census.gov/popclock](http://www.census.gov/popclock)

Feb. 9, 2015 - 6:30 PM (UTC)

Sources of Growth in Agricultural Output: Low Income Countries  
1961-2011



Sources of Growth in Agricultural Output: High Income Countries  
1961-2011



Reprinted from GHI’s 2014 GAP Report,<sup>®</sup> these two charts demonstrate the profound difference that total factor productivity (TFP) 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.”

