



NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension and catalyzes transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges. | [www.nifa.usda.gov](http://www.nifa.usda.gov)

# Fueling Discovery and Engagement in Agriculture through Competitive Grants Programs

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) envisions a future in which all people, at all times, have sufficient access to safe and nutritious foods that meet the needs and preferences for active and healthy lifestyles. Depressed agricultural production and farm incomes need a boost from evidence-based agricultural science, driven by research and extension supported via a competitive peer-review process. NIFA is the largest source of competitive agricultural research funding in the United States and supports the research, education, and extension activities needed to fuel discoveries and innovations in agriculture.

## Meeting Global Food Demands

**\$1 Trillion**

Value of the U.S. food system, which supports 21 million jobs.

**\$20.3 Billion**

U.S. agricultural trade surplus in 2016.

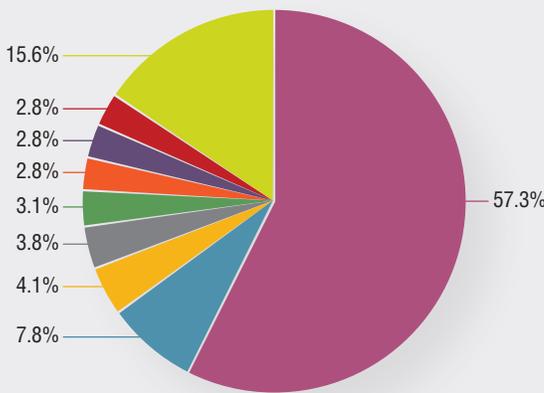
**9.7 Billion**

Projected global population by the year 2050, which is more than double the population of the world in 1985. Continuing to meet the world's food needs will require decreasing food losses, increasing food production, using less land and water resources, and overcoming increasingly variable environmental constraints.

## Did You Know?

NIFA administers the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), America's flagship agricultural competitive grants program.

**NIFA's Total Fiscal Year 2017 Competitive Grants Appropriations: \$654 million**



- AFRI • Agriculture and Food Research Initiative
- SCRI • Specialty Crops Research Initiative
- SARE • Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
- CDRE • Emergency Citrus Research and Extension Program
- CPPM • Crop Protection and Pest Management
- BFRDP • Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program
- OREI • Organic Ag Research and Extension Initiative
- FINI • Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive
- All Others

## A 'Systems Approach'

NIFA supports projects that address biophysical, social, environmental, and economic challenges across the food supply and distribution chain. These projects require multiple disciplines to work together to achieve the following goals:



**Enhance Agricultural Productivity and Profitability** by improving local, regional, and national agriculture with minimal ecological footprint and environmental impact.



**Strengthen the Sustainable Bioeconomy** by promoting the use of renewable biological resources and improving supply chain logistics to create new value-added income streams for farmers and rural communities.



**Improve the Safety and Nutrition of Food for Healthy Lifestyles** by ensuring that the food produced, packaged, processed, prepared, and consumed is nutritious, safe to eat, and sustainably produced.



**Conserve and protect land and water resources** from a variable and changing climate, extreme weather events, pollution, and pest and disease threats.



**Develop a diverse workforce** with the requisite knowledge, skills, and training to advance food and agriculture.

## Take a Closer Look at NIFA

Learn more about the outcomes and successes of NIFA-funded projects.



<https://nifa.usda.gov/impacts>

NIFA's partnership with the Land-Grant University and Cooperative Extension System:



Extension professionals are integrated within more than 3,000 counties and county equivalents across all U.S. states, districts, and territories. These professionals translate science into opportunities to help improve people's lives.

**SOURCES:** Ag and Food Sectors and the Economy. Economic Research Service. [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov). | U.S. agricultural exports. Economic Research Service. [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov). | World Bank Open Data: Population, total. [Data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL](http://Data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL).