

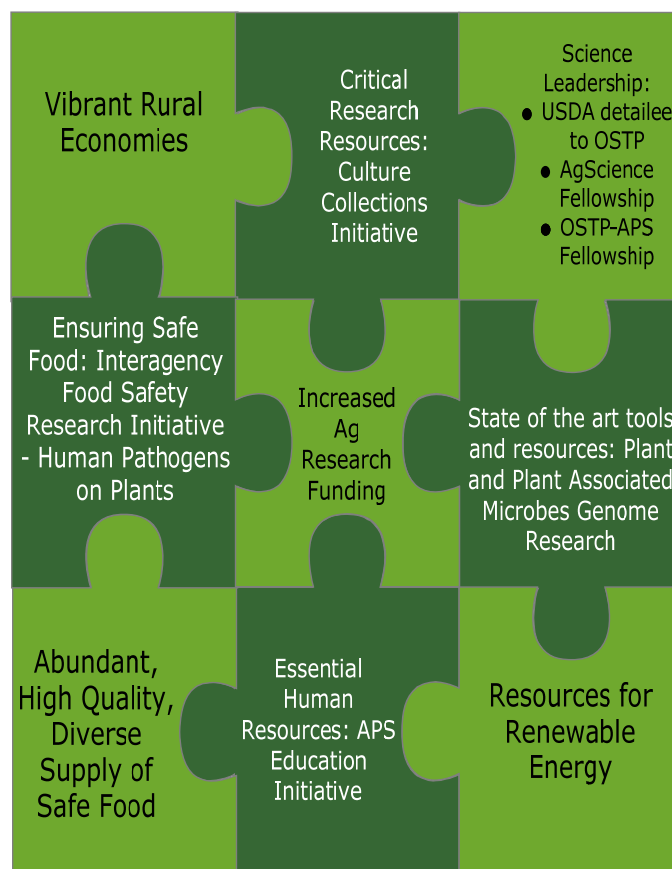
Investments for Today's Challenges and Solutions for Tomorrow

Agriculture is critical to our nation's future and investments in agricultural research drives productivity growth in agriculture and the associated food, feed, fiber, and renewable-based industries.

- Every \$1 invested in agricultural research returns a minimum of \$10 to the US economy. Investments in agricultural research today will begin to influence productivity within 2 years and will continue for as long as 30 years. Despite the economic and social importance of agriculture, investments in research have stagnated. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will "transform our economy with science and technology" with significant funding increases, however agricultural research was excluded. The *America Competes Act* does not extend to the biological or agricultural sciences. Thus, we have watched from the sidelines as other scientific disciplines and programs prosper from spending boosts. If we are to continue to provide high quality, safe, abundant supplies of reasonably priced food, fiber, and renewable resources and revitalize our rural economies, we simply must begin down the path to doubling basic and applied agricultural research funding.

Solution:

- Enhance agricultural science leadership by detailing, every year, an agricultural scientist to work in the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and establishing an "AgScience Policy Fellowship" enabling scientists to spend a year working on science policy issues.
- Guarantee access to critical research resources by establishing a National Plant Microbial Germplasm System.
- Enable scientific success in addressing challenges by providing state-of-the-art tools and resources through plant and plant associated microbes genome research.
- Ensure safe food for our Nation's consumers by implementing an interagency food safety research initiative focused on human pathogens on plants.
- Provide essential data for increases by establishing an Agricultural Research and Development Price Index comparable to that used by NIH.



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