



Comments for FFAR Public Session

October 28, 2015

First, I want to thank Sally Rockey and the FFAR Board of Directors for your commitment to advancing food and agriculture research in the United States.

My name is Joanna Rosene-Mirvis. I am a Fellow at Meridian Institute working on the AGree initiative, an eight-year collaborative of several leading foundations. AGree connects and challenges leaders from diverse communities to build consensus, catalyze action, and elevate food and agriculture as a national priority.

AGree's diverse Advisors agreed on the urgent need to strengthen the effectiveness and impact of the food and agricultural research enterprise in order to meet the challenges – the “asteroids” – of the future. We released a [consensus recommendations document](#) on the topic in June that specifically notes FFAR's opportunity to model the types of funding most needed to ensure a healthy environment and safe, affordable, nourishing food for all.

As everyone here today knows, the global food and agriculture system is facing complex and unprecedented challenges: climate change, extreme weather events, environmental degradation, agricultural pest and disease outbreaks, food insecurity, obesity, changing consumer preferences, and rural economic decline – in addition to challenges we cannot foresee.

Given the multi-dimensional nature of these issues, public-private partnerships and transdisciplinary collaboration will be key to resolving them.

FFAR has a tremendous opportunity to support research endeavors that can confront multi-dimensional challenges head-on. Through innovative new models, FFAR can promote transdisciplinary research, innovation, and partnerships.

AGree looks forward to supporting and working with FFAR going forward.