



Chief Scientific Officer

Job type: Full-time

Location: Remote, U.S.-based, with the option to work from FFAR's Washington, D.C. office

Salary: \$216,782 - \$315,417

Organization Description

The [Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research](#) (FFAR) is a nonprofit organization that builds public-private partnerships to fund audacious research addressing the biggest challenges in food and agriculture. FFAR is committed to providing every person access to affordable, nutritious food grown on thriving farms. The Foundation pioneers scientific and technological innovation by funding research that fills critical research gaps. Ultimately, FFAR's partnership and results benefit farmers, consumers, and the environment.

FFAR's research is a core facet of the organization, developed in collaboration with industry, government, academia and non-profit institutions. The Foundation's research focuses on catalyzing innovation to solve pressing food and agriculture challenges. Leveraging public and private resources, FFAR increases the scientific and technological research, innovation and partnerships critical to enhancing sustainable production of nutritious food for a growing global population. FFAR currently supports research in six [Challenge Areas](#):

- Soil Health
- Sustainable Water Management
- Next Generation Crops
- Advanced Animal Systems
- Health-Agriculture Nexus
- Urban Food Systems

In addition to research programs, FFAR's [Scientific Workforce Development](#) programs prepare today's scientific workforce to address the food and agriculture challenges of tomorrow.

Climate change is creating numerous challenges for food and agriculture systems. FFAR's [AgMission™](#) initiative further supports research enabling agriculture to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and advance the widespread adoption of climate-smart agriculture.



Position Description

FFAR seeks an exceptional scientist to serve as chief scientific officer (CSO) and to provide strategic and technical leadership for the Foundation's food and agriculture research programs. The CSO will lead FFAR's Science Team and will have oversight of the strategic visioning, design, solicitation, review, award, management and evaluation of a portfolio of research activities spanning the breadth of agriculture and food systems research opportunities.

The CSO will oversee processes that seek stakeholder input and expert analysis to allocate internal and external resources to fund research that addresses challenges to agriculture and food systems, improves food security and increases environmental sustainability. The CSO will manage the Scientific Programs Team's budget and oversee the award of \$100 million annually, collaborating with FFAR counterparts as well as external funders, to ensure funds are expended in line with FFAR's policies and overall strategic priorities. Additionally, the CSO will work collaboratively with the Operations & Impact Team to implement processes for evaluation and impact assessment of FFAR investments.

The CSO will manage a team with sub-teams of 15 senior scientists, science officers and associates. This position is responsible for actively managing this team, performing the full range of personnel functions, including recruitment, supervision, performance management and development. The CSO will also foster collaboration among the Scientific Programs Team and across the organization.

In partnership with FFAR's Development Team, the CSO will engage externally with industry, foundations, government and others to leverage resources towards research investments in line with FFAR's strategy and priorities.

The CSO will report to the executive director and will serve as a member of FFAR's Executive Leadership Team. This position will provide guidance and support to the executive director and other executives across internal and external areas of FFAR's engagement, including Science, Impact, Development, Communications, Legislative Affairs, Grants Management and Operations.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Oversee processes to establish research portfolio priorities



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- Represent FFAR to external stakeholders to advance research partnerships and leverage resources
- Form new partnerships and alliances aimed at supporting innovative research activities
- Liaise with other teams at FFAR to advance the full range of research, solicitation, award, management and review processes
- Develop and manage FFAR's research and workforce development budget, in collaboration with the Executive Leadership Team
- Guide, advise and support the executive director on all science-related matters
- Provide leadership to cross-FFAR priorities and initiatives, integrating program and project efforts, where appropriate
- Foster a culture of teamwork, equity and inclusion across all internal and external engagements
- Supervise scientific program directors and lead Scientific Programs Team
- Stay abreast of scientific opportunities and developments in food and agriculture to ensure FFAR's portfolio remains current
- Represent FFAR as a speaker/presenter at regional, national and global events
- Serve as a thought-leader on research and innovation in food and agriculture

Qualifications

- Demonstrated leadership in harnessing research and innovation to drive solutions at the intersection of climate resilience, sustainability, agriculture and human health
- Deep understanding of the domestic and international food and agriculture landscape
- Experience in convening diverse stakeholders, including private sector, academics and the agricultural community, to advance food and agriculture partnerships
- Demonstrated ability to discover and cultivate professional relationships and networks to leverage resources and create public-private partnerships
- Experience leading research and grants administration
- Experience in the full range of personnel management functions
- Ability to work with flexibility, efficiency, enthusiasm and diplomacy both individually and as part of a team
- Demonstrated commitment to advancing equity and inclusion within an organization and through engagement with diverse partners
- Ability to communicate complex business and scientific issues succinctly and effectively
- Excellent public speaking skills and stellar interpersonal skills
- Highest levels of personal and professional integrity
- A doctoral degree in a relevant agricultural or related field



Application Process

To apply for this position, click [here](#). This position will be open until January 9, 2023. Applications should consist of a substantive cover letter and resume. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Additional Information

This position requires long periods of sitting at a desk and working on a computer. Travel will be required, both domestically and internationally. Work outside of normal business hours may be required.

Benefits Offerings:

- Comprehensive medical insurance
- 100% company paid dental and vision insurance for employees and family
- 100% life and disability insurance
- Up to 6% 401k Match – fully vested after first contribution
- Employee Assistance Program
- Robust vacation, sick, holiday and parental leave
- On-site gym with free access for employees
- Training, tuition assistance and developmental opportunities

EEO Statement

FFAR is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants are considered for positions without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information or any other category protected by applicable federal, state or local laws. Applications are encouraged from individuals who may fall into any such groups, as well as from veterans and uniformed service members.