

# FFAR Consortia

## Introduction to FFAR

The [Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research's](#) (FFAR) mission is to build collaborative partnerships to support audacious science addressing big food and agriculture challenges. FFAR advances research through funding mechanisms such as competitive proposals, direct funds and prizes.

Through public-private partnerships, FFAR works with diverse stakeholders to pioneer research that aims to provide access to affordable, nutritious food grown on thriving farms. These collaborations increase public investment in agriculture research, bringing together experts from academia, industry, government and nonprofits to deliver agile solutions and secure investments that produce actionable, measurable results.

## What Are FFAR Consortia?

FFAR consortia are comprised of several entities that co-design a mission, research focus and governance framework to guide and fund research, foster collaboration and generate actionable results to overcome agriculture's most complex challenges. FFAR commits funds to catalyze even greater investments from consortium members. These pooled resources fund research on an issue larger than a singular entity can solve alone.

### Attributes







- A clear vision and mission
- Supports pre-competitive research
- Interactive and agile to meet evolving research needs
- Group of at least three funding partners (not including FFAR), which may include public or private sector partners
- Multi-year structure enables the design, build and implementation of audacious research
- Implements funding mechanisms (competitive proposals, direct funds or prizes)
- Significant pool of investment to fund research on a complex, large-scale issue

### Benefits

- Pooled resources
- Shared risk
- Increased impact
- Strategic alignment
- Shared expertise
- Translational science

## FFAR-Led Consortia

FFAR consortia unite funders, who are often competitors, to solve shared food and agriculture challenges in a pre-competitive space. FFAR consortia create novel partnerships poised to deliver sustainably intensified productivity, improved human health and increased environmental sustainability.

	<p><a href="#">AgMission™</a> builds on existing research and expands innovation and adaptation to address urgent challenges farmers face. Ultimately, AgMission is developing and deploying climate-smart technologies to unlock agriculture’s potential to address climate change.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Crops of the Future</a> expands knowledge of traits that give rise to characteristics crops need to adapt to a changing future.</p>
	<p>The <a href="#">Efficient Fertilizer Consortium</a> advances enhanced efficiency and novel fertilizer products and practices that improve crop production and decrease environmental impact.</p>
	<p>The <a href="#">Greener Cattle Initiative</a> identifies, develops and/or validates scientifically sound, commercially feasible and socially responsible practices and technologies that reduce enteric methane emissions from dairy and beef cattle to slow the effects of climate change.</p>
	<p>The <a href="#">International Consortium for Antimicrobial Stewardship in Agriculture</a> promotes the judicious use of antibiotics in animal agriculture and improves animal welfare.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Precision Indoor Plants</a> helps food producers grow flavorful, nutritious food indoors that are valuable and desired by consumers.</p>

## How Does FFAR Build Consortia?



### **Identify Research Need**

FFAR consortia address agriculture’s most complex challenges that cannot be solved by one entity alone. FFAR engages in investigative efforts that include hosting convenings, engaging with experts and conducting literature syntheses to identify research needs that can only be solved through collaborative, longer-term processes.

### **Ideate & Design**

FFAR collaboratively ideates and designs consortia, working with partners to identify elements such as the funding model, standard operating procedures, governance and strategic plans. During this design process, FFAR continues to cultivate partnerships, identifying potential members to join and support the consortium. FFAR and partners may continue to refine the identified research gap(s) as new research is published and partners are engaged.

### **Implement**

FFAR manages the awarding of funds according to the selected research funding model, in accordance with each consortium’s design and, when appropriate, FFAR policies and guidelines. FFAR also manages implementation of the consortium, overseeing research, communication and reporting activities.

### **Monitor, Evaluate & Learn**

FFAR monitors progress, reports on key performance indicators and assesses the impact of funded research. Feedback from consortium members and end users is essential to understanding the impact. FFAR consortia may adapt and iterate based on research need and design.

## FFAR Consortia Contacts

If you are interested in joining an existing FFAR consortium or would like to propose a food and agriculture research need that may be a good fit for a future FFAR-led consortium, please reach out to the contacts listed below.

### **Partnerships & Development Contact**

Kamel Chida

[kchida@foundationfar.org](mailto:kchida@foundationfar.org)

### **Science Contact**

Dr. Angela Records

[arecords@foundationfar.org](mailto:arecords@foundationfar.org)