

# FFAR Consortia

## Introduction to FFAR Consortia

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 & agile to meet evolving research needs
- Group of at least three funding partners, which may include public and/or private sector partners
- Multi-year structure enables the design, build and implementation of audacious research
- Implements funding mechanisms (competitive proposals, direct funds, prizes)
- Significant pool of investment to fund research on a complex, large-scale issue

### Benefits

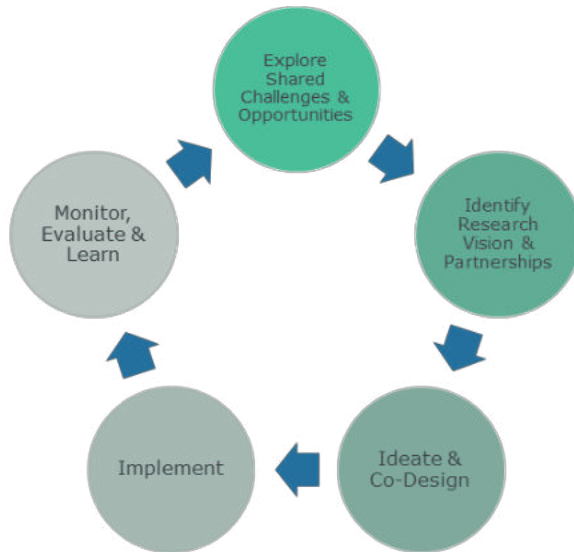
- Pooled resources
- Shared risk
- Increased impact
- Strategic alignment
- Shared expertise
- Translational science

# 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?



### Explore Shared Challenges & Opportunities

FFAR explores and identifies shared challenges and opportunities where research could advance solutions to a large-scale food and agriculture challenge by hosting workshops, collaborating with experts and leaders from agriculture and food value chains and conducting literature syntheses. These scoping efforts enable FFAR and stakeholders to identify challenges that can only be solved through collaborative, longer-term research. To increase FFAR's success in securing higher levels of overmatch, the identified research areas should be of interest to multiple entities. Consortia may be comprised of organizations from a single sector or multiple sectors, with a clear mission statement and topic area, and shall include at least three dues-paying members in addition to FFAR.

### Identify Research Vision & Partnerships

After identifying a critical challenge and potential partners, FFAR often brings together prospective partners to participate in a convening or workshop(s) to determine a shared research vision and identify potential research questions to progress into the next phase. During this phase, FFAR continues to cultivate partnerships across sectors.

## Ideate & Co-Design

FFAR collaboratively ideates and designs the consortium, working with partners to identify elements such as the funding model, standard operating procedures, governance and strategic plans. During this design process, FFAR continues cultivating partnerships, identifying potential members to join the consortium. This phase also involves drafting the consortium agreement and circulating it to prospective participants for their feedback and consideration. As the consortium agreement is in development, FFAR and partners may continue to refine the identified research needs, vision and targeted research questions as new research is published, and partners are engaged.

## Implement

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.

## Monitor, Evaluate & Learn

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