

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Symposium examines policies for research, productivity growth

WASHINGTON, D.C. Aug. 22, 2017: Agricultural research and innovation systems are key to helping the food and agriculture sectors respond to the growing global demand for food, feed, fuel and fiber. How government policies might enhance the ability of the research and innovation system to respond to the complex issues that comprise that challenge is the subject of a symposium planned Sept. 19-20, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

“The challenge is not only to increase the supply of agricultural goods, but to do so in ways that enhance food quality and food safety, preserve environmental resources, and support sustainability and productivity growth,” says economist Keith Fuglie of the Resource and Rural Economics Division of USDA’s Economic Research Service. “These challenges must all be addressed at the same time that the industry adapts to changing climate conditions, as well as increased competition for public funding of research and innovations.”

The symposium will examine the role of public policies to support research and innovation, and how to improve the capacity of those policies to deliver demand-driven results. Addressing capacity and the linkages of public-private partnerships are among the symposium topics.

USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are hosting the symposium in collaboration with Farm Foundation at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C. The symposium begins with a luncheon on Tuesday Sept. 19, and continues through the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Researchers, academics and government leaders from the United States and the European Union will participate in the symposium. The program is built around three primary topics:

- Global trends in public and private research investments: Issues include trends in agricultural research investments, the relationship of public agricultural research and gains in agricultural productivity, and social impacts of agricultural research.
- The emerging roles of public and private research: Lessons will be shared from public-private partnerships in the United States and other countries.
- Models to create investment incentives for agricultural research: Producer-funded research, entrepreneurship in agricultural technology and government policies to incentivize research will be among the topics address.

The [symposium agenda](#) is available. There is no cost to participate but registration is required and can be [completed online](#).

Preceding the symposium on the morning of Sept. 19, Farm Foundation will host a [Farm Foundation Forum](#), examining specific issues and challenges facing agricultural innovation in the United States. Panelists at the Forum will include Ken Ash and Catherine Moreddu, both of the OECD. There is no charge for the Forum, or the free audiocast of the Forum. Registration is requested and can be [completed online](#).

Please note: If you plan to attend both the Farm Foundation® Forum, and the Research and Innovation Symposium, you need to register separately for each event.

For more information:

Keith Fuglie, USDA ERS, kfuglie@ers.usda.gov

Mary Thompson, Farm Foundation, Mary@farmfoundation.org

USDA's Economic Research Service's (ERS) mission is to anticipate trends and emerging issues in agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America, and to conduct high-quality, objective economic research to inform and enhance public and private decision making. ERS shapes its research program and products to serve those who routinely make or influence public policy and program decisions. Key clientele include White House and USDA policy officials; the U.S. Congress; program administrators/managers; other Federal agencies; State and local government officials; and organizations, including farm and industry groups interested in public policy issues. www.ers.usda.gov

Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) works to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. OECD works with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change; measure productivity and global flows of trade and investment; analyze and compare data to predict future trends; and set international standards on a wide range of topics from agriculture and tax to the safety of chemicals. www.oecd.org

Farm Foundation is an agricultural policy institute cultivating dynamic non-partisan collaboration to meet society's needs for food, fiber, feed and energy. Since 1933, it has connected leaders in farming, business, academia, organizations and government through proactive, rigorous debate and objective issue analysis. <https://Farmfoundation.org>