



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

## *Forum examines role of innovation in U.S. ag global competitiveness*

**OAK BROOK, IL Aug. 24, 2017:** Agricultural research and innovation systems are critical tools that can help the food and agriculture sectors respond to the growing global demand for food, feed, fuel and fiber. These tools also enhance the industry's global competitiveness.



The role of innovation in U.S. agriculture and the changes needed for global competitiveness will be the subject of the Farm Foundation® Forum on Tuesday, Sept. 19. The Forum begins at 9 a.m. EDT at the National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C.

Presenting perspectives on the issue will be:

- Ken Ash, Director of the Trade and Agriculture Directorate of the Organisation for Co-operation and Development (OECD),
- Catherine Moreddu, Senior Economist at OECD, and
- Margaret Zeigler, Executive Director of the Global Harvest Initiative.

Invited as responders are Parag Chitnis, Deputy Director of USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture, and Alan Leshner, CEO Emeritus of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Farm Foundation President Constance Cullman will moderate the discussion. After comments by the panelists, the floor will be opened for questions and discussion.

The Forum will be 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. EDT in the Holeman Lounge of the National Press Club. A free, live audiocast will also be available.

There is no charge to participate in the Sept. 19 Forum, but registration is requested.

- Register [HERE](#) if you plan to attend the Forum in person at the National Press Club.
- Register [HERE](#) to participate in the live audiocast. Audiocasting is made possible by a grant from Farm Credit.

*Following the Forum*, Farm Foundation, OECD and USDA's Economic Research Service will host a symposium, *Research and Innovation Policies for Sustainable Productivity Growth in Agriculture*. Researchers, academics and government leaders from the United States and the

European Union 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 topics for the symposium, which will continue Sept. 20. Symposium [details and registration](#) are available.

***Please Note:*** If you plan to attend both the Forum and the Symposium, you need to register separately for each event.

***Who should participate in the Forum:*** People with an interest in agricultural, food and rural policy, including members of Congress, congressional staff, executive branch officials, industry representatives, NGO representatives, Embassy representatives, academics and members of the media.

***The Forum:*** Farm Foundation, NFP organizes these public forums to engage all stakeholders in informed dialogue on food, agricultural and rural policies. Participants examine current policies, explore and analyze alternative policy options, and give voice to new proposals.

***Audio from the session*** will be posted on the Farm Foundation [website](#). Presentations and audio files from past Forum sessions are also available at the website.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

[Mary Thompson](#), VP Communications, Farm Foundation

*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, we have connected leaders in farming, business, academia, organizations and government through proactive, rigorous debate and objective issue analysis.*