



## **CoFARM Activity Highlights November 30, 2007**

The Coalition of Funding Agricultural Research Missions (CoFARM) consists of 24 professional scientific organizations with over 200,000 members dedicated to advancing and sustaining a balanced investment in our nation's research portfolio. CoFARM has been successful in increasing support for competitive grants in agricultural research through many activities. Highlights of recent 2006/2007 activities include:

- Appropriations – Each year CoFARM submits written testimony to the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees. Additionally, CoFARM meets with key appropriations staff, as well as sends follow up correspondence throughout the budget and appropriations process to ensure increased support for the National Research Initiative (NRI) Competitive Grants Program. These efforts have proved successful, with the NRI being one of the few Federal Programs to receive an increase in the FY 2007 Joint Funding Resolution. The NRI increased by 5 percent over FY 2006. FY 2008 appropriations has not been completed as of yet.
- 2007 Farm Bill – CoFARM has been actively involved in the Farm Bill debate. We haven met with key congressional staff, and provided supportive comments regarding sections of the Senate version of Title VII of the Farm Bill. We are continuing our activities on this effort and have recently signed on to several letters promoting amendments to the Farm Bill that would increase funding for IFAFS and NRI.
- Congressional Events – For the last 4 years, CoFARM has teamed up with the Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC) to organize a Spring Hill event that plays a critical role in the annual federal funding process for competitive grants programs within the NSF and USDA that support our membership. This year, the event took place on April 18-19, 2007. The guest speakers included Senators Tom Harkin and Kit Bond; Jim Collins, Assistant Director for Biology at NSF; Anna Palmisano, Deputy Administrator for USDA Competitive Programs; Jane Silverthorne, White House Office of Science & Technology Policy; and Kei Koizumi, AAAS Budget Analyst. We met with over 70 congressional offices, including meetings with 10 Members of Congress.
- Meetings – CoFARM meets with key congressional and agency staff and administrators regularly. We have recently met with Undersecretary Gale Buchanan, USDA Research, Education, and Economics (REE); Dr. William Danforth, creator of the NIFA proposal and Chair of the REE Task Force; Noah Engelberg, Office of Management and Budget; Adela Ramos, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; Lowell Randall, USDA Deputy Assistant Secretary of Congressional Relations; Dr. Jan Singleton,

CSREES Director of the 406 Food Safety Research Program; Dr. Merle Pierson, Deputy Under Secretary for REE; Dr. Edward Knipping, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Administrator; Dr. Colien Hefferan, CSREES Administrator; Dr. Katherine (Kitty) Smith, Economic Research Service (ERS) Administrator.

CoFARM plans to grow and expand on these activities each year. Please contact Whitney Tull, Chair of CoFARM, with any questions or concerns ([wtull@asmusa.org](mailto:wtull@asmusa.org)).