NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

January 9, 2013

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Support for Implementing PCAST Recommendations to Strengthen Ag Research Enterprise

Dear Mr. President:

The National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (National C-FAR) urges you to take action to implement the recommendations of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) in the December 2012 "**Report to the President on Agriculture Preparedness and the Agriculture Research Enterprise**." In particular, we urge you to (1) *establish the recommended implementation committee* to consider how to proceed in considering and acting on the report's recommendations expeditiously, and (2) *include recommended funding increases in the Administration's budget proposals*.

National C-FAR believes the nation has a serious deficit in federal funding for food and agricultural research, extension and education, just as the nation has a budget deficit. This food and agricultural science funding deficit is long running and unsustainable. Failure to address this research funding deficit will have real negative consequences, not just to our food and agricultural system but to the entire U.S. economy and global food security.

National C-FAR supports the recommendation to increase the federal investment in agricultural research by $700 million per year as a vital first step, and stands ready to provide input on recommended efficiencies in existing funding, such as reducing redundancies and expanding the use of competition in allocating funding in intramural and extramural programs at USDA. It is important that any changes made strengthen—not detract from—USDA's ability to meet unique responsibilities and build upon an unprecedented legacy of success.

National C-FAR urges you to embrace 'customer' stakeholder input and involvement in the process of considering and implementing the PCAST recommendations. The ag research enterprise is a means to important ends. The food and ag sector as one of the key 'customers' of the ag research enterprise needs the scientific outcomes.

National C-FAR is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and *customer-led* coalition established in 2001 that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource organizations together with the food and agriculture research and extension community and serves as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension and education.

National C-FAR stands ready to work with you to achieve the vital outcome of an effective and sustainable food and agricultural research, extension and education enterprise that will contribute to providing the scientific outcomes needed to help meet our nation's food and agricultural challenges.

Sincerely,

Chuck Conner, National C-FAR President
& President, NCFC
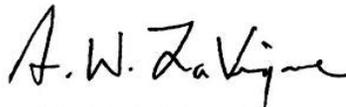
Andy LaVigne, National C-FAR Vice President
& President and CEO, ASTA

CC: Dr. John P. Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director, OSTP
       Dr. Amber Hartman Scholz, Acting Executive Director, PCAST
       Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, USDA
       Honorable Cathie Woteki, Chief Scientist and Under Secretary for REE, USDA
       Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
       Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
       Honorable Frank Lucas, Chair, House Committee on Agriculture
       Honorable Collin Peterson, Ranking, House Committee on Agriculture
       Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chair, House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee
       Honorable Sam Farr, Ranking, House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee
       Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
       Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking, Senate Appropriations Committee
       Honorable Subra Suresh, Director, National Science Foundation
       Honorable John Wingfield, Assistant Director, Directorate for Biological Sciences, NSF