

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chair  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and  
Related Programs  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and  
Related Programs  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Lee:

As the House Appropriations Committee develops the State and Foreign Operations and Related Programs (SFOPs) Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bill, the undersigned members respectfully request your support for full and robust funding for international agricultural research and development (R&D) through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) R&D account. The USAID R&D account supports international agricultural research under the Global Food Security Act, including the university-led Feed the Future Innovation Labs (ILs) and CGIAR – the world’s largest public agricultural research system.

U.S. investment in the USAID R&D account supports research innovations that drive critically important agriculture productivity, employment, and economic transformation in developing countries. Moreover, evidence shows U.S. government investments in USAID R&D provide a return on investment that ranges from \$8-\$10 for every public dollar invested through USAID R&D programs.<sup>1,2</sup>

The benefits of U.S. agriculture research investments extend beyond developing countries as growth in these countries results in increased market opportunities for U.S. exports. Over the last three years (2020-2022), developing country economies have been the destination of about two-thirds of U.S. agricultural exports on average.<sup>3</sup> These exports supported more than 800,000 U.S. jobs. Much of the increase that the U.S. sees in agricultural exports arise from markets that continue to grow. Investment in agricultural research, and the development of novel innovations, is part of an important strategy to promote economic development in low-income countries for future U.S. export markets.

The current 20 Innovation Labs are led by 14 U.S. universities in partnership with over 70 other U.S. colleges and universities, including 14 Minority Serving Institutions. The Innovation Labs bring together top U.S. public research universities to work with USAID missions and research institutions in developing countries to address issues that disrupt the global food supply and stability. Current topics include research on post-harvest losses, livestock productivity, food safety and quality, and pest and disease management.

Similarly, experts throughout CGIAR partner with U.S. universities to research a variety of agricultural challenges that affect smallholder farmers and producers in the developing world. U.S. agriculture benefits directly and indirectly from research conducted through such international projects, including those led by CGIAR. For example, currently, CGIAR-related varieties account for sixty percent of the wheat area in the U.S.

---

<sup>1</sup> Dalton and Fuglie. (2022) Costs, Benefits and Welfare Implications of USAID Investment in Agricultural Research through U.S. Universities

<sup>2</sup> Alston, Pardey, and Rao. (2020) The Payoff to the Investing in CGIAR Research

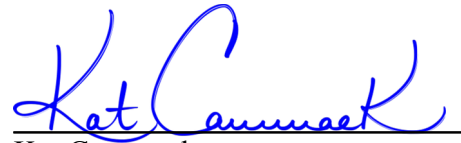
<sup>3</sup> Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS), FAS/USDA

Thank you for considering our request for full and robust funding for USAID R&D, including the Feed the Future Innovation Labs in the FY2024 State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill. We appreciate your consideration and support of the contributions of scientific research to global development.

Respectfully,



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



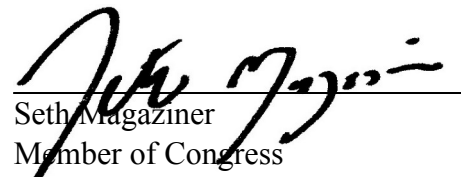
Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



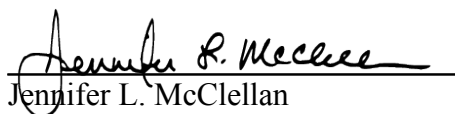
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress  
, Committee on Ways and Means



---

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



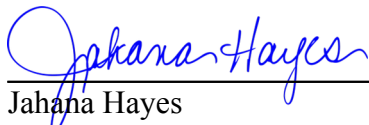
---

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



---

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



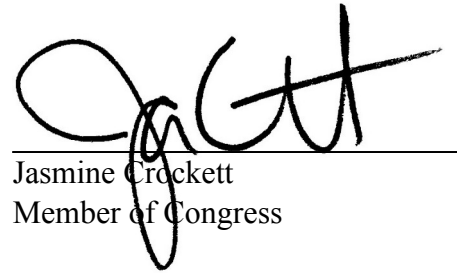
---

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



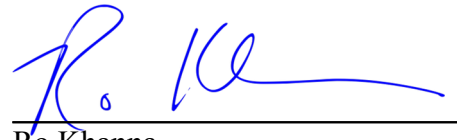
---

Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



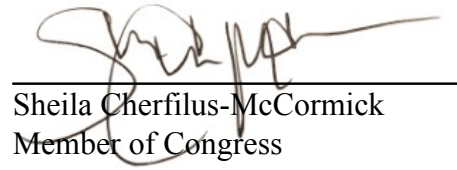
---

Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



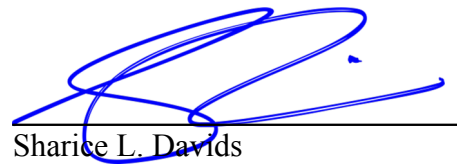
---

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



---

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



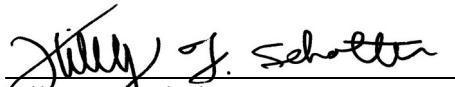
---

Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress




---


Rich McCormick, MD, MBA  
Member of Congress


  
Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress

  
Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress


  
Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress


  
Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

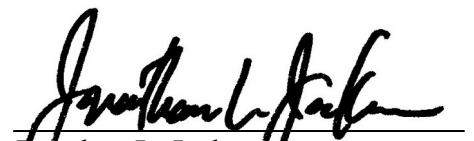
  
Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

  
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

  
Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress

  
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

  
Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress