

COFFEE R&D ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

The National Coffee Association and World Coffee Research have teamed up to support a shared legislative agenda for coffee agricultural research and development (R&D).

WHY ADVOCATE?

* Coffee agricultural R&D is under-resourced by the federal government compared to other commodities with similar economic impact. We can unlock funding for coffee R&D that will benefit long-term supplies, including by strengthening grower resilience to pests and disease.
* Our companies rely on coffee grown in more than 40 countries, often by smallholders in low-income settings. Collaborative research is essential and can generate the mutually beneficial innovations needed to ensure the future of coffee.

Our R&D-related advocacy focuses on the following priorities for the 119th Congress:

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| Coffee Plant Health Initiative Amendments Act   * Broadens scope of an existing program from one coffee pest to all coffee pests and diseases * Enables U.S. researchers to obtain USDA funding for coffee research and extension   WHY WE SUPPORT IT   * Broadening the scope of existing research would open the door for federal funding to flow to more areas of coffee ag R&D * Research protects global coffee supplies and U.S. growers in Hawai’i and Puerto Rico from emerging pests and disease | The Farm Bill   * Directs federal programs and funding for ag R&D and authorizes USDA R&D programs relevant to coffee * Creates opportunities for international collaboration and public R&D aligned with industry needs   WHY WE SUPPORT IT   * Helps fill the significant investment gap in R&D to ensure coffee’s future * USDA grant programs enable the coffee industry to access high-quality research * Changes would enhance collaboration between U.S. scientists and international partners to protect coffee | Seed System  Investment   * Public support improves coffee innovation distribution through enablers like regulatory policies and finance * USAID is well-positioned to invest in collaboration with the coffee industry   WHY WE SUPPORT IT   * Seed systems in coffee-producing countries are the conduit for getting better coffee trees to farmers * Current seed systems have never handled the scale of innovation that is coming – they must prepare; USAID support helps them do so |

APPROPRIATIONS: We also advocate for USAID and USDA funding that benefits coffee, including USAID agricultural R&D investments and USDA international collaborative research programs and AFRI.