



## WHY COFFEE CARES ABOUT THE FARM BILL

The U.S. runs on coffee. In 2024, more than 75% of American adults reported drinking coffee each week. Coffee adds \$343 billion to the U.S. economy and generates \$38 billion in tax revenue each year. Scientific evidence shows that drinking coffee is associated with reduced risk of multiple types of cancer and chronic disease.

U.S. coffee relies on secure global supplies. Protecting the future of this critical commodity starts on small farms around the world, including in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Factors including extreme heat, erratic rain, soil depletion, and pests and disease threaten the future of these farms, the coffee they grow, and the U.S. businesses that rely on them.

To address these growing challenges, our priorities include strengthening research and development (R&D) to protect coffee and meet global demand. **Through the Farm Bill, Congress has a unique opportunity to invest in solutions** and secure the future of coffee for the benefit of businesses and consumers in every U.S. state and territory, as well as for coffee growers in Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE?

- 2.2 million U.S. jobs
- \$343 billion in economic activity and \$38 billion in tax revenue
- The future of America's favorite beverage

## AT A GLANCE: COFFEE PRIORITY REQUESTS FOR THE FARM BILL

To advance public research for coffee that supports U.S. prosperity and security, the National Coffee Association (NCA) and World Coffee Research (WCR) urge Congress to reauthorize the following U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs with robust funding, including mandatory funding.

Our requests reflect the importance of increasing coffee R&D investments and building U.S. scientific collaboration with overseas partners to secure coffee's future. We join a broad coalition of U.S. agricultural stakeholders in supporting a total of \$8 billion in mandatory R&D funding in the Farm Bill.

Program	2018 authorization	FY24 appropriation	Coffee request
Coffee Plant Health Initiative Amendments Act (CPHIAA)	N/A	N/A	Pass in the Farm Bill
Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)	\$80 million	mandatory	\$130 million, mandatory
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)	\$700 million	\$455 million	\$700 million, mandatory

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) international collaboration programs <sup>1</sup>	\$10 million & \$5 million	-	Combine into one \$20 million authorization
Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research (FFAR)	\$185 million	mandatory	\$750 million, baseline funding over 10 years

## COFFEE CARES ABOUT

**Protecting coffee from pests and disease:** The CPHIAA (S.371, H.R.965) expands an existing USDA program beyond one coffee pest to enable research on a range of pests and disease, including coffee leaf rust which is decimating coffee trees in Hawaii and threatening the lucrative U.S. specialty coffee market.

- Priority: Pass the CPHIAA in the Farm Bill to expand the scope of coffee pests and disease research.

**Developing resilient, quality coffee varieties:** AFRI and SCRI could fund high-quality collaborative research on coffee agriculture as part of their portfolios. However, AFRI remains underfunded, leaving many promising and urgently needed research projects on the table. Increased investment in SCRI and continuation of its scope, which includes plant breeding tools and technologies, is also needed.

- Priority: Reauthorize AFRI at \$700 million with mandatory funding and reauthorize SCRI and increase its mandatory funding to \$130 million to enable critical research projects.

**Fostering international collaboration:** With limited U.S. production, technical expertise in coffee primarily resides abroad and U.S. growers largely depend on international research partnerships to bring in expertise. NIFA houses two authorized grant programs that support this type of collaboration, but neither has received appropriations. Reauthorizing them under one authority would help.

- Priority: Combine two NIFA partnership programs under one authority and reauthorize them at \$20 million to encourage international research collaboration.

**Encouraging coordinated investment:** FFAR provides leadership and coordination that mobilizes and incentivizes the private sector to collaborate and consolidate investment around shared industry priorities. This ensures effective use of public funds to generate public goods. The coffee industry has partnered with FFAR on a few priority research projects, with potential for more to meet the R&D needs of the entire industry.

- Priority: Reauthorize FFAR and increase baseline funding to \$750 million to further incentivize collaborative private sector R&D investments that yield public goods.

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<sup>1</sup> The Partnerships to Build Capacity in International Research, Extension and Teaching and the Competitive Grants for International Agricultural Science and Education programs.