The National Science Foundation (NSF) and USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) recently announced a joint $50 million funding opportunity for research as part of the new agency-wide initiative called Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS). Never before have our Societies had a program within NSF that could focus on our science. This is an opportunity to break into a research funding agency where funding that is specific to our science has not traditionally been available. The Science Policy Office has been monitoring this new program and working closely with the program officers to help inform them of research-funding priorities that could advance our research needs as well as each Society’s Science Frontiers. 1

Last fall, the Society presidents asked for your input and encouraged you to submit a white paper on the food–energy–water (FEW) nexus to help inform the NSF as they develop the research priorities for INFEWS. We received more than a dozen white papers. Thank you very much to those who responded to the call for action. We will use these papers as we continue to advocate for the research interests of the Societies.

The Societies’ Science Policy Committees reviewed the white papers and organized them topically into an executive summary. The executive summary reflects the information in the white papers and presents the unique perspective our members bring to the FEW nexus. The executive summary focused on five topics:

• Improve Genetics, Environment, and Management in Agricultural Production
• Big Data and Modeling for Agriculture
• Soil Health
• Agroecology
• Nutrient Use Efficiency in the FEW Nexus

The summary has been shared with the INFEWS Working Group, and the full papers are also available on a public online forum 2 where they can be downloaded and viewed freely. The forum is open, and we encourage our members to submit new white papers as they develop new ideas and opportunities about the FEW nexus.

The INFEWS is planned to run from 2016 to 2021, with a possible extension after a review of the program. We look forward to continued support from the NSF Director, France Cordova; the USDA-NIFA Director, Sonny Ramaswamy; and the White House administration in the upcoming debate on federal research funding in fiscal year 2017.

We look forward to working with Society leadership as we continue to inform the NSF-INFEWS program about multiple and diverse funding opportunities the program would offer.


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**U.S.–Sino Agricultural Research Forum**

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The community’s major activities include sponsoring symposia on high-priority areas of mutual interest to both U.S. and Sino scientists at the Annual Meeting, organizing workshops on specific topics of mutual interest, establishing awards to scientists who have made outstanding contributions to agricultural research in China and the U.S., promoting academic exchange and research collaboration between institutions and universities in China and the USA, and publishing proceedings, books, and journal special issues.

We welcome everyone who is interested in U.S.–Sino collaboration in agricultural research to join our community. For more information, please contact Xiaomao Lin, community leader, Kansas State University (xlin@ksu.edu), or Gary Feng, community vice leader, USDA-ARS (Gary.Feng@ars.usda.gov).

Q. Xue, community past leader; X. Lin, community leader; G. Feng, community vice leader; Z. He, 2014 community leader; and Y. Li, 2013 community leader