



California State University Systemwide Priority Projects for FY 2008

CSU Agricultural Research Initiative (ARI)

The California State University Agricultural Research Initiative (ARI) is an applied research program that leverages public funding with university and industry capital and intellectual collateral to find solutions for priority issues challenging California agriculture and the environment, and train California's agricultural and agribusiness workforce for the high-skilled jobs of tomorrow.

The ARI is a diversified applied agricultural and environmental sciences research consortium between the California Agricultural Technology Institute (CATI) and the four CSU campuses with colleges of agriculture: **CSU Fresno; Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; Cal Poly Pomona; and CSU Chico**. In addition to member campus collaborations, the ARI encourages and facilitates strong CSU research partnerships with other qualified university and professional research organization faculty and scientists, such as those from the University of California (UC), the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), and the United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service (USDA-ARS).

ARI research, education, and outreach activities augment, enhance, and extend basic research conducted by the nation's land grant universities and improve the economic efficiency, profitability, and sustainability of California agriculture and its allied industries. ARI faculty and research scientists explore promising concepts in the agricultural and environmental sciences and technology that:

- result in immediate and practical solutions for high priority challenges confronting California's agricultural industries;
- foster public confidence in food safety and agricultural research and production systems;
- lead to consumer-sensitive and environmentally sound food and agricultural systems;
- extend higher education's benefits to California's fields, factories and homes;
- produce regional and statewide economic development;
- engender statewide agricultural, environmental, and consumer benefits;
- enhance faculty and student "real life" learning opportunities;
- produce easily replicated and transferable results and models.

CSU Campuses

Bakersfield • Channel Islands • Chico • Dominguez Hills • East Bay • Fresno • Fullerton • Humboldt • Long Beach • Los Angeles • Maritime Academy • Monterey Bay Northridge • Pomona • Sacramento • San Bernardino • San Diego • San Francisco • San José • San Luis Obispo • San Marcos • Sonoma • Stanislaus

Additionally, the ARI focuses on finding solutions for strategic gaps in our knowledge base that otherwise might not be studied by for-profit companies and institutions because there is little or no specific monetary incentive to do so. Thus ARI research covers a vast spectrum, including such topics as energy production from farm waste, pest and invasive species control, enhanced water usage, and improved packaging and shipping techniques. The ARI makes its results widely available in the public domain and provides for technology transfer assistance and information dissemination directly to producers and processors who need it most. The resulting benefits of these research outcomes extend well beyond farm gate receipts to include improvements in public health and safety, environmental conditions, regional economic development, and global competitiveness.

The ARI receives a \$4 million annual California State General Fund Budget allocation to support its applied research and outreach activities. The ARI distributes this public funding to support its scientifically peer-reviewed research, matched annually at least one-to-one with industry and/or agency resources to fund high priority research, development, and technology transfer activities, as well as public industry education and outreach. The ARI also actively solicits and competes for additional base funding, which also must be externally matched, through competitive and non-competitive master grant funding opportunities such as that provided by the ARI's three year, \$6.2 million "Buy California Initiative" Specialty Crop grant. During the past several years alone, the ARI has provided the CSU colleges of agriculture with nearly \$20 million in base funding, which in turn has generated in excess of \$56 million in additional external cash and in-kind match funding. ARI funding allocations are expressly designed to encourage CSU system and individual campus excellence in applied agricultural research and technology transfer through a combination of competitive research and capacity building enhancements. Individual campus funding is allocated through the respective colleges of agriculture on a competitive basis and must be utilized for agricultural, agribusiness or natural resources/environmental applied research; however, research funding opportunities are not exclusive to the colleges of agriculture.

The CSU colleges of agriculture, individually and collectively, lack sufficient research and capacity building funding to fully address the state's increasing demand for new and innovative CSU applied agricultural and environmental research, development, education and outreach, and technology transfer activities. The funding CSU is requesting (\$7 million from the Agriculture/CSREES account) will enable the ARI to match and extend (including by capitalizing more fully on the resources of **Humboldt State University and CSU Monterey Bay**) the present and future investment in applied agricultural and environmental research committed to by the California agricultural and natural resources industries, CSU, and the State of California.

Additional information:

<http://ari.calstate.edu/>

Jim Gelb, Assistant Vice Chancellor
CSU Office of Federal Relations
202.434.8060
jgelb@calstate.edu

Joe A. Bezerra, ARI Executive Director
California State University, Fresno
559.278.2361
joe_bezerra@csufresno.edu