



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

CULTIVATING OUR COMPETITIVE EDGE

Funding Trends for Research and Extension & the Future of U.S. Agriculture

Washington, DC – March 13, 2007 – Reduced U.S. public investments in research and development (R&D) on farm productivity, and implications for funding agricultural research and extension in the 2007 Farm Bill, will be explored in a joint presentation at the first in the 2007 series of National C-FAR’s “Break and a Briefing” events. Drs. Julian Alston and Philip Pardey will be featured speakers at the March 13 event, held in 1302 Longworth House Office Building from 3:30-4:25 PM.

“Federal funds have been diverted to new focuses,” observed Alston. “The shift has important long-term implications for sustaining agricultural productivity and international competitiveness that may persist for many years.”

“Many of the world’s poorest countries have come to rely on R&D spillovers from the U.S. to lift their own food production capabilities,” said Pardey. “Reduced U.S. R&D in agricultural productivity will adversely impact U.S. international economic development and regional security interests.”

Dr. Alston is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Pardey is professor of Science and Technology Policy in the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota where he also directs the University’s International Science and Technology Practice and Policy (InSTePP) center.

“We are honored to have Drs. Alston and Pardey featured in today’s ‘Break & a Briefing’ Hill Seminar,” said Joe Layton, President of National C-FAR. “This is an excellent example of how federal investments in food and agricultural research can provide public benefits.”

The seminar is open to the public and the media. Questions related to the presentations should be directed to Tamara Wagester, Executive Director, The Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE) at (202) 408-8522 or tamarawagester@cfare.org.

NATIONAL C-FAR IS a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and *customer-led* coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension and education. National C-FAR’s “LUNCH~N~LEARN” Hill Seminar Series regularly presents leading-edge researchers working to provide answers to pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. Interviews with National C-FAR President Joe Layton are available by request. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at tom@vanarsdall.com.