

## ABSTRACT

Alston and Pardey will identify the shifting U.S. and global R&D investment trends affecting agriculture, discuss the recent and sizable reductions in the rate of growth in U.S. farm productivity, and draw implications for funding agricultural research and extension in the context of formulating the 2007 Farm Bill. Funds have also been diverted to new agendas like environment, food quality, food safety, human health, and, most recently, biofuels. The shift has important long-term implications for sustaining agricultural productivity and international competitiveness that may persist for many years. Since 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; a shift in the emphasis of U.S. agricultural R&D will ultimately have long-term implications for the achievement of U.S. foreign policy objectives related both to international economic development and U.S. diplomatic and regional security interests.

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## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Julian Alston** is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics of the University of California, Davis. Prior to 1988, he was the Chief Economist in the Department of Agriculture in Victoria, Australia. His research interests are in the economic analysis of agricultural markets and public policies concerning agricultural incomes, prices, trade, and agricultural research and promotion. Alston was raised on the family farm in northern Victoria, Australia.

**Philip 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. Previously he led the Science and Technology Policy Program at the International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C., and prior to 1994 was at the International Service for National Agricultural Research in The Hague, Netherlands.

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THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR  
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*Program:*

### **Cultivating our Competitive Edge**

*Funding Trends for Research and Extension  
and the Future of United States Agriculture*

March 13, 2007

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### *Welcome and Introduction*

**DR. WALTER J. ARMBRUSTER**  
Farm Foundation Representative,  
National C-FAR

### *Distinguished Speakers*

**Dr. Julian M. Alston**  
University of California, Davis  
&

**Dr. Philip G. Pardey**  
University of Minnesota

### *Open Forum*

### *Closing*

**DR. WALTER J. ARMBRUSTER**

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