The American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) support $9 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF). Within NSF we are very supportive of Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS).

The American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America, represent over 18,000 scientists in academia, industry and government. We support more than 13,500 Certified Crop Advisers (CCA), and over 700 Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS). Our members and certified professionals are dedicated to meeting the demands of a growing world population through the pursuit of agronomic, crop, and soil science knowledge and application.

In the coming decades, our agricultural system must sustainably produce food and fuel for a rapidly growing global population. The Nation’s economic prosperity and security depend on our dedication to developing innovative, science-based solutions to address the challenges facing our food system. The ASA, CSSA, and SSSA appreciate the appropriations that the National Science Foundation (NSF) received in FY 2018 and 2019. Yet, as our nation’s farmers face increasing extreme weather and market uncertainty, NSF’s programs become even more important providers of the science they need to stay in business. NSF’s Big Ideas initiatives, its core programs that sustain research infrastructure, and its unparalleled support for STEM students and the future STEM workforce require increased investment.

We support $9 billion for the National Science Foundation for the fiscal year 2020. This funding level will put the premier government-funding agency for scientific research on track to address farmers’ challenges by increasing the broad knowledge base supported by a wide range of scientific disciplines, such as biology, plant science, chemistry and soil science.

Within NSF we are very supportive of Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems. There is a pressing need to understand the interconnectedness of food, energy and water. Of particular interest is the production, resilience, safety, and security of food, energy, and water resources. Continuing droughts and hurricanes in the U.S. and the corresponding impacts on water, food production and the energy sector is an example of these challenges.

We urge you to include report language highlighting the importance of this effort and the need to better understand the fundamental science behind the interconnected food-energy-water system.
Science is essential. A strong commitment to federally funded scientific research will boost the Nation’s capacity for innovation, agricultural productivity and economic prosperity.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony and look forward to working with the Subcommittee as it considers funding for the National Science Foundation. Thank you.