

2021

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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Since opening its doors in 2014, the SoAR Foundation has championed food and agricultural research with the mission of increasing public investments in agricultural research for sustainable, thriving farms and a food-secure world. In the U.S., SoAR advocates for public research funding to accelerate the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of American agriculture. Globally, SoAR uses its network of scientists and policy experts to find solutions to agricultural challenges through improved research and investment strategies.

SoAR Foundation Board Members:

- Mr. Thomas Grumbly, Chair
- Ms. Rose Barbuto
- Dr. Roger Beachy
- Dr. Vicki Chandler
- Mr. Neil Dierks
- Mr. Vincent “Zippy” Duvall
- Dr. Robert Easter
- Dr. Doug Gollin
- Dr. Ronnie Green
- Dr. Alan Leshner
- Mr. John McDonnell
- Mr. Chris Novak
- Dr. Barbara Schaal
- Ms. Carol Tucker-Foreman
- Mr. Richard Wilkins

Science Advisory Committee:

- Dr. Vicki Chandler
- Dr. Robert Cousins
- Dr. Elliot Meyerowitz
- Dr. Charles Rice
- Dr. Barbara Schaal



Science + U.S. Policy



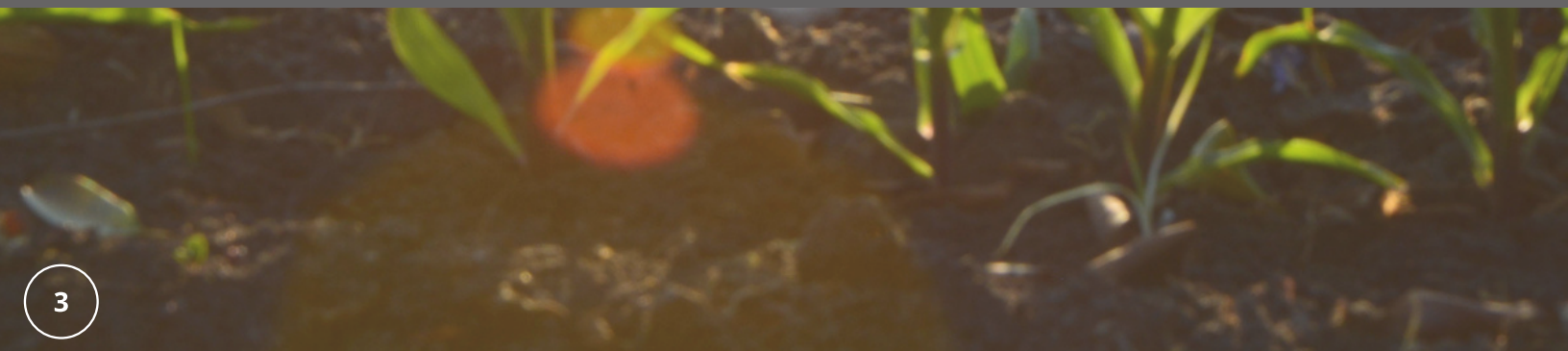
SoAR Launches FedByScience Podcast Series

In March, SoAR's FedByScience program, a collaborative communications initiative to raise the visibility of the value of public investments in agricultural research, launched the FedByScience podcast series. The podcast highlights inspiring stories about efforts to ensure thriving farms, strong rural economies, and a healthy nation as we explore the importance and value of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) investments in food and agricultural research, education, and extension.



SoAR Mobilizes 141 partners behind \$7.75b investment bid into agricultural research in Build Back Better

In October, the SoAR Foundation mobilized 141 organizations in support of \$7.75 billion agricultural research investments incorporated into the Build Back Better legislative package. While the legislation stalled in Congress, these investments in agricultural climate research, agricultural innovation, and agricultural research infrastructure remain vital to our national interests. SoAR continues to champion these investments through future legislative vehicles.



GLOBAL

UNFSS Solution

During the summer's UN Food System Summit (UNFSS), SoAR's Sr. Science Advisor co-authored an accepted "Potential Game-Changing and Systemic Solution," titled Tools for Accelerated Breeding and Trait Mining Underserved Crops: Germplasm, Sequencing, Trait mining, Phenotyping, Precision Agriculture. The solution outlines strategies for machine learning and gene sequencing technologies to accelerate trait mining research necessary to advance crop breeding for climate change adaptation. The solution has appeared in UNFSS publications and has been adopted by the Agricultural Innovation Mission for Climate as an Innovation Sprint with \$40 million in backing.

SPG Coalition

SoAR played a leading role in the early stages of the Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation (the SPG Coalition), a USDA-led initiative that "aims to accelerate the transition to more sustainable food systems through agricultural productivity growth that optimizes agricultural sustainability across social, economic, and environmental dimensions." Through the SPG Coalition SoAR has continued to advance much of its work started at the UNFSS, including its published solution on germ plasm.

2021 WHERE WE ARE NOW



A New Campaign and an Expanded Mission

SoAR Launches International Advocacy Campaign

In early November, SoAR began an exciting new chapter with the launch of a global advocacy campaign to provide evidence-based solutions to help smallholder farmers adapt to a changing climate in the run-up to 2022's COP27. Through this campaign, SoAR identifies and champions the needs of scientists around the world to ensure that pledges raised through COP27 are directed towards the most pressing, breakthrough research needed to drive climate adaptive research to help farmers—especially smallholders—adapt and thrive in a changing climate.

A New Chapter

2021 represented a changing of the guard at SoAR. Thomas Grumbly, SoAR's founding President and CEO since 2014, retired and joined the Board of Directors as the new Chairman of the Board. In his place, Dr. Margaret Zeigler joined SoAR as interim president while SoAR's Board held a search for SoAR's next permanent president. In December, Karl Anderson was named SoAR's second permanent president, a role he assumed in January 2022.

Financials

In 2021, SoAR spent approximately \$638,621. At the end of the year, it had assets of \$1,390,604 and liabilities equal to \$23,623. Major funders in 2021 included the St. Louis Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, university partners, and individual gifts from board members and independent supporters. SoAR's finances were audited by Thompson, Hughes & Trollinger, CPAs.

