

Goal and Work Statement for Public-Private Partnership to Promote Healthy Soils, Healthy Landscapes, and Vibrant Agricultural Economies

Goal: The public-private partnership goal is to advance research on the resilience and economic viability of healthy soils for multiple land uses to produce feed, food, fiber, biofuels, and wildlife habitat.

Work Statement: The public-private partnership will encourage a comprehensive research agenda and the adoption of research outcomes for healthy soils and healthy landscapes to enhance sustainability and global competitiveness of the U.S. agriculture sector. The PPP will capitalize on federal scientific research on soil health through cost sharing with private sector firms and organizations that have an interest in continuation of this research.

Supporting statement (rationale): The world population is expected to exceed nine billion by 2050, requiring 40% more production of plant and animal protein from our limited arable lands that must also produce fiber and biofuels, and provide wildlife habitat. Agriculture must address this complex multiple land use without compromising soil health, water, or air resources. Meeting these needs requires sustained **long term** research (~10 years) on land management practices across the varied U.S. landscape. This duration is necessary because of the time required for soil properties and processes to show consistently detectable soil health changes in response to land management decisions. The increased demand for food and water will challenge our agricultural R&D infrastructure at a time when federal resources are diminishing. The REAP PPP initiative is being established by the ATIP Foundation as a new model for ensuring that economic prosperity is sustainable through a U.S. agriculture sector that is globally competitive. Given the scope of utility to land management that this research supports, a broad group of stakeholders has been sought that reflect the varied land usages. Several organizations that participated in the exploratory meetings on “formation of a REAP / soil health sustainability PPP” have committed to the initiative with donations that support the research projects and thereby become “founders” of this inaugural public-private partnership. Seven founders, in alphabetical order, are Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Monsanto, National Corn Growers Association, New Holland, Pioneer Hi-bred (DuPont Pioneer), POET-DSM, and The Nature Conservancy.