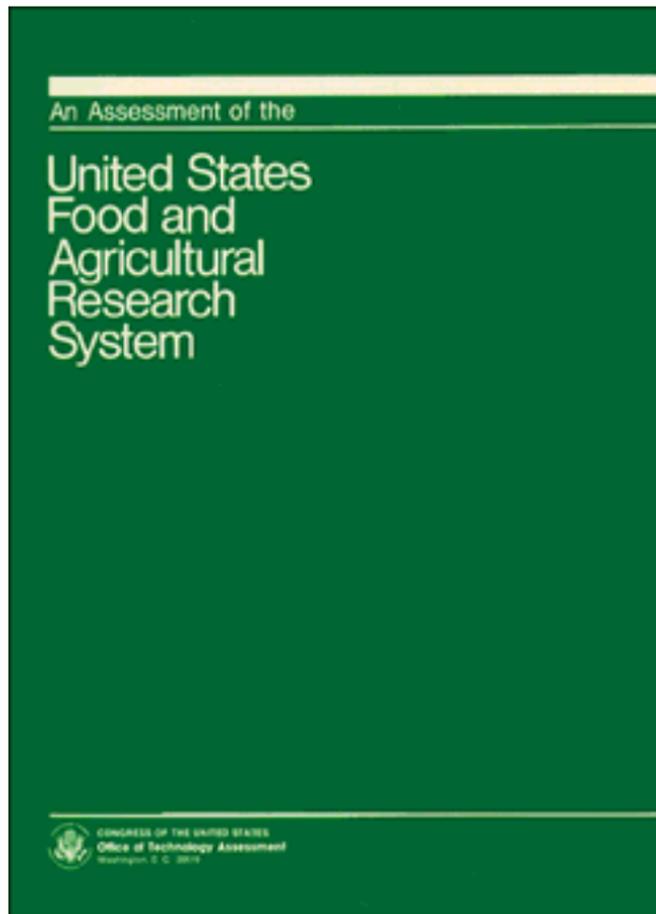


*An Assessment of the United States Food
and Agricultural Research System*

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Foreword

This report examines the U.S. food and agricultural research system. The U.S. food and agricultural enterprise has been extremely successful, in part because of sustained public support of agricultural research and demonstration. As we face a future of increased demands on our agricultural resources, it is essential to ensure that the research system function as effectively as possible. Congressional concern centers around the roles of the research participants, long-range research priority planning, funding for research, and the organizational structure of the food and agricultural research organizations. The Senate Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, requested OTA to address these issues. The House Agriculture Committee endorsed the request. OTA was specifically asked to focus its assessment on the structure of the research system and thus complement previous studies which identified research priorities.

In early 1981 the draft report of this project was made available to the staffs of the requesting committees, USDA, and AID for review and comment. It is gratifying to note that USDA and AID have already begun to make changes within their organizations to deal with some of the problems identified in the report. Also, material in the report has been used in drafting current legislation that amends title XIV of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977.

OTA was assisted by three work groups and an advisory panel of research administrators, scientists, farmers, processors, retailers, consumers, and those concerned with the relationship between food and agricultural sciences and society. The advisory panel was instrumental in helping us identify the issues for analysis and in reviewing the commissioned papers and drafts of the report. The work groups provided guidance in identifying the topic, component parts, and authors for each of the commissioned papers, and in reviewing the papers and drafts of the report. Sixty reviewers from universities, government, and industry provided helpful comments on report drafts. OTA expresses sincere appreciation to all these individuals.



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