



Science
Societies

USDA–Department of War announce coordination on national security

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Last week, Secretary Rollins and Secretary Hegseth [signed an MOU](#) formalizing coordination between USDA and the Department of War (DOW) to implement the [National Farm Security Action Plan](#). The MOU focuses on three activities for coordination:

1. Promote agricultural and economic prosperity
2. Defend the foundations of agriculture and food
3. Strengthen domestic agricultural productivity

One of the first actions of the USDA-DOW MOU was to [create a partnership](#) between the USDA Office of the Chief Scientist and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The stated goal of the MOU is to advance technological innovation to **safeguard and defend America's food system from deliberate attack, naturally occurring threats, national emergencies, and natural disasters**. The MOU specifically called out collaboration between USDA and DARPA's Biological Technologies Office (BTO) "[Ag x BTO](#)" program to identify opportunities to award up to \$1 million for seedling research projects.

Finally, USDA also announced the creation of the [Office of Research, Economic, and Science Security](#) (ORESS) within the USDA Office of the Chief Scientist to coordinate research security efforts across the entire USDA research enterprise.

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