

# ACTIONS TO USHER IN A BETTER FUTURE FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:

## 3. Prioritize Resilience, Not Efficiency



The breakdown of our food supply chain during COVID-19 has shown us the need for resiliency in our food systems. Five decades of prioritizing efficiency over everything has created the inflexible agrifood supply chain of today where only a few large firms make decisions for everyone along the supply chain. Corporations profit from wiping out their market competition, and creating a few, huge processing operations that are in many instances less efficient. When one of those operations goes offline, there are no viable operations left to step in and step up. Policy to increase competition, independence, social justice, and success of many smaller entities will ensure a long-lasting, resilient agrifood system that can better stand the shocks of pandemics, climate change, and foreign relations disruptions.

### SUPPORT EXISTING LEGISLATION

- Farm System Reform Act - (116th: H.R.6718/S.3221)
- Agriculture Resilience Act - (116th: H.R.5861)

### URGE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

- Develop and implement a national broadband connection plan that considers broadband a utility, and utilizes existing structures such as Rural Electric Cooperatives. (USDA)

### CHAMPION NEW LEGISLATION AND ACTION

- Under congressional authority in the Farm Credit Act of 1971, require a 10% set aside of FCS profits to be re-lent to promote environmentally sustainable agriculture, prioritizing Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and women farmers.
- Allow basic banking services (deposits, withdrawals, and bill payments) to be carried out through United State Postal Services offices to remedy financial service inaccessibility through physical bank branches or online banking in many rural communities.
- Lengthen FSA operating loan terms from 7 years to 20 years.
- Allow FSA farm ownership and conservation lines of credit to be transitioned to operating credit under the same term.
- Implement a path for transition from or combination of FSA Farm Loan Programs to other FSA loan programs such as marketing assistance and farm storage facility loans under an umbrella operating loan term.