April 8, 2020,

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Strengthen SNAP in the Next Federal COVID-19 Relief Package to Lift Up Vulnerable Families and the Economy

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and McCarthy,

We the undersigned organizations appreciate the investments and economic supports provided for in the CARES Act to help laid-off workers, older Americans and children, but there is more that needs to be done. During this time of soaring unemployment and financial insecurity, we were disappointed that the legislation did not include provisions to strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We strongly urge Congress and the Administration to increase the SNAP benefit levels in the next federal COVID-19 relief package.

The unprecedented disruption to the economy, incomes, and employment triggered by COVID-19 means that communities will need every option available to fight hunger and strengthen the economy. SNAP serves as a frontline defense against food insecurity, poverty, and the long-term detriments they cause. By providing families with a grocery benefit they can use to purchase food directly, SNAP is a safe, effective way to ensure that low-income children, families, and seniors can get the food they need.

While the CARES Act included increased funding for SNAP to cover the costs associated with an increase in caseload, it did not raise benefits for SNAP recipients. Given the extraordinary increase in need during this public health pandemic and related economic crisis, we urge you to use the next federal relief package to strengthen SNAP by increasing the maximum benefit available to all households by 15% and increasing the minimum benefit from $16 dollars to $30. This increase is needed to offset the significant loss in income and soaring unemployment resulting from COVID-19-related closures and disruptions.

Strengthening SNAP will not only feed families – it will also boost the economy. Economists estimate that every dollar in federally funded SNAP benefits during a recession generates between $1.50 and $1.80 in economic activity because it frees cash for poor households to buy other essential items, like diapers and medication, and provides revenue directly to stores, thus helping maintain local jobs. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service estimates that every $1 billion invested in SNAP supports 13,600 jobs and approximately $32 million in farm revenue. Therefore, as the federal government continues to evaluate effective policies to stimulate the economy, we recommend that the increase to SNAP
benefits as outlined above be kept in place until the economy recovers from its current shock.

We are also asking Congress to delay the implementation of proposed and final rules that the Administration has issued for SNAP. The implementation of new rules on program eligibility and restrictions would exacerbate the hardship of low-income families and children. Implementation of these regulations would also divert vital state resources away from responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on communities across the nation. Now is not the time to finalize and implement these harmful restrictions on kids and families in need.

In sum, we appreciate the work that Congress and the Administration have done to help Americans struggling during this trying time, but more is required. Given the unprecedented nature of this crisis, seniors, families, and children need SNAP benefits more than ever before. Congress should act now to make these benefits more robust, which will ensure that everyone is able to put food on the table in the coming months and support the economic recovery.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days
A Place at the Table
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AIARD (Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development)
Alliance for Retired Americans
Alliance to End Hunger
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association on Health and Disability
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Muslim Health Professionals
American Public Health Association
American Society for Nutrition
Association of SNAP Nutrition Education Administrators
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Balanced
Basic Needs, Simple Solutions
Bread for the World
CareCentrix
Cargill, Incorporated
CCFP (Child Care Food Program) Roundtable
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Church World Service
Coalition on Human Needs
Congressional Hunger Center
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
DSM North America
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Feeding America
First Focus Campaign for Children
Fontheim International, LLC
Food Enterprise Solutions
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Food Trust (The)
FoodCorps
FoodFinder
Foodshare
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of the Earth
Gerontological Society of America (The)
Global Volunteers
Healthy Food America
Heuristic Management
Hunger Free America
ICNA Relief, USA
Imamia Medics International
Islamic Relief USA
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Federations of North America (The)
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
Justice in Aging
Lakeshore Foundation
Link2Feed
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Meals on Wheels America
MomsRising
Move For Hunger
Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC)
Muslims Against Hunger
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Black Muslim COVID Coalition
National Center for Frontier Communities (The)
National Council of Churches
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Aging
National Farm to School Network
National Farmers Union
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
National Senior Corps Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National WIC Association
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Nourished Principles, LLC (The)
Penny Appeal USA
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
Poetry X Hunger
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness
ProMedica
Prosperity Now
Public Health Advocates
Public Health Institute
RESULTS
Root Cause Coalition (The)
Rural Coalition
Save the Children
Save the Children Action Network
Seed Programs International
Share Our Strength
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
Trust for America's Health
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Way Worldwide
Urban School Food Alliance
WhyHunger
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
World Renew
Zakat Foundation of America

**State & Local**
Food Bank of Alaska               AK
RESULTS Anchorage                 AK
Adventist Community Services, Ephesus AL
Alabama Childhood Food Solutions Inc. AL
Birmingham Bible Church           AL
Changed Lives Christian Center    AL
Christian's Place Mission          AL
Food Bank of East Alabama         AL
Grace Episcopal Food Pantry       AL
Grace Klein Community             AL
Greater Birmingham Ministries     AL
Green Valley Baptist Church Food Bank AL
Holy Rosary Food Pantry           AL
Hope Inspired Ministries          AL
Manna Ministries                  AL
Metro West                        AL
Ministries of Deliverance Foodbank AL
New Generation Apostolic Church of God AL
New Life SDA Church - Pantry      AL
Servant of Jesus                  AL
South Highland Presbyterian Church AL
St. Mark's Episcopal Church       AL
The Foundry Ministries            AL
The University of Alabama at Birmingham MSW program AL
Trinity United Methodist Church AL
Woodlawn Community Table, Inc. AL
Word of Faith Food Pantry AL
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance AR
University of Arkansas AR
White County Aging Program, Inc. AR
Arizona Community Farmers Market Group AZ
Arizona Food Bank Network AZ
Cornucopia Community Advocates AZ
Dine' Food Sovereignty Alliance AZ
Pinnacle Prevention AZ
RESULTS Phoenix AZ
RESULTS Tucson AZ
Sun Produce Cooperative AZ
The International Sonoran Desert Alliance AZ
WHEAT (World Hunger Education, Advocacy & Training) AZ
Wildfire: Igniting Community Action to End Poverty in Arizona AZ
Alameda County Community Food Bank CA
Alliance Medical Center CA
Bakersfield Senior Center Inc CA
B'nai Israel Jewish Center CA
California Association of Food Banks CA
California Food Policy Advocates CA
Cloverdale Food Pantry CA
Coastal Seniors, Inc. CA
Community Action Partnership of Orange County/OC Food Bank CA
Community Care CA
Crossing the Jordan Inc. CA
Ecology Center CA
Elisha's Pantry, Santa Rosa CA
F.I.S.H. of Santa Rosa CA
Feeding San Diego CA
Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano CA
Food for People, the Food Bank for Humboldt County CA
Food Share of Ventura County CA
Fresh Approach CA
Iglesia Centro de Sanidad of Santa Rosa CA
Lassen Senior Services, Inc. CA
Live Oak Seniors, Inc. CA
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank CA
Meals on Wheels California CA
Meals on Wheels Orange County CA
Neighbors Organized Against Hunger (NOAH) CA
RESULTS California CA
RESULTS Grass Valley CA
RESULTS Oakland CA
RESULTS San Diego (Domestic) CA
RESULTS San Francisco CA
<p>| Hawaii Public Health Institute                           | HI |
| Keiki to Kupuna Foundation                               | HI |
| PATH- Peoples Advocacy for Trails Hawaii                  | HI |
| Shelter of Wisdom                                         | HI |
| Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC)                | IA |
| Food Bank of Iowa                                         | IA |
| Northeast Iowa Food Bank                                  | IA |
| RESULTS Des Moines                                       | IA |
| River Bend Foodbank                                       | IA |
| Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force                            | ID |
| AMITA Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center            | IL |
| Ann &amp; Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital                 | IL |
| Asociacion de Promotores de Salud/Health Promoters        | IL |
| Beyond Hunger                                             | IL |
| C. E. O. Cousins Empowerment Optimists of Optimist International | IL |
| Chatham Food Pantry Ministry                              | IL |
| CHICAGO COMMONS - Childhood Education                     | IL |
| Chicago Food Policy Action Council                        | IL |
| Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children           | IL |
| Coppin Community Center                                   | IL |
| Enlace Chicago                                            | IL |
| Gads Hill Center                                          | IL |
| Gardeneers                                                | IL |
| Garfield Park Community Council                           | IL |
| Gary Comer Youth Center                                   | IL |
| Greater Chicago Food Depository                           | IL |
| Illinois Hunger Coalition                                 | IL |
| La Casa Norte                                             | IL |
| Latin United Community Housing Association LUCHA         | IL |
| Mercy Hospital &amp; Medical Center                           | IL |
| NAMI South Suburbs of Chicago.                            | IL |
| New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ               | IL |
| Northern Illinois Food Bank                               | IL |
| PRCC (The Puerto Rican Cultural Center)                   | IL |
| Respond Now                                               | IL |
| River Bend Foodbank                                       | IL |
| Rust Youth Connection                                     | IL |
| Shriver Center on Poverty Law                             | IL |
| St. Louis Area Foodbank                                   | IL |
| The Friendship Center                                     | IL |
| The Land Connection                                       | IL |
| UIC Office of Community Engagement &amp; Neighborhood Health Partnerships | IL |
| Village of Richton Park                                   | IL |
| Area 10 Agency on Aging of Monroe &amp; Owen Counties, Inc.   | IN |
| Area Five Agency on Aging and Community Service           | IN |
| Bloomington Food Policy Council                           | IN |
| Chapel of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Campus Ministry     | IN |
| Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana                    | IN |
| Faith in Indiana                                          | IN |</p>
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Gethsemane Church of Jesus Christ MA
Good Neighbors Food Pantry MA
Greater Boston Legal Services MA
Greenfield Community College Women’s Resource Center MA
Huntington Food Pantry MA
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Greater Boston MA
Kent Street Apartments MA
Longmeadow Adult Center MA
Louison House, Inc. MA
MA Food System Collaborative MA
MANNA Soup Kitchen I MA
Massachusetts Councils on Aging MA
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute MA
Massachusetts Senior Action Council MA
MetroWest Legal Services MA
Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Inc. MA
NLBC (North Leverett Baptist Church) Food Pantry MA
Poor Peoples United Fund MA
Project Bread MA
Project Hope Pantry MA
RESULTS Greater Boston MA
Rosie's Place MA
Rowley COA MA
St. John's Food Pantry MA
St. Mark's Food Pantry MA
St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry of Westfield MA
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts MA
The Food Project, Inc. MA
The Gray House Inc. MA
The Greater Boston Food Bank MA
UMass Memorial Medical Care MA
UMass Memorial Medical Center MA
Wales Community Pantry MA
Wendell Good Neighbors, Inc. MA
Worcester County Food Bank, Inc. MA
Worcester Food Policy Council MA
Capital Area Food Bank MD
Chesapeake Foodshed Network MD
Easton Hunger Coalition MD
Maryland Hunger Solutions MD
Montgomery County Food Council MD
RESULTS Metro Maryland MD
Cumberland County Food Security Council ME
Food AND Medicine ME
Full Plates Full Potential ME
Good Shepherd Food Bank ME
Maine Center for Economic Policy ME
Maine Children’s Alliance ME
Maine Equal Justice
Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program.
Preble Street
Catered Care
Center for Civil Justice
Community Action Network
Community Resource Center, Inc.
Food Gatherers
Food Gatherers Chidester Place Apt
Groundcover News
Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes
Offender Success
Ottawa Food
Replenish
RESULTS Ann Arbor
RESULTS Detroit
Sequoia Place Apartments
The People Center
University of Michigan Maize and Blue Cupboard
Washtenaw County Office of Community & Economic Development
WCC-SRC Student Emergency Food Pantry
Family Service Rochester
Great Plains Food Bank
Hunger Impact Partners
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Legal Services Advocacy Project
Pillsbury United Communities
Second Harvest Heartland
SEWA-AIFW, Inc.
Community Access Center
Empower Missouri
Joplin Area Food Action Network
Operation Food Search
RESULTS Kansas City
RESULTS St. Louis
Second Harvest Community Food Bank
St. Louis Area Foodbank
Mississippi Center for Justice
Big Sky Senior Services
Billings BackPack Meals and Teen Pantry Programs
Bridger United Methodist Church
Child Nutrition Program
Community Food & Agriculture Coalition
Community Harvest Food Bank
Community Hope Inc.
Custer County Food Bank
District 4 Human Resources Development Council
Farm Hands - Nourish the Flathead
Flathead Food Bank
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Philabundance NJ
Safe+Sound Somerset NJ
Adelante Benefits Enrollment Center NM
Agri-Cultura Network NM
Alliance for Local Economic Prosperity NM
Backyard Farms NM
Black Farmers & Ranchers New Mexico NM
Carrizoozo Food Bank NM
Center for Health Innovation NM
Downtown Growers’ Market NM
Farm to Table NM
Healthy Kids Healthy Communities Socorro County NM
Interfaith Hunger Coalition NM
La Semilla Food Center NM
New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils NM
New Mexico Appleseed NM
New Mexico Association of Food Banks NM
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty NM
New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness NM
New Mexico First NM
New Mexico Healthy Soil Working Group NM
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light NM
New Mexico Thrives NM
New Mexico Voices for Children NM
NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council NM
ProgressNow New Mexico NM
RESULTS Las Cruces NM
RESULTS Santa Fe NM
Roadrunner Food Bank of New Mexico NM
Santa Fe Green Chamber of Commerce NM
Socorro Senior Center NM
St. Vincent de Paul - St. Alice Parish NM
St. Vincent De Paul Society - St, Francis Xavier Parish Conference NM
The Food Depot NM
RESULTS Nevada NV
Three Square Food Bank NV
BMS Family Health and Wellness Centers NY
Bnai Raphael Chessed Organization Inc. NY
Broadway Community, Inc. NY
Brooklyn Faith Feeding program NY
CAMBA Legal Services, Inc. NY
CAMBA, Inc. NY
Children's Aid NY
City Harvest NY
Community Food Advocates NY
Cotl Food Pantry Inc. NY
Elohim Community Development NY
FeedMore Western New York, Inc. NY
Food Bank For New York City NY
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<td>St. John's Bread and Life Program, Inc.</td>
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<td>Euclid Hunger Task Force</td>
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<td>Hall Hunger Initiative</td>
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<td>Lee Miles Hunger Center</td>
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<td>Meals on Wheels Guernsey County-Guernsey County Senior Citizens Center, Inc.</td>
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<td>RESULTS Cleveland</td>
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<td>Shared Harvest Foodbank</td>
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<td>The Foodbank, Inc.</td>
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<td>Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma</td>
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<td>Oklahoma Policy Institute</td>
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Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma  OK
FOOD for Lane County  OR
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon  OR
RESULTS Corvallis  OR
RESULTS Portland  OR
The Curriculum of Cuisine  OR
ACTION-Housing, Inc.  PA
Allegheny Valley Association of Churches  PA
BTC CENTER, INC  PA
Cabot UM food Bank  PA
Cambria County Backpack Project  PA
Catholic Youth Association of Pittsburgh, Inc. Stephen Foster Community Center  PA
Center for Hunger-Free Communities, Drexel University  PA
Center for Victims  PA
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank  PA
Chester County Food Bank  PA
Christian Assembly  PA
Coalition for Low Income Pennsylvanians  PA
Community Action Agency of Delaware County, INC.  PA
Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, Inc.  PA
Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County  PA
Corner Cupboard Food Bank  PA
Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center  PA
Cray Youth And Family Services, Inc.  PA
Elizabeth Boro Food Pantry  PA
FAMILYLINKS  PA
Fayette County Community Action Agency, Inc.  PA
First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh  PA
Grandview Church of God Food Pantry  PA
Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger  PA
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank  PA
Greater Washington County Food Bank  PA
Highlands Area Meals on Wheels  PA
Holy Angels Parish Food Pantry  PA
Hunger Free PA - PA Food Banks  PA
Interchurch Food Bank  PA
Just Harvest  PA
Lawrence County Housing Authority  PA
Lazarus Gate Food Pantry  PA
Mahoning Township, Lawrence Co  PA
Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley  PA
Pantry of Plenty at Sandy Hill Church  PA
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  PA
Philabundance  PA
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council  PA
Project SHARE of Carlisle  PA
Rainbow Kitchen Community Services  PA
RESULTS Partners in Health  PA
Riverview Church Food Pantry PA
Rockwood Rocket Fuel Backpack Food Program PA
Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley PA
Smithfield United Church of Christ PA
Society of St. Vincent de Paul PA
Somerset County Mobile Food Bank PA
St Paul's Meals on Wheels PA
SVDP Food For Families PA
The Foundation for Delaware County PA
The LeMoyne Community Center PA
Union Baptist Church Food Pantry PA
Union Township Supervisors, Lawrence County, New Castle PA
Unity Baptist Church PA
Unity Food Pantry PA
Valley View Church PA
West Chester Food Cupboard PA
West Hills Food Pantry PA
Westmoreland County Food Bank, Inc. PA
Wilkensburg Community Ministry PA
Windber Area Community Kitchen PA
York County Food Bank PA
Hope's Harvest RI RI
Southside Community Land Trust RI
URI Feinstein Hunger Center RI
Feeding the Carolinas SC
Lowcountry Food Bank SC
S.C. Appleseed Legal Justice Center SC
RESULTS South Dakota SD
Sioux Falls Health Dept SD
BCCAA/Smoky Mountain Meals on Wheels TN
La Trinidad UMC TN
RESULTS Oak Ridge TN
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast TN TN
Tennessee Justice Center TN
The Contributor, Inc. TN
The Nashville Food Project TN
BakerRipley TX
Bishop Enrique San Pedro Ozana TX
Bridge Community Church TX
Center Church Food Bank TX
Center for Public Policy Priorities TX
Centro Cristiano Luz del Valle TX
Christian Life Church TX
Desert Spoon Food Hub TX
Doctors for Change TX
East Texas Food Bank TX
El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank TX
Faith Pleases God Church Food Pantry TX
Feeding Texas TX
First United Methodist Church of Weslaco TX
FUMC, Food Pantry TX
Hidalgo County PCT 4 Endowment Community Center TX
Houston Food Bank TX
Iglesia Bautista Calvario De Weslaco TX
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston TX
La Posada Providencia TX
McAllen Food Pantry-El Divino Redentor UMC TX
Meals on Wheels North Central Texas TX
Meals On Wheels Senior Services of Rockwall County TX
Mission Mennonite Brethren Church TX
Primera Iglesia Rosa De Saron RGB, Inc. TX
RESULTS Austin Global TX
RESULTS Dallas Global Group TX
RESULTS Houston TX
San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB) TX
San Benito Food Pantry TX
St Mary's Works of Mercy TX
St. Vincent de Paul TX
Tarrant Area Food Bank TX
Templo Calvario TX
The Common Market Texas TX
Vincention Small Christian Community TX
Weslaco SDA Food Pantry TX
Utahns Against Hunger UT
Blue Ridge Area Food Bank VA
Capital Area Food Bank VA
Cumberland Community Cares VA
FACES Food Pantry VA
Federation of Virginia Food Banks VA
Feed More, Inc. VA
Hunger-Free Northwest Coalition VA
St. Thomas' Food Pantry VA
The CornerStone Community Development Center VA
Virginia Poverty Law Center VA
Hunger Free Vermont VT
Vermont Foodbank VT
Vermont Legal Aid, Inc. VT
Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition WA
Food Lifeline WA
Northwest Harvest WA
RESULTS Kitsap WA
RESULTS Olympia WA
RESULTS Seattle WA
RESULTS Snohomish County WA
RESULTS South Kitsap/Gig Harbor WA
RESULTS Tacoma WA
RESULTS Tri-Cities WA
United Way of King County WA
Feeding Wisconsin
Hunger Task Force
RESULTS Milwaukee
Second Harvest Heartland
Blessings from God Food Pantry
Cabwaylingo Food Pantry
City of Hope/ Harvest of Hope
Culloden Christian Community Church
ECCHO
Facing Hunger Foodbank Inc.
Madison Christian Center AOG Food Pantry
Miracle Island Unlimited Food Pantry
New Beginnings Church of God #LoveKenova Food Pantry
Nitro (WV) Mission Team
Playmates Preschools & Child Development Center of Westmoreland
Sixth Avenue Church of Christ
The Lifehouse, Inc.
The Storehouse Food Pantry
Wayne High School Food Bank
West Side Food Pantry
RESULTS Cheyenne

cc:
Chairman Colin Peterson, House Committee on Agriculture
Ranking Member Mike Conaway, House Committee on Agriculture
Chairman Pat Roberts, Senate Committee on Agriculture
Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow, Senate Committee on Agriculture