

**Amendment offered by Mr. Vindman**

**Amendment description**

The amendment would reauthorize AGARDA as a regular, as opposed to pilot, program and authorize \$150,000,000 for FY26-30 to carry out its mission.

## AMENDMENT

### OFFERED BY MR. VINDMAN OF VIRGINIA

Strike subtitle A.

At the end of section 10104, add the following:

1       (g) REAUTHORIZATION OF AGARDA.—Section  
2 1473H of the National Agricultural Research, Extension,  
3 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319k) is  
4 amended—

5           (1) in the section heading, by striking  
6 “**PILOT**”;

7           (2) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “growing,”  
8 and inserting “growing (including water conserva-  
9 tion technologies and innovation),”;

10          (3) in subsection (b)—

11               (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “pilot”;

12               (B) in paragraph (2)—

13                       (i) by amending subparagraph (B) to  
14 read as follows:

15                       “(B) to overcome the long term and high-  
16 risk technological barriers in the development of  
17 agricultural technologies, research tools, and  
18 qualified products and projects that enhance ex-

port competitiveness, environmental sustainability, water conservation, the reduction, avoidance, sequestration, or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, and resilience to extreme weather, drought, infectious diseases, plant and animal pathogens, and plant and animal pests;”;  
and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “or economic cost” after “financial uncertainty”;

(C) in paragraph (3)(B)—

(i) in clause (ii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “advise the Chief Scientist on, and”; and

(ii) by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

“(iii) RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—

“(I) CHIEF SCIENTIST.—The Director shall report to the Chief Scientist.

“(II) OTHER PROGRAMS.—No other official who is the head of any other program of the Department of

1 Agriculture shall report to the Direc-  
2 tor.”;

3 (D) in paragraph (6), by striking “pilot”  
4 each place it appears in subparagraphs (A) and  
5 (B); and

6 (E) by amending paragraph (9) to read as  
7 follows:

8 “(9) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall es-  
10 tablish and maintain within the AGARDA a  
11 staff with sufficient qualifications and expertise  
12 to enable the AGARDA to carry out the respon-  
13 sibilities of the AGARDA under this section in  
14 conjunction with other operations of the De-  
15 partment of Agriculture.

16 “(B) USE OF EXISTING PERSONNEL AU-  
17 THORITIES.—In carrying out this subsection,  
18 the Secretary may appoint highly qualified indi-  
19 viduals to scientific or professional positions on  
20 the same terms and conditions as provided in  
21 subsections (b)(3), (b)(4), (c), (d), (e), and (f)  
22 of section 620 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-  
23 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7  
24 U.S.C. 7657).”;

1 (4) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the  
2 following:

3 “(4) USE OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Secretary  
4 shall use the strategic plan developed under para-  
5 graph (1) to inform the administration of the  
6 AGARDA under this section.”;

7 (5) in subsection (d)—

8 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-  
9 graph (C);

10 (B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as  
11 follows:

12 “(3) FUNDING.—In addition to the funds other-  
13 wise deposited in the Fund under paragraph (1) or  
14 (2), of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corpora-  
15 tion, the Secretary shall make available to carry out  
16 this section \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
17 2026 through 2030, to remain available until ex-  
18 pended”.

19 (C) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(4) OTHER FUNDING.—In addition to amounts  
21 otherwise made available to carry out this section,  
22 the Secretary may use to carry out this section other  
23 funds available to the Secretary for any other pur-  
24 pose.

1           “(5) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in paragraph  
2           (2) or (4) authorizes the use of the funds of the  
3           Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out this sec-  
4           tion.”; and  
5           (6) by striking subsection (e).

