RTI INTERNATIONAL

How we work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Solutions for food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, and nutrition based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management approaches.

As a trusted partner to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) our team supports their mission to provide economic opportunity through innovation, promote climate-smart agricultural practices, and preserve our natural resources. Through research and analysis, we enable decision making and policy development that improve food and nutrition security throughout the world.

With more than 60 years of experience, our researchers are at the forefront of improving the human condition, helping to solve issues in the agricultural, food, and environmental domains, and ensuring a sustainable and equitable future for all.

Our Expertise

Agriculture and the Environment

Providing insight to better manage resources and develop policies for food production amid environmental changes. We develop models to account for the interrelated nature of climate impacts and food and agricultural markets.

Food Labeling & Marketing

Conducting research to assess consumers' use and understanding of food labels and to inform label improvements that enhance food safety and encourage healthy food choices.

Food Safety

Increasing safety at all stages of the food supply chain through research and studies that combine economics, policy research, and analytics. We examine the nexus of food safety with the epidemiology of foodborne diseases, risk analysis, consumer behavior, and implementation.

Nutrition and Food Assistance

Delivering solutions related to food insecurity and nutrition, while also addressing issues of equity. We provide research and analyses to improve food choices and accessibility for all consumers, both domestically and internationally.

Capabilities

Analysis & Modeling

- Consumer preference modeling
- Cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses
- Econometrics
- Economy-wide modeling
- Foodborne disease epidemiology
- Food systems modeling
- Land use modeling
- Nutritional epidemiology
- Scanner data analysis
- Techno-economic analyses
- Vulnerability assessments

Other Capabilities

- Community-based participatory research
- Health and risk communication
- Intervention development
- Process, outcome, and impact evaluation
- Scientific peer reviews
- Systematic and scoping reviews

Data Science & Technology

- Bioinformatics and machine learning/artificial intelligence
- Database and system modernization
- Geospatial analyses and data visualizations
- Virtual reality training and education

Data Collection

- Consumer, producer, and industry surveys
- Dietary recall & food frequencies
- Expert elicitations
- Focus groups
- In-depth interviews
- Observation studies

Project Examples

Assessing the Impact of Elevated Carbon Dioxide on Global Nutrient Availability
In collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USDA, and other partners, RTI led a study to assess the combined effects of changes in productivity and nutrient content on global nutrient availability per capita at the country level under climate change scenarios.

Developing Measures of the Food Price Environment
RTI is supporting USDA in analyzing store and household scanner data, creating the Food-at-Home Monthly Area Prices (known as F-MAP) database, and developing data products that enhance researchers' ability to use the data for economic analyses.

Foreign Agricultural Service Trade Model
RTI developed an Excel-based economic model of more than 700 food and agricultural products to allow USDA to quickly estimate the impacts of new trade policies and regulatory measures on trade flows, prices, and consumer and producer surplus.

Potential Impacts of the Military Hunger Prevention Act on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Eligibility
RTI conducted a study for ERS, to examine how eligibility for SNAP within active-duty families would change if the Military Hunger Prevention Act is enacted.

Dietary Data Collection Technologies and Enhancements
RTI is reviewing and evaluating current dietary assessment technologies and working with USDA to modernize the Automated Multiple Pass Method software system to improve the efficiency and accuracy of 24-hour dietary data collection and analysis.

Analyzing Consumers' Value of "Product of USA" Labeling Claims
USDA required consumer research to help inform rulemaking for the "Product of USA" labeling claim. RTI conducted a national survey using a discrete choice experiment to measure consumer awareness, understanding, and willingness to pay for the current "Product of USA" label versus other potential revised definitions.

Scanner Capability of SNAP – Authorized Small Retailers
FNS required information on use of scanning technologies among small retailers. RTI conducted interviews with technology vendors, a national survey of small retailers, and follow-up, in-depth interviews to estimate adoption rates and the cost for nonadopting retailers to implement scanning technologies.

USDA Agencies We Serve

- Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
- Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
- Economic Research Service (ERS)
- Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)
- Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
- Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
- Forest Service (FS)
- National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Contract Vehicles & GSA Schedules

- GSA Multiple Award Schedule
- OASIS Pool 1
- OASIS Pool 2 (Social Sciences)
- OASIS Pool 4

Contact Us

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