

Specialty Crop Research Initiative

Daniel L. Schmoldt

National Program Leader

National Institute of Food & Agriculture

Specialty Crop Research Initiative

\$230 million in mandatory funding 2008-2012

Research and extension

Priority given to multi-state and multi-institutional projects

100% non-federal match requirement

Address the critical needs of the specialty crop industries by developing and disseminating science-based tools to address needs of specific crops and their regions

SCRI Legislation

**Five
focus
areas
(10% of
funds in
each
area)**

- **Research in plant breeding, genetics, and genomics to improve crop characteristics**
- **Efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators**
- **Efforts to improve production efficiency, productivity, and profitability over the long term (including specialty crop policy and marketing)**
- **New innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening**
- **Methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production and processing of specialty crops, including fresh produce**

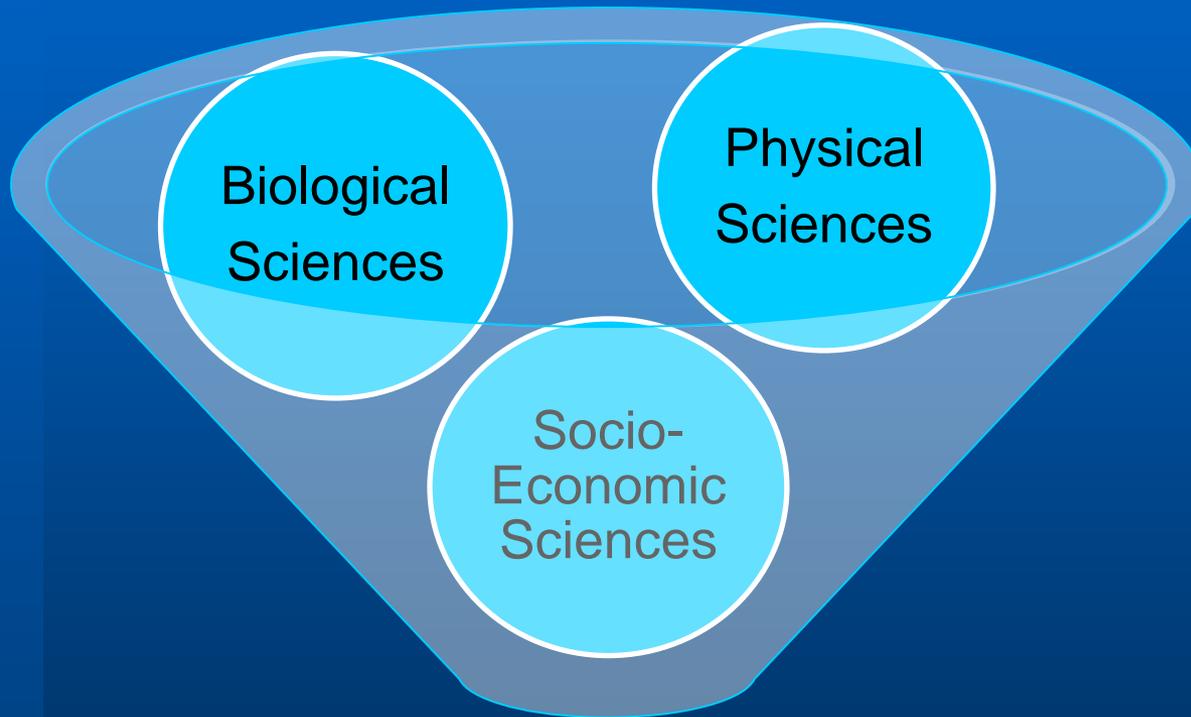
Specialty Crops

Specialty crops are defined in law as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.

The Problem-Solving Enterprise: Systems Approach

A systems approach is any process of estimating or inferring how local policies, actions, or changes influence the state of the neighboring universe. It is a framework that is based on the belief that the component parts of a system can best be understood in the context of relationships with each other and with other systems, rather than in isolation. The only way to fully understand why a problem or element occurs and persists is to understand the part in relation to the whole.

The Problem-Solving Enterprise: Transdisciplinary Teams



Problem-Solving Team

SCRI Program

Sustainability
is the
foundation of
the program

Whole
systems
approaches
required

Trans-
disciplinary
teams
(biological,
physical, and
socio-
economic
disciplines)

Stakeholder
driven
objectives,
and
involvement
throughout
the life of the
project
(including
advisory
boards)

Include
specific
mechanisms
to
communicate
results
(outreach
plan)

Funding by Legislative Focus Area

Year	Avail \$\$	PB	PM	PP&PE	Tech	FS
2008	28.4M	3.8 (13)	4.8 (17)	10.4 (37)	6.1 (22)	3.2 (11)
2009	46.7	8.5 (18)	12 (26)	14 (30)	7.2 (15)	5 (11)
2010	46.7	9.2 (20)	11.3 (25)	14.2 (30)	6.5 (15)	4.8 (10)
Total \$\$	121.8	21.5 (18)	28.1 (23)	38.6 (32)	19.8 (16)	13 (11)

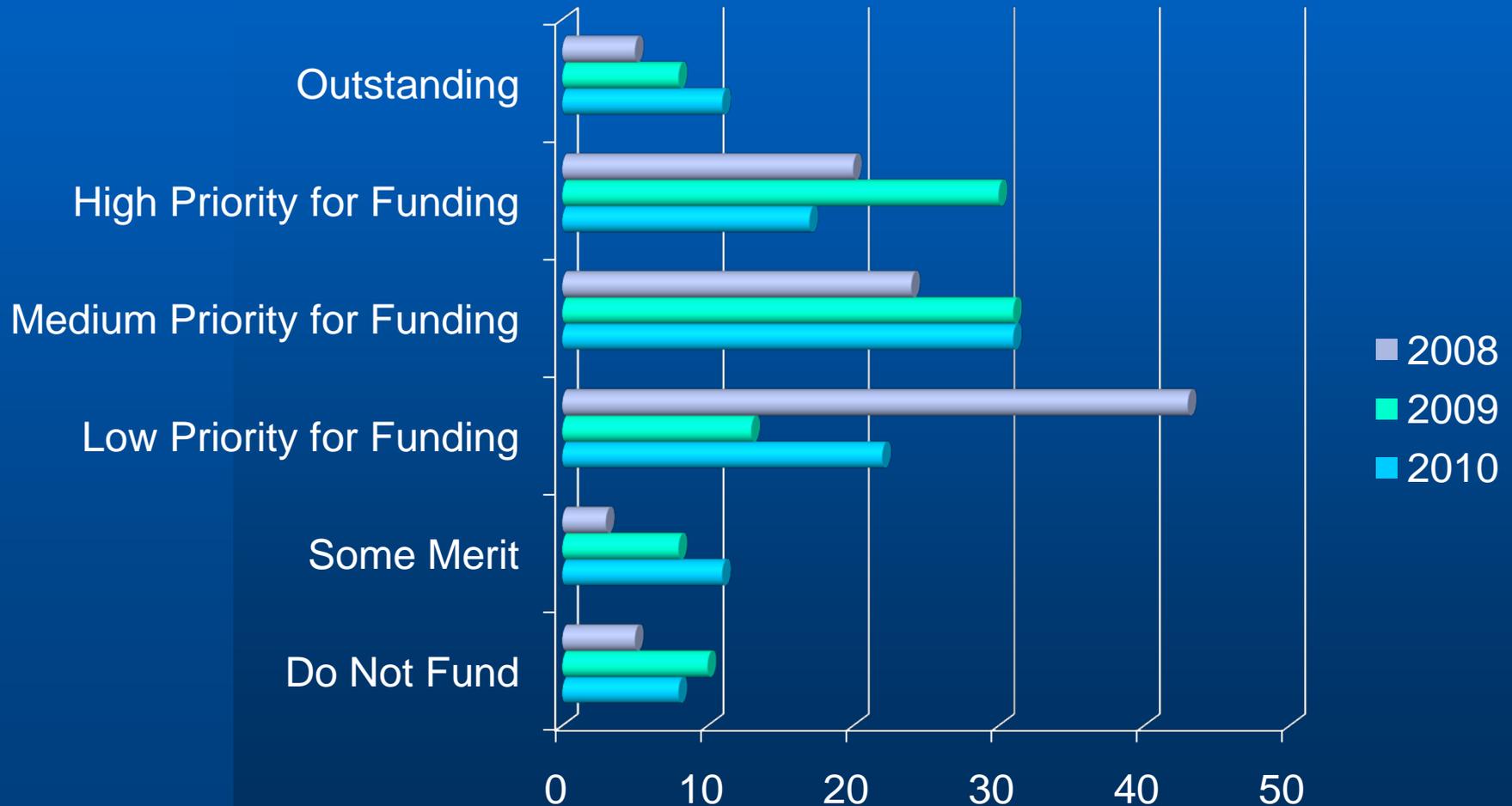
SCRI 2008-2010 Results

	2008	2009	2010
Applications paneled	231	209	144
Total funds requested	\$295M	\$314M	\$235M
Panels	3	5	4
Awards	27 (9)	35 (11)	28 (8)
Success rate	12% (9/31)	17% (13/40)	19% (17/33)
Range of Awards	\$350K – \$6M	\$423K – \$5.2M	\$562 - \$5.8M

Success Rates

Year	Paneled	New Awards	%	Non-Planning Awards	# resulting from planning or resubmission	%
2008	231	27	12	18		
2009	209	35	17	24	18	75
2010	144	28	19	20	15	75

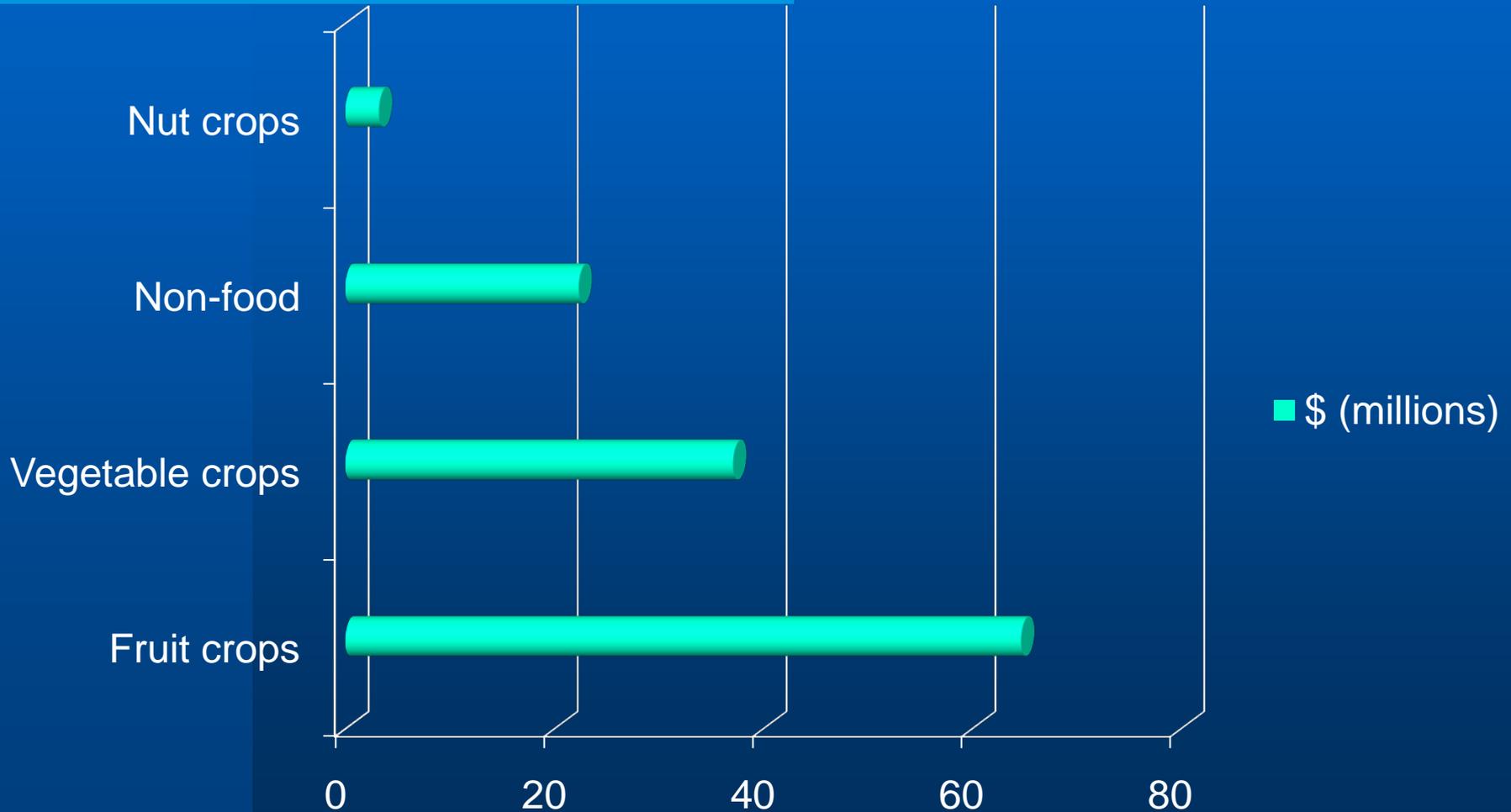
Applications in rating categories (%)



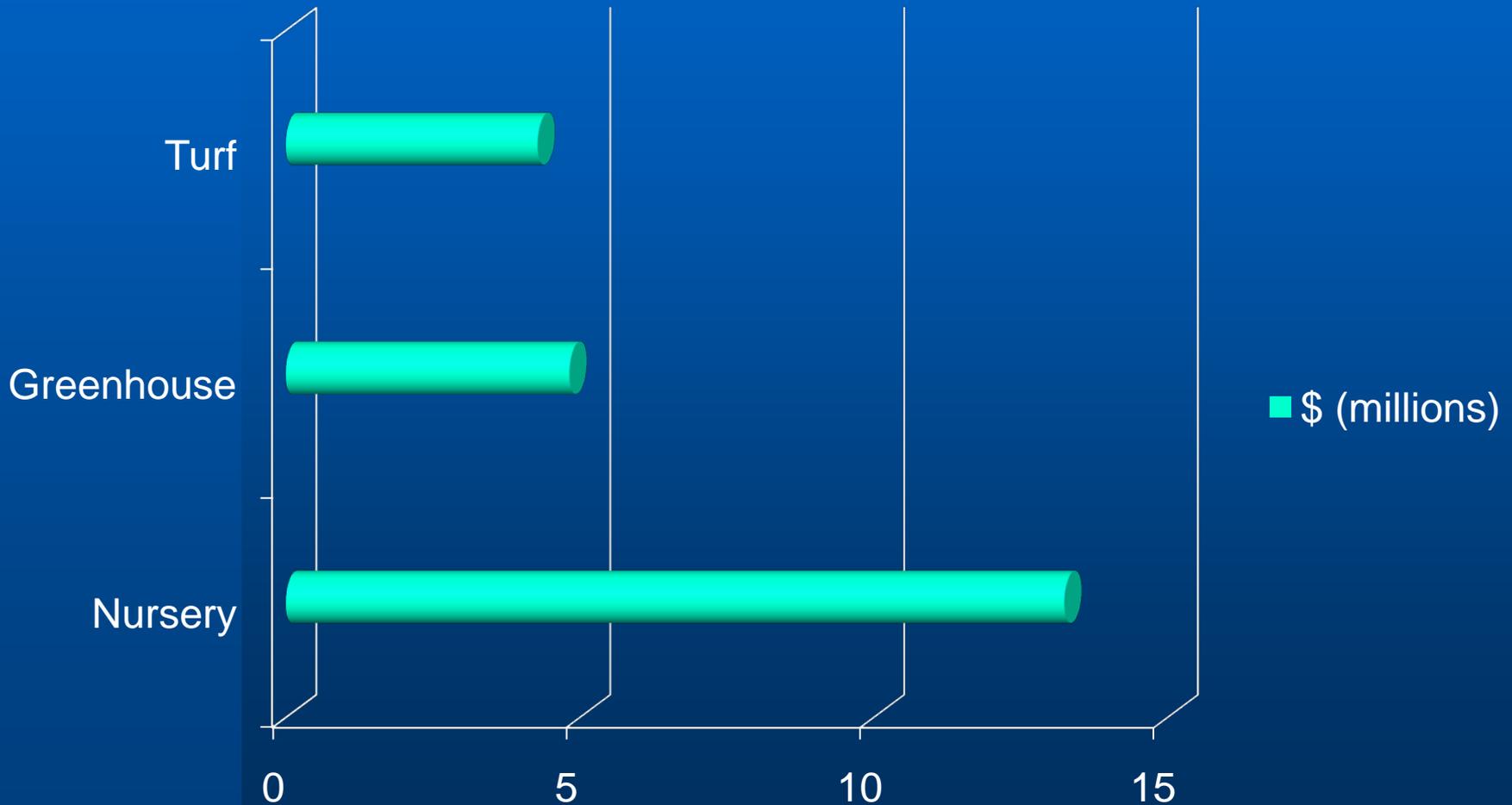
Funds Requested by Excellent Applications

Fiscal year	Funds available	Excellent applications	Total Requested
2008	\$28,365,000	\$72,119,838	\$295,285,875
2009	46,653,354	109,438,343	313,804,435
2010	46,668,427	77,162,761	235,409,872

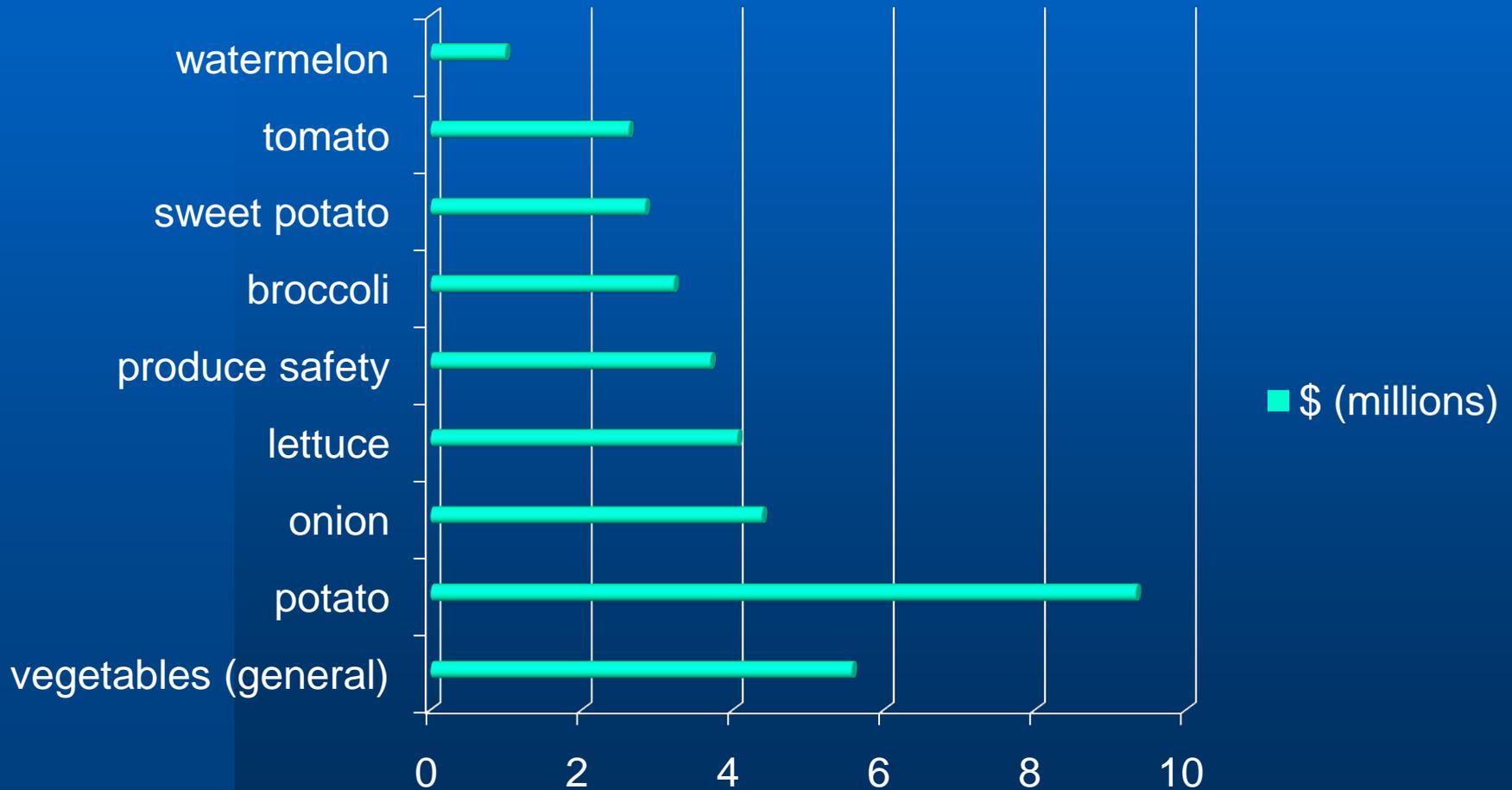
SCRI investment in major crop groups 2008-2010



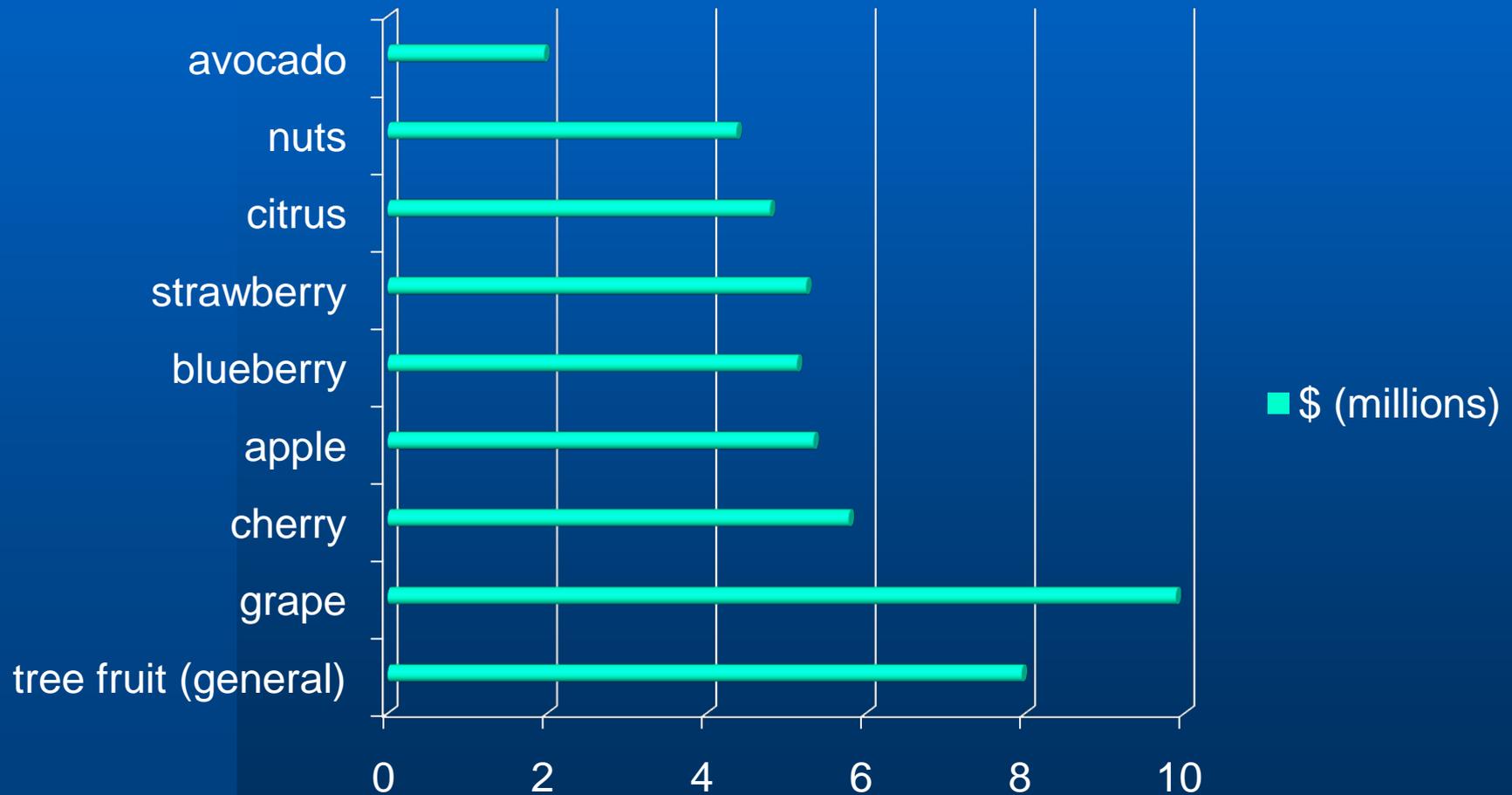
SCRI investment in non-food crops 2008-2010



SCRI investment in vegetables 2008-2010



SCRI investment in fruit and nut crops 2008-2010



SCRI External Review

- **Jan. 2007: Secretary's proposal for SCRI sent to the Congress**
- **March-June 2007: white paper developed**
- **Sept. 2007: white paper published**
- **June 2008: 2008 Farm Bill became law**
- **Sept. 2010: 3 years of SCRI completed**
- **Jan. 2011: external review held**
- **April 2011: review documents published**