



History

The Center for Food, Nutrition, and Agriculture Policy (CFNAP) was established at the University of Maryland—College Park in August, 2005. CFNAP's founding director is Dr. Maureen L. Storey, the former director of the Center for Food and Nutrition Policy (CFNP) at Virginia Tech and the Ceres® Forum.

In 1992, the late Dr. Gerald Gaull (1930-1997) was provided seed money from various sources to bring the Ceres® Forum to Washington, D.C., establishing a neutral educational platform for multi-sectorial debate of key food and nutrition policy issues. Borrowing the name and image of the Roman goddess of agriculture and the harvest, the Ceres® Forum began in 1989 as an occasional series of symposia ranging from topics such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) to health claims on food labels. The Center for Food and Nutrition Policy arose from the forum and formed an independent affiliation with Georgetown University from 1992-2001.

Upon Dr. Gaull's sudden death, Dr. Lester Crawford was appointed its second director on July 1, 1997. His vision of the future for the center was emblematic of a broader mission—to advance rational, science-based food and nutrition policy. Under his leadership, the center stepped up its pace in holding conferences and targeted a wider audience. Dr. Crawford expanded the research and educational mission of the center by offering graduate coursework and research opportunities for graduate students seeking the Masters of Public Policy. As a result of the center's expanded efforts, Dr. Maureen Storey joined CFNP in September 1998, to lead the nutrition research, outreach, and education programs. In 2002, Dr. Storey was appointed acting director of CFNP and became its third director in 2003. Dr. Richard Forshee joined CFNP in 2000 to provide quantitative analytical expertise in the research program and develop the program in risk analysis. In 2001, CFNP moved from Georgetown University to Virginia Tech—National Capital Region based in Alexandria, VA. The faculty members of CFNP each accepted appointments at the University of Maryland—College Park to form the newly created Center for Food, Nutrition, and Agriculture Policy under the leadership of Dr. Storey.

Over the years, the trademark Ceres® has stood for provocative, multifaceted, and timely discussions of current policy and regulatory issues in food safety, nutrition, and agriculture. Topics have included food safety with particular emphasis on bacterial foodborne illness, new agricultural biotechnologies, and issues of nutrition affecting dietary guidelines, government feeding programs, functional foods, obesity, and food fortification.

CFNAP and its faculty have well-recognized national and international reputations among government, academia, and industry for scholarship and outreach programs. In addition, the Ceres® trademark is known around the world for helping shape sound policy in food, nutrition, and agriculture policy.

*Dedicated to advancing rational, science-based
food, nutrition, and agriculture policy around the world.*