

problems. A fourth Chemistry Center, the Laboratory for Molecular Sciences at the California Institute of Technology (<http://www.its.caltech.edu/~lms/>), is devoted to multidisciplinary studies of fundamental processes in complex systems. These centers were established in 1998; during Fiscal Year 1999 and \$7 million was invested in them.

**Mathematical Sciences Research Institutes:** Three Mathematical Institutes are currently supported: the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (<http://www.ima.umn.edu/>); the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (<http://www.ipam.org/>); and the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (<http://www.msri.org/>). They serve a variety of functions: enabling collaborative research in emerging problems in mathematics; encouraging collaborative research between mathematicians and scientists from other disciplines; post-doc training; and workshops. The Program was established in 1982; in Fiscal Year 2000 \$7.6 million was invested. Several new competitions may expand the number of Mathematical Institutes to as many as seven.

**Plant Genome Virtual Centers** ([http://www.nsf.gov/bio/dbi/dbi\\_pgr.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/bio/dbi/dbi_pgr.htm)): NSF's Plant Genome Research Program is part of the National Plant Genome Research Initiative established by the Office of Science and Technology Policy. These grants support collaborative research and infrastructure, leading to a better understanding of the structure, organization and function of plant genomes. The Program was established in 1998; during Fiscal Year 1999 \$31 million was invested in 23 centers.

**Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis**

(NCEAS, <http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/>): This Center was established at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1995, for the purpose of bringing together visiting researchers, post-doctoral fellows, and students for collaborative research on general ecological principles. In Fiscal Year 1999 this center received \$2 million.

**Long-Term Ecological Research Program (LTER, <http://lternet.edu/>):**

LTERs are field research sites in diverse habitat types, in which long-term research projects in ecology, ecosystem studies, population biology, and other areas of environmental biology are supported and conducted. A separate award for an LTER Network enables the integration of data and analysis among the individual sites, and awards are also made for cross-site research. The Program was established in 1980; in Fiscal Year 1999 \$16 million was invested in 21 sites.