

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Corn and Soybean Production Costs and Export Competitiveness in Argentina, Brazil, and the United States

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB, TB, SOR,) EIB

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information  
USDA [ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Ephraim Leibtag, [eleibtag@ers.usda.gov](mailto:eleibtag@ers.usda.gov)

Subject of Review: This report examines competitiveness in corn and soybean markets using detailed data on production and marketing costs for Argentina, Brazil, and the United States during 2010/11 when together, these three countries represented 88 percent of world soybean exports and 80 percent of corn exports. The long term stability of export markets can have significant impacts on commodity prices for countries that export a large share of their production. The stability of export markets depends on many factors including government policies, exchange rates, transportation costs, and changes in weather or financial conditions. The information presented in this reports allows one to make inferences about how the export competitiveness of each country and crop could be affected by changes to the variables that affect production and marketing costs: land, fertilizer, seed, fuel, and chemicals, among others. This information also sheds light on how a country's infrastructure, shipping, and policy approaches impact its export competitiveness.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [ ] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers

[ ] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 05/19/15 End: 10/28/15 Completed: 10/28/15

Number of Reviewers: [ ] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [ ] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [ ] Designated Outside Organization  
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [ ] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [ ] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [ ] Yes [X] No

