

## ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Brazil's Agricultural Land Use and Land Restoration Policies to Increase Production, Trade, and Preserve the Amazon

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

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

Agency Contact: Kelly Maguire, kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov

Subject of Review: The emergence of Brazil as a major world agricultural producer of agricultural commodities (soybeans, corn, cotton, rice, wheat, beef, poultry, pork, ethanol) in addition to tropical commodities (coffee, sugar, citrus) has been singled out as “a great agricultural revolution” (Borlaug & Dowsnell, 2005). Brazilian crop and livestock production increased fourfold over the past four decades (FAO, 2024), and Brazil has emerged as the top global exporter of corn, soybeans, beef, and chicken (USDA, FAS, 2024). Fueled by surging domestic and global demand for food, particularly from China, Brazil’s farm production has been reliant on expansion of farmland and growth in agricultural yields plus support from agricultural and macroeconomic policies. The expansion of cropland in Brazil has occurred most recently in the Cerrado savannah and the Amazon—the largest tropical forest in the world. Estimates indicate that over the past four decades 16 percent of forest land in the Amazon and 20 percent of the forest and grasslands in the Cerrado have been converted to agriculture use as of 2023 (IBGE, 2024).

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: 5/24/2024 Completed: ---

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

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No