

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Global Economic and Land-Use Implications of Biofuel Production: The Case of Ethanol at the Medium Term

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

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

Agency Contact: Elise Golan, egolan@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: The recent global expansion of biofuel production has placed new demands on agriculture, affecting production, prices, and agricultural trade, and precipitating many economic and environmental challenges. In an era of globalized commodity and financial markets, policies adopted to promote use of biofuels in one country can influence economic and environmental outcomes worldwide. This report examines the economic and land use implications of biofuel expansion, as well as the distribution of benefits and costs across countries and regions, in the medium term—to around the year 2015. Within this time horizon, it is unlikely that second-generation biofuels, such as ethanol produced from cellulosic feedstocks, will become significant. Modeling scenarios are designed to examine how biofuel's effects vary according to different assumptions about corn and sugar cane yield growth.

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: 5/22/09 End: XX/XX/XX Completed: XX/XX/XX

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