

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Middle East and North Africa Region Is Key to Projected Growth in World Agricultural Trade

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

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

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Subject of Review: Over the next ten years, growth in worldwide demand for crops and animal products will occur primarily in developing countries. Like other parts of the developing world, the MENA region has experienced strong trends in population and income growth, factors which have contributed to rising food consumption and shifting dietary preferences. Growing demand, coupled with a climate-constrained production potential, has forced the region to increasingly rely on food imports to meet its needs, raising the region's trade profile. Strong population growth and rising incomes in this region will continue to drive consumption demand with implications for robust import growth over the next decade. While these trends present opportunities to US producers, price and supply volatility in international markets may periodically interrupt export growth. Political instability in the MENA region may also affect import demand for food commodities.

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: 08/08/14 End: 05/05/15 Completed: 05/05/15

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

