

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Prospects for China's Corn Yield Growth and Imports

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

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

Agency Contact: Daniel Pick, dpick@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: China's potential to increase corn yield per hectare is an important determinant of the country's future demand for corn imports. Much of China's expansion of corn production in recent years has been achieved by expanding the area planted in corn, but with greater competition for scarce land increases in yields will be the key to future growth. Historical trends, policies and environmental factors suggest only modest prospects for growth in Chinese corn yields. Since 1980 Chinese average yields have risen at a pace that lags behind growth in the average U.S. yield. Chinese yield growth is most evident in the country's northern plains region while the northeastern region—expected to account for most of China's increase in corn supply—does not have a discernible yield trend in recent years. Extrapolating historical trends into the future suggests that China's corn output will not rise as fast as its consumption. Sustained increases in U.S. yields are critical to meeting China's rising demand for corn since the United States supplies most of China's corn imports. USDA projections anticipate that the United States will account for much of the increase in global corn output over the next decade and most of that increase will come from rising U.S. yields.

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: 12/9/13 End: 03/25/14 Completed: 03/25/14

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

