Preliminary Title: Economic Issues in the Coexistence of Organic, Genetically Engineered (GE) and Non-GE Crops

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

[ ] EIB

Agency: Economic Research Service USDA

Agency Contact: Ephraim Leibtag, eleibtag@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: Two decades after the first genetically engineered (GE) seeds became commercially available, U.S. farmers have widely adopted GE varieties for corn, soybeans and a few other major crops. At the same time, U.S. consumers have fueled a fast-growing market for organic food, and a market for non-GE conventional crops has also emerged. Food manufacturers and retailers in the United States have sought additional assurance in recent years that foods labeled organic or natural do not contain GE material. Many buyers now require the use of avoidance protocols and testing, and many have set tolerance levels for the unintended presence of GE traits. This report examines GE-differentiated crop production and product markets in the United States, describes commonly used coexistence practices and discusses economic impacts from the presence of GE material in organic crops.

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: 10/14/15 End: 12/15/2015 Completed: 12/15/2015

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:

[ ] Agency [X] 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