

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Interdependence of China, United States and Brazil in Soybean 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: Soybeans are the largest and most concentrated segment of global agricultural trade and a focal point of attention as U.S.-China trade tensions rose during 2018. Growth in exports from two land-abundant countries—Brazil and the United States—combined with China’s pent-up demand for edible oils and protein to create a strongly complementary trade relationship. U.S. soybeans and multinational companies played a key role in China’s early growth as a soybean importer. But rapid expansion of soybean production in Brazil’s interior provinces and Chinese investment in processing capacity during the past decade further stimulated China’s soybean import growth. During the initial months following China’s imposition of a 25-percent tariff on U.S. soybeans in 2018, Brazil’s abundant supply allowed China to continue importing soybeans without paying significantly higher prices while the price of U.S. soybeans declined. The unique combination of factors that led to rapid growth in China’s imports and Brazil’s exports are unlikely to be replicated in other countries.

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Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 11/19/2018 Completed: 6/28/19 Withdrawn: XX/XX/XX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