

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Public Agricultural Research Since 1980  
 Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service  Highly Influential Scientific Assessment  
USDA

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Subject of Review: Recent House and Senate hearings on reauthorization of the Farm Bill have  
(Preliminary abstract) commented on public agricultural research policy and have recommended shifting the focus of public agricultural research from more applied research to more basic research; giving higher priority to peer-reviewed, competitively funded grants; and creating a National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to support fundamental agricultural research. This report presents stylized facts to frame any debate on potential changes to the agricultural R&D system. More specifically, the report presents empirical evidence on the degree to which agricultural funding mechanisms have already changed, whether such changes have promoted basic biological research, the effects of changes in funding mechanisms or science emphasis on agricultural productivity, and changes that have occurred since 1980 in agricultural research funding. Data required to address the patterns of public research funding were obtained from the Current Research Information System (CRIS), National Science Foundation (NSF), and agency budget directors. ERS previously developed a research deflator that has been updated for this project and applied to the data.  
Expenditures from CSREES funds in 1998 and 2003 (years for which data on research topics are comparable) were analyzed to determine the division between basic and applied/developmental research by funding instrument and research topic.

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  Individual Reviewers  
 Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 05/17/07 End: 07/18/07 Completed: 11/08/07

Number of Reviewers:  3 or fewer  4 to 10  More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by:  Agency  Designated Outside Organization  
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment?  Yes  No  
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:  
How:  
When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments?  Yes  No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?       Yes       No

