

Project Title:

Lead Scientist:

Date:

Name of the Review Session:

Reviewer ID Number:

## AD HOC REVIEW OF ARS RESEARCH PROJECT PLAN

*The purpose of this review is to judge the technical merit of the planned research and to make constructive comments for improvement. The focus of this research has been deemed essential by ARS and critical to its mission. Funding will be provided to carry out the proposed research upon the plan's certification. Please respond, using the format provided, to the 3 areas of interest below. It is important to state briefly the rationale for suggestions or questions posed. Comments, clarifications and recommendations may include specific questions you believe should be addressed by the research team. Please select an action class at the end of this form to indicate the level of revision you believe the project plan requires.*

- 1. Adequacy of Approach and Procedures:** Are the hypotheses and subobjectives well-conceived? Are the experiments, analytical methods, and approaches and procedures appropriate and sufficient to accomplish the objectives? How could the approach or research procedures be improved?

### Objective 1:

Strengths:

Questions or Recommendations:

### Objective 2:

Strengths:

Questions or Recommendations:

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**2. Probability of Successfully Accomplishing the Project's Objectives:** What is the probability of success in light of the investigator or project team's training, research experience, preliminary data, if available, and past accomplishments? Are the objectives both feasible and realistic within the stated timeframe and with the resources discussed? Do the investigators demonstrate having adequate knowledge of the literature and research field as it relates to the proposed project plan?

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3. **Merit and Significance:** Are the project objectives relevant to the stated research goals and directions of the corresponding National Program? Will the successful completion of the project enhance knowledge of a scientifically relevant problem? Will the project outcomes lead to the development of new knowledge and/or technology? Are you aware of any other data/studies relevant to this research effort? If applied research, comment on the value of the research to its customers and stakeholders.

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**Additional Comments or Suggestions:**

United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Office of Scientific Quality Review  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Beltsville, Maryland 20705  
301-504-3282

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**Action Class Rating**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No Revision Required</b>       | <b>No Revision Required</b> – Needs no revision, but minor revision might be made.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor Revision Required</b>    | <b>Minor Revision Required</b> – Needs minor revisions, but objectives fit the National Program Action Plan; approaches to all objectives are sound. Project is Feasible.    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Moderate Revision Required</b> | <b>Moderate Revision Required</b> – Moderate revision of an objective and/or one approach is needed. Project is feasible.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major Revision Required</b>    | <b>Major Revision Required</b> – Project should be sound and feasible after major revision.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Not Feasible</b>               | <b>Not Feasible</b> – Project is not feasible because of deficiencies in expertise and/or facilities, or has other major flaws that require a complete redesign and rewrite. |
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