



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

May 8, 2012

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 03

Series of 2012

Subject: **New Directive on Insect Resistance Management in *Bt* Corn**

For the past ten years, resistance of the Asian Corn Borer to *Bt* corn was monitored pursuant to the following insect resistance management policies: (1) DA Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 17s. 2003, "Additional Requirements for Insect Resistance Management (IRM) Strategy in *Bt* Corn; (2) DA MC No. 8s. 2005, "Strengthening the DA's Science-Based IRM for *Bt* Corn and Amending Section IIIa(ii) of MC No. 17s. 2003; (3) DA MC No. 1 s. 2006, "Procedural Guidelines and Formats for *Bt* Corn IRM Monitoring for Industry Technology Developers; (4) DA MC No. 4s. 2007, "Revised Procedural Guidelines and Templates for *Bt* Corn IRM Monitoring and Reporting."

The rapid expansion of *Bt* corn areas to support and sustain a growing livestock industry, a shift from the traditional corn-rice cropping system into rice-corn-corn cropping system, *Bt* corn plantings in new areas, shift in the susceptibility level of the ACB from the baseline in single event *Bt* corn and farmers' practice of planting *Bt* corn seeds in localities other than their place of purchase make it imperative to implement the bag-in-a bag IRM strategy nationwide.

New and Updated Directive On Insect Resistance Management In *Bt* Corn

As the DA IRM policies have been overcome by these recent developments and changes, the Department through the BPI is implementing this new directive requiring as of September 1, 2012, all technology developers and seed developers to package 20% properly labelled non-*Bt* corn seeds in a white bag inside the larger bag containing 80% *Bt* corn seeds. All farms planted to *Bt* corn will implement a structured refuge using this bag-in-a bag strategy.

In addition, the DA reiterates the following:

- a) Monitoring of adoption rates on a bi-monthly basis will still continue to identify high risk areas for insect susceptibility monitoring for approved events.
- b) Information and Educational Campaign (IEC) for the implementation of the bag-in-bag strategy

The various companies shall develop a common IEC material and submit a copy within one month to the BPI. Each company shall use the IEC material for its own IEC campaign. The BPI with assistance from the DA Biotechnology Program shall use the material to train selected members of the national agricultural extension system and farmer-leaders.

c) Monitoring of implementation

Implementation shall be monitored by the BPI every planting season. Monitoring of implementation by Bt corn seed producers shall be done by random sampling of 200 seed bags on sale anywhere in the country. All seed producers shall provide the BPI the testing kits specific to their product sufficient to test a total of 400 samples per season. The other 200 tests shall be used by the BPI in farmers' fields to determine compliance in planting the refuge. The testing kits should be given to the BPI on or before August 15, 2012 and fifteen days prior to the onset of each planting season thereafter. The non-Bt corn seeds may not necessarily be the isolate of the Bt variety but it shall be a hybrid with similar growth rate and yield performance.

d) Monitoring of resistance development

Resistance development in ACB against each transformation event shall be monitored by each technology developer and seasonal/annual results of monitoring will be submitted to the BPI. The methods to be used include seasonal field monitoring of ACB and other pests as per MC No 4 s. 2007 and bioassay testing using the discriminating dose technique.

e) Non-compliance

Bags testing as non-compliant including all bags within the same seed lot shall be subject to revocation of permits issued for the event and seizure and destruction of non-compliant seed bags in accordance to the Plant Quarantine Law.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.


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