



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Agriculture  
**BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY**  
Manila

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**MEMORANDUM ORDER**

No. 96  
Series of 2017

**Subject: RECONSTITUTION OF BPI BIOTECH CORE TEAM**

In the interest of the service and for the smooth implementation of DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG Joint Department Circular No. 1, Series of 2016 entitled "Rules and Regulations for the Research and Development, Handling and Use, Transboundary Movement, Release into the Environment, and Management of Genetically-Modified Plant and Plant Products Derived from the Use of Modern Biotechnology" issued on March 30, 2016, the Bureau of Plant Industry Biotech Core Team (BPI BCT) is hereby reconstituted to assist the BPI Director in the implementation of the biotech activities related to the aforementioned JDC.

The BPI Biotech Core Team shall be reconstituted as follows:

Chairman	: Sophia P. Taburnal	OIC-Chief
Vice-Chair	: Ma. Lorelie U. Agbagala	Supervising Agriculturist
Co-Vice Chair:	Geronima P. Eusebio	Supervising Agriculturist
Members	: Amor C. Dimayacyac	Supervising Agriculturist
	Lilia A. Portales, PhD	Senior Agriculturist
	Joel L. Adorada, PhD	Senior Agriculturist
	Esperanza DG. Uy	Chemist IV
	Sonny B. Conde, PhD	Chemist III
	Peter M. Magdaraog, PhD	Senior Agriculturist
	Sheeb Kaiserin M. Quiaonza	Senior Agriculturist
	Zyrine C. Lorizo	Agricultural Technologist II

**BPI Biotech Core Team Secretariat**

Head	: Sheeb Kaiserin M. Quiaonza	Senior Agriculturist
Members	: Zyrine C. Lorizo	Agricultural Technologist II
	Reimond S. Corona	Technical Staff
	Lynne R. Arevalo	Technical Staff
	Sherilynne A. Leoncio	Administrative Officer

**Duties and responsibilities of Biotech Core Team**

1. Supervise activities relevant to the implementation of the DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG JDC No.1, Series of 2016;
2. Discuss and deliberate GM applications to be forwarded to the Department of Agriculture-Biosafety Committee (DA-BC);
3. Review public consultation documents submitted by applicant;
4. Document and evaluate reports and proposals relevant to biotechnology;
5. Review conditions in the Biosafety Permit of approved GM application;




6. Coordinate network activities with other government and private agencies on biotech regulation;
7. Resolve issues pertaining to biotechnology matters within the purview of the BPI;
8. Coordinate with the Post Approval Monitoring Group (PAMG) regarding Insect and Weed Resistance Management activities; and
9. Perform other functions related to DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG JDC No.1, Series of 2016.

#### Duties and Responsibilities of BCT Secretariat

1. Process GM applications and conduct evaluation for its completeness and sufficiency
2. Facilitate the farming-out of documents to agencies, STRP members, and other relevant institutions;
3. Prepare and consolidate risk assessment reports of genetically modified (GM) crops submitted by concerned agencies and Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) members
4. Document reports and proposals relevant to biotechnology
5. Prepare office memoranda and letters pertaining to biotechnology
6. Provide support in the conduct of seminars, workshops, trainings and other Biotech activities;
7. Formulate and maintain a library system in the implementation of the JDC No.1, S2016; and
8. Perform other relevant functions assigned by the Chair and Vice-Chair

Expenses incurred by the BPI Director (Approving officer), the BPI BCT and the BCT Secretariat in the performance of their respective duties and functions shall be charged to the Biotechnology trust fund derived from the fees collected as Risk Assessment Review Cost (RARC) based on MC No.9, Series of 2003 subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This order shall take effect immediately upon signing and supersedes all other Circulars/Orders inconsistent herewith.

  
**GEORGE Y. CULASTE**  
OIC-Director  
Bureau of Plant Industry

September 28, 2017