



Department of Agriculture

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

692 San Andres Street, Malate, Manila, Philippines

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MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 117
Series of 2020

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (STRP) TO ASSESS GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) CROP PERMIT APPLICATIONS UNDER THE DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG JOINT DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO.1, SERIES OF 2016

The DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG Joint Department Circular No.1, Series of 2016, Section 7 and Special Order No.714, Series of 2016 provides for the creation of STRP. The BPI may tap the services of Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) composing of a pool of scientists with relevant professional background necessary to evaluate the potential risks of the proposed release of GM crops for field trial, commercial propagation, and for direct use to human and animal health, and the environment based on available scientific and technical information.

The process of application involves the following: a) the BPI shall examine the application within five (5) days of acceptance to determine if it is sufficient in form and substance; and b) if the application complies with the format and contains all the required information, the BPI shall immediately forward a copy of the application to the STRP.

1. The number of experts and fields of expertise needed for the STRP review of the application shall be determined by BPI based on the nature of the regulated article. The number of STRP to be selected may vary as needed depending on the trait of the regulated article and permit being applied for. Below is the recommended number of STRP needed for each application:

A. Number of STRP members needed to evaluate the application

For single event application

Application	Number of STRP members
For Field Trial	3
For Direct use	3
For Commercial Propagation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event without valid Biosafety Permit for Direct Use 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event with valid Biosafety Permit for Direct Use 	1
For Renewal	3





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For stacked trait product application

Application	Number of STRP members
For Field Trial	2
For Direct use	1
For Commercial Propagation	1
For Renewal	1

B. STRP's field of specialization to evaluate the application

For single event application

APPLICATION	SPECIALIZATION
FOR FIELD TRIAL	Background on agriculture, plant breeding/genetics, biology, environmental science, ecology, physiology, biochemistry and other related fields
FOR DIRECT USE	Food Safety - Specialization on microbiology, immunology, food and nutrition, cell and molecular biology, medicine and public health and other related fields
	Feed Safety - Specialization on animal science (feeds, nutrition, physiology) and veterinary medicine and other related fields Molecular - Specialization on molecular biology/genetics and other related fields
FOR COMMERCIAL PROPAGATION	Food Safety - Specialization on microbiology, immunology, food and nutrition, cell and molecular biology, medicine and public health and other related fields
	Feed Safety - Specialization on animal science (feeds, nutrition, physiology) and veterinary medicine and other related fields
	Molecular - Specialization on molecular biology/genetics and other related fields Environmental Safety- Specialization on environmental science, ecology, environmental chemistry/toxicology, plant breeding/population genetics and entomology or plant pathology and other related fields

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For stacked trait product application



STRP with specialization on agriculture, molecular biology, plant breeding or genetics will evaluate the gene interaction of the resulting gene products and other related fields.

2. The members of the BPI Biotech Core Team (BCT) shall select the STRP members following the process stated below:
 - a. A list of STRP members with corresponding areas of specialization shall be provided by BPI Biotech Secretariat.
 - b. From the list, each BPI BCT member shall choose and vote for a qualified STRP to assess the specific application, based on their expertise.
 - c. After the selection, the secretariat shall consolidate the votes for the chosen STRP members who will evaluate the application.
 - d. After the selection, the secretariat shall consolidate the votes, those STRPs with the highest number of votes based on their specialization will be selected to assess the application. However, in cases where the selected STRP is not available, the next STRP with the highest number of votes will be chosen.

3. The Secretariat shall finalize the list of chosen STRP within five days upon receipt of the complete application requirements and inform the members of the BPI BCT on the said list.

This guideline aims to provide a clear and transparent process for the selection of STRP members for assessment of a specific application.

This memorandum shall take effect immediately.


GEORGE Y. CULASTE, PhD.
Director 

October 19, 2020

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