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**MEMORANDUM ORDER**

No. 152  
 Series of 2007

**SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (STRP)**

The Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No. 8, Sections 8, 10 and 12 provides for the creation of a Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) who shall assist the Bureau of Plant Industry in the risk assessment of plants and plant products derived from modern biotechnology. The STRP shall be composed of at least three (3) reputable and independent scientists who shall not be employees of the Department and who have the relevant professional background necessary to evaluate the potential risks of the proposed activity to human health and the environment based on available scientific and technical information.

The process of application would involve 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. There are eighty (80) scientists in the list of STRP from where the BPI will select the STRP for a particular application.

The procedure for selection of STRP shall be as follows:

1. The Biotech Secretariat shall determine the required number and specialization of the STRP based on the following criteria:

A. Number of STRP members needed to evaluate the application

For single event application

<b>Application</b>	<b>Number of STRP members</b>
For Field testing	3
For Direct use	3
For Propagation	3
For Renewal	3

For stacked trait product application

<b>Application</b>	<b>Number of STRP members</b>
For Field testing	2
For Direct use	1
For Propagation	1
For Renewal	1

B. STRP fields of specialization to evaluate the application

For single event application

<b>Application</b>	<b>Specialization</b>
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For Field testing	Background on agriculture, plant breeding/genetics, biology, environmental science, ecology, physiology, biochemistry
For Direct use	Food Safety - Specialization on microbiology, immunology, food and nutrition, cell and molecular biology, medicine and public health  Feed Safety – Specialization on animal science (feeds, nutrition, physiology) and veterinary medicine  Molecular - Specialization on molecular biology/genetics
For Propagation	Food Safety - Specialization on microbiology, immunology, food and nutrition, cell and molecular biology, medicine and public health  Feed Safety – Specialization on animal science (feeds, nutrition, physiology) and veterinary medicine  Environmental Safety- Specialization on environmental science, ecology, environmental chemistry/toxicology, plant breeding/population genetics and entomology or plant pathology

For stacked trait product application

STRP with specialization on agriculture, molecular biology, plant breeding or genetics to evaluate the gene interaction of the resulting gene products.

2. The members of the Biotech Core Team (BCT) shall select the STRP members based on the following:
  - a. The BPI Biotech Secretariat lists down the STRP members with specific areas of specialization.
  - b. From the list provided, each BCT member has to choose the qualified STRP to assess the specific application.
  - c. After the selection, the secretariat consolidates the chosen STRP members who will evaluate the application.
  - d. Those STRP on their specific areas of concern with highest number of votes will be selected as members. However in case the STRP member with highest number of votes is not available, the 2<sup>nd</sup> in rank will be chosen.
  
3. The secretariat will inform the members of the BCT on the selected STRP.

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

This memorandum shall take effect immediately.

  
**JOEL S. RUDINAS, CESO IV**  
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