



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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SPECIAL ORDER

No. 1859

Series of 2024

**SUBJECT: RECONSTITUTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-
BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (DA-BC)**

In view of the new thrusts and direction on agricultural biotechnology of the Department and to further strengthen the committee, the Biosafety Committee (BC) is hereby reconstituted and shall be composed of the following members:

I. COMPOSITION OF THE DA-BC

Chairperson : **KAREN KRISTINE A. ROSCOM, PFT, PhD**
OIC, Director, Policy Research Service (PRS)

Vice Chairperson : **ERNELEA P. CAO, PhD**
University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD)

Members : **LENY R. GALVEZ, PhD**
DA-Philippine Fiber Industry Development
Authority (PhilFIDA)

NORVIE L. MANIGBAS, PhD
DA-Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice)

RITA P. LAUDE, PhD
UP Los Baños (UPLB)

MERLYN S. MENDIORO, PhD
UPLB

NERI O. CAMITAN
DA-Food Development Center (FDC)

GERONIMA P. EUSEBIO
DA-Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)

ELIJAH M. AVANTE - Lead
CAREN G. PEÑASO - Alternate
DA- Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)

MARIBEL M. QUERIJERO - Lead
FELIONA B. ALIP - Alternate
SHARMAINE D. TECSON - Alternate
DA-Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA)

JOSELITO R. SOMGA, PhD - Lead
SONIA S. SOMGA, PhD - Alternate
JOSEPH ADRIAN G. LOJA, PhD - Alternate
DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)

Duties and Responsibilities of BC:

1. Evaluate applications of field trial, food and feed or for processing, and commercial propagation of regulated articles, in accordance with the provisions of DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG Joint Department Circular No. 1, Series of 2021 (JDC 01-2021);
2. Evaluate the composition of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) of applicants in relation to their application for field trial;
3. Designate two representatives who will actively participate in the meetings of the Joint Assessment Group (JAG), together with the DA-BC Chairperson;
4. Conduct regular review of reports on the management measures and compliance of the biosafety permit holders with the permit conditions in accordance with the JDC 01-2021; and
5. Perform other functions deemed necessary.

II. SECRETARIAT

Head Secretariat : **TONI MARCEL S. RIMANDO**
DA-PRS Food, Agriculture, and Fisheries Policy Division
(FAFPD)

Members : **JOSHUA ISRAEL V. SUMAGUE**
JHEAN LAILA A. SINFUEGO
SERGIO MIGUEL A. VILLENA
DA-PRS FAFPD

Duties and Responsibilities of the Secretariat:

1. Provide administrative and technical support to the DA-BC in the performance of its functions;
2. Coordinate with the DA-BC members and provide assistance in the implementation of agreements emanating from the meetings; and
3. Perform other functions relevant to the implementation of JDC 01-2021.


III. REPORTING MECHANISM

The DA-BC shall directly report to the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and Regulations through the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Regulations.

Expenses of the members of the BC and secretariat in the performance of their duties and responsibilities in view of their designations are chargeable against the funds of their respective agencies, while expenses during meetings of the BC and payment for the risk assessment review conducted by non-DA personnel shall be chargeable against the funds of the BPI, subject to existing government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force unless revoked in writing. All orders, memoranda, and issuances inconsistent herewith are deemed revoked.

Done this 9th day of December 2024.


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary A



DA-CO-PRS-SO20241225-00064