



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
1100 Quezon City

SPECIAL ORDER

No. 303
Series of 2021

Subject : CREATION OF A TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGY AND RELATED INNOVATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

In the exigency of the service and for the smooth implementation of the following law and related issuances: (a) Republic Act No. 11032, *An Act Promoting Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Delivery of Government Services, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act no. 9485, Otherwise Known as the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007, and for Other Purposes*; (b) DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG Joint Department Circular No. 1, series of 2016, *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*; and (c) National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP) Resolution on the *Regulation of Plants and Plant Products Derived from the Use of Plant Breeding Innovations (PBIs) or New Plant Breeding Techniques (NBTs)*, a Technical Advisory Group on Modern Biotechnology and Other Innovations for Agriculture and Fisheries (TAG-MBI) is hereby created.

The composition of TAG-MBI is as follows:

Chairperson : **Dr. Saturnina Halos**, President, Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines (BCP); and Chair, DA Biotech Program Technical Committee on Biotech Research for Development


Members : **Mr. Andres Alemania**, Assistant Director for Regulations, Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI); and Chair, BPI Biotech Core Team

Dr. Claro Mingala, OIC-Deputy Executive Director for Production & Research, Philippine Carabao Center (PCC); Chief, Livestock Biotech Center; and Chair, GM Animals Regulations Technical Working Group

Dr. Ernelea Cao, Professor, Institute of Biology, University of the Philippines Diliman

Dr. Abraham Manalo, Professorial Lecturer, National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG), University of the Philippines Diliman; and Chair, DA Biotech Program Technical Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy

Atty. Edmund Jason Baranda, Intellectual Property Law Expert, and Member, DA Study Group on New Breeding Techniques


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The above-mentioned TAG-MBI members shall have the following functions:

1. Study and provide technical advice on the declared policy of the Ease of Doing Business Law, particularly on the establishment of "effective practices, aimed at efficient turnaround of the delivery of government services ... that will reduce red tape and expedite business and nonbusiness related transactions in government" as this relates to the basic requirement for strong science-based regulation of products of modern biotechnology in the country
2. Provide technical advice on formulation of guidelines for the implementation of NCBP Resolution on New Plant Breeding Techniques (NBTs), including the evaluation and monitoring of products of plant breeding innovations
3. Scan the technology horizon and recommend policies for the safe and responsible use of new and emerging products and processes of modern biotechnology and related innovations in agriculture and fisheries, including the use of animal and fisheries biotechnology, precision agriculture, genome editing, digital sequence information, and synthetic biology
4. Review, monitor the implementation of, and provide policy advice on the regulations and acquisition of modern biotechnology products and these other innovations, including the review of contracts pertaining to intellectual property rights in the acquisition of products of modern biotechnology and other related innovations
5. Invite other experts, on a case-by-case basis, from DA biotech centers and other relevant institutions as resource persons or interim members


The DA Biotechnology Program Office (DA BPO) shall serve as the Secretariat of the TAG-MBI. The advisory group shall report to the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning.

Members of the TAG-MBI who are not employees of the Department are entitled to honoraria charged against the DA Biotech Program funds. Members, including those from the Department, are entitled to travel allowance, per diems, and other incidental expenses that may be incurred in the performance of their functions, duties, and responsibilities in view of the designation charged against the DA Biotech Program funds.

All officials and employees of the Department including the Bureaus, attached agencies and corporations, Service Units and Regional Field Offices are hereby advised of this designation and directed to give their full support and cooperation to the members of the TAG-MBI in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

This order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until revoked.

Done this 29th day of April 2021.


WILLIAM D. DAR, PhD
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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