



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

Special Order

No. 396

Series of 2023

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

Pursuant to the provisions of Article III (Administrative Framework), Section 5 of the DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG Joint Department Circular No. 1, series 2021 (JDC 01-2021): 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, the DA-BC is hereby constituted.

1. Composition

The DA-BC shall be composed of the following:

Chairperson:

Karen Kristine A. Roscom, PhD

Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards
(BAFS)

Vice-Chairperson:

Ernelea P. Cao, PhD

University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman

Members:

Arlene Asteria V. Vytiaco, DVM

Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)

Alternates: Eufrecina L. Estanislao
Elijah M. Avante

Leny R. Galvez, PhD

Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority
(PhilFIDA)

Norvie L. Manigbas, PhD

Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice)

Rita P. Laude, PhD

UP Los Baños (UPLB)

Merlyn S. Mendioro, PhD

UPLB

Geronima P. Eusebio

Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)

Maribel M. Querijero

Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA)

Alternates: Feliona B. Alip

Sharmaine D. Tecson

Neri O. Camitan

Food Development Center (FDC)

Observer:

DA Policy Research Service (PRS)

Secretariat:

BAFS – Standards Research Division (SRD)

BPI

2. Terms of Reference

2.1 The DA-BC shall:

1. Evaluate applications for field trial, food and feed or for processing, and commercial propagation of regulated articles, in accordance with the provisions of the 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.
5. Perform other functions deemed necessary.

2.2 The DA PRS representative shall report to their Service Director on any policy issues that may arise during the meetings of the DA-BC, and perform other tasks as needed.

2.3 The DA-BC Secretariat shall:

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.
3. Perform other functions relevant to the implementation of JDC 01-2021.

3. Reporting Mechanism

The DA-BC shall directly report to the Office of the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and Regulations.

All expenses of the individual members in the exercise of their functions shall be charged to the funds of their respective agencies while expenses for the DA-BC meetings and payment for the risk assessment review conducted by non-DA personnel shall be charged against the funds of the BPI, subject to availability of funds and the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

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

Done this 4th day of April 2023.


DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
Senior Undersecretary



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