



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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Philippines

Biotechnology

Biotechnology Steering Committee Created 2000

Approved by:

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U.S. Embassy

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Report Highlights:

Special Order No. 355 of the Department of Agriculture (DA) creating a Steering Committee of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Biotechnology Program was issued last June 30. The order is consistent with an earlier DA-USDA Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the implementation of the country's biotechnology program.

Includes PSD changes: No

Includes Trade Matrix: No

Unscheduled Report

Manila [RP1], RP

Agriculture Secretary Edgardo J. Angara issued Special Order No.355 last June 30 creating a Steering Committee for the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries Biotechnology Program. This is in line with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed last June between the Department of Agriculture (DA) and USDA. The composition of the Steering Committee is:

Chair: Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, Arsenio Balisacan

Vice-Chair: Assistant Secretary for Legislative, Liason and Legal Affairs,
Ma. Celia Fernandez

Members: Director Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Eliseo Ponce
Chancellor, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Emerlinda Roman
Chancellor, University of the Philippines U.P. Los Banos, Wilfredo David
President, National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST),
Perla D. Santos Ocampo
Executive Director, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and
Natural Resources Research & Development (PCARRD), Patricio Faylon
Private Sector Representative, President, Biotechnology Association of the
Philippines, Benigno D. Peczon

According to the Special Order, the Steering Committee shall:

1. Provide overall direction for the conduct of projects and activities to be implemented under the Program.
2. Create the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and supervise/approve all its activities which include the establishment of operational guidelines on the management , coordination, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the different components of the Program;
3. Regularly update the Secretary on the progress of the Program;
4. Perform other related tasks as maybe necessary for the successful implementation of the Program.

The Order directs the Steering Committee to create the PIU not later than 60 days from the issuance hereof and took effect immediately.

Post considers this development a significant step which provides a venue for implementing a comprehensive biotechnology program in the Philippines. This committee is now working with the technical staff on the commercialization guidelines.