

Decision for the Safety Assessment of
SYNGENTA's Corn Bt 176 (Insect-protected Corn)
For Renewal for Direct use as Food and Feed, or for Processing

Syngenta Philippines, Inc. submitted an application to renew Corn Bt 176 for Direct Use as Food and Feed, or for Processing to the Bureau of Plant Industry on July 31, 2008. Syngenta Phils. Inc. has provided latest scientific studies in support of the safety claims to renew the biosafety permit for direct use as food and feed or for processing. A dossier of relevant scientific studies on the regulated article of Corn Bt 176 and other related information was required to be submitted. The Scientific Technical Review Panel (STRP) reviewed all the document submissions to determine the safety of the regulated article on human and animal health.

The petitioner/applicant published the petition notice of the application on two nationally circulated newspapers- Manila Standard and Manila Times on September 12, 2008 and September 15, 2008 respectively. The publication was made to solicit public comments. The Bureau of Plant Industry received no comment on the petition during the 15-day comment period.

After reviewing the scientific data and information relevant to the application of Syngenta Phils. Inc., the Scientific Technical Review Panel concluded that Corn Event 176 and all progenies derived from crosses of the product with any conventionally-bred corn, and corn containing approved-biotech events for direct use as food and feed or for processing is as safe and substantially equivalent to its unmodified counterpart, and was therefore recommended for approval for the renewal of its Biosafety permit for direct use as food and feed or for processing. The BPI Biotechnology Core Team in consultation with the Department of Agriculture-Biotechnology Advisory Team reviewed the results of the assessment of the STRP. The results of the final review concluded the safety of Corn Bt 176 for direct use as food and feed, or for processing.

A biosafety permit renewal for Corn Bt 176 and all progenies derived from crosses of the product with any conventionally-bred corn and corn containing approved-biotech events for direct use as food, feed or for processing was issued to Syngenta Phils. Inc. on October 24, 2008. The biosafety permit provides that "Insect-protected Bt 176 Corn is as safe for human food, animal feed and for processing as its conventional counterparts". The approval, however does not include cultivation of Insect-protected Corn Bt 176 in the Philippines. Corn Bt 176 will be included in the Approval Registry being prepared by the Department of Agriculture.

Syngenta Phils. Inc. informed the public of this approval by way of publishing in Manila Bulletin on November 7, 2008 that imports of this product is covered by conditions for approval as provided in Department of Agriculture Memorandum Circular No. 8, Series of 2003.