



Agricultural Biological Products Working Group

Terms of Reference

- Serve as a specialist/focus group for Agricultural Biological products (Biopesticides) within the APVMA;
- Serve as the primary point of contact for enquires and pre-submission interaction for prospective applicants and others on Agricultural Biological products;
- Review and update current APVMA guidance documents on Agricultural Biological products;
- Monitor and maintain a brief on current and emerging issues associated with Agricultural Biological products;
- Conduct associated project work as required.

Definition of Agricultural Biological Product:

For the purposes of these Terms of Reference, the same definition as it is used in the APVMA document “Guidelines for the Registration of Biological Agricultural Products” (Biologicals Guideline) applies. The applicable definition is quoted below.

“A biological chemical product is an agricultural chemical product where the active constituent comprises or is derived from a living organism (plant, animal, micro-organism, etc.), with or without modification. This includes many products that are commonly referred to as ‘botanicals’, ‘organics’ or ‘herbals’ (where the active constituent comprises an extract derived from an organism rather than the whole organism, it may be accompanied by unidentified components).”

The Biologicals Guideline mentions four major groups of biological products:

- Group 1: biological chemicals (e.g. pheromones, hormones, growth regulators, enzymes and vitamins)
- Group 2: plant and other extracts (e.g. plant extracts, oils)
- Group 3: microbial agents (e.g. bacteria, fungi, viruses, protozoa)
- Group 4: other living organisms (e.g. microscopic insects, plants and animals plus some organisms that have been genetically modified).

Each of these groups of biological products is described in detail in Section 3 of the Biologicals Guideline. The Biologicals Guideline is found at www.apvma.gov.au.

Representation of working group

Members of this group are drawn mostly but not exclusively from within the Pesticides Program. The group will be led by the Principal Evaluator, Pesticides, with a senior officer at EL1 or above serving as alternate leader when necessary.

Reporting structure

Decision-making, and reporting will be using the existing internal pathways/mechanisms.

Consultation will be using existing internal (APVMA intranet, Screening Technical Meeting and Pesticides Managers Meeting and EMM) and external (ILC, RLC, APVMA Website) pathways and mechanisms.

Meeting Frequency

The Biopesticides working group shall meet quarterly unless required otherwise.

Note: For any enquiries about the APVMA Biopesticides Group or these Terms of Reference, please contact:

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