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| DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION | | Number: 1043-007 |
| SUBJECT: National Genetic Resource Advisory Council | DATE: March 22, 1999 | |
| | OPI: Agricultural Research Service | |

1 PURPOSE

a The National Genetic Resources Advisory Council (NGRAC) is hereby reestablished. The objectives of the Council are to advise the Secretary of Agriculture and Director of the National Genetic Resources Program (NGRP) on the activities, policies, and operation of the NGRP.

b The task of the Council is to advise on acquisition, preservation, and distribution of genetic resources of life forms important to American agriculture: plants, forest species, animals, aquatics, insects, and microbes. These resources are essential to address adequately current and future problems. The Council is also to advise on research needs for genetic resources, on coordination of the NGRP with similar domestic activities, and on policies on international distribution and exchange of genetic resources.

2 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/CANCELLATION

a The NGRAC is a statutory council established by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. This regulation will expire 2 years after date of filing.

b Departmental Regulation 1043-7, dated July 27, 1994, is hereby superseded.

c The Council may appoint such subcommittees as it deems necessary to carry out the functions of the Council. Subcommittees will be expected to provide supporting advice on components of the NGRP.

3 OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP

a The Council is to be composed of not more than nine members appointed by the Secretary and the following ex officio members: the Director (NGRP), the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, the Director of the National Agricultural Library, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Secretary of Energy, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and may include other Federal members as necessary.

b Two-thirds of the appointed members will be from the scientific disciplines relevant to the NGRP, including agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, natural resource sciences, health sciences, and nutritional sciences. One-third of the appointed members will be from the general public, including leaders in fields of public policy, trade, international development, law, or management.

c Appointed members shall serve no more than 4 years each, with partial rotation of membership being practiced every 2 years to provide for continuity and broad representation on the Council.

d The Secretary of Agriculture shall select as chairperson of the Council one of the appointed members. The term of the chairperson shall be 2 years.

e Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the NGRAC. To ensure that the recommendations of the Council have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

4 DUTIES

The duties of the NGRAC are to formulate recommendations on actions and policies for the collection, maintenance, and utilization of genetic resources; to make recommendations for coordination of genetic resources plans of several domestic and international organizations; and to advise the Secretary and the Director of new and innovative approaches to genetic resources conservation.

5 ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COST

Members of the NGRAC and its subcommittees shall serve without pay, but with reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem for attendance at Council and subcommittee functions. Annual operating costs are estimated at \$25,000 and 0.02 staff years.

6 NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Council will plan to meet at least two times each fiscal year. All meetings will be open to the public.

7 REPORTS/SUPPORT

a Support for the National Genetic Resources Advisory Council will be provided by the Agricultural Research Service.

b The Council may prepare such reports as it deems appropriate to the Secretary of Agriculture through the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.