

## Project 3.2.3 Monitoring Progress

### Purpose

The purpose of evaluation is to determine the effectiveness of a procedure, process, or product. Well-designed evaluations also provide information that can help explain observed findings. The role evaluation plays will vary depending on the timing, the specific questions addressed, and the resources available. It is best not to think of evaluation as an event, but as a process. The goal of evaluation is to provide an ongoing source of information to aid decision-making at various steps along the way.

To evaluate progress, you should have goals. Goals should be written using the SMART acronym. SMART goals are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-framed. Having specific and measurable goals with time frames for completion will assist in evaluating progress of your research.

Based on what you now know about your project and the plans you have developed, what are your research goals? How will you know if or when you have achieved those goals? How will you ensure the quality, safety, and validity of your research project?

### Materials

#### Per pair of students:

- Computer with Internet access and word processing

#### Per student:

- Pencil
- *Agriscience Notebook*

### Procedure

Work with your partner to develop an evaluation plan to monitor progress of your project. Once this plan is in place, you will begin to conduct your research project.

1. Review your research plans, including the materials, procedures, and data collection tools, to identify points where you can monitor the progress of your research.
2. Questions to ask while planning may include the following.
  - Am I on target to complete research in a timely fashion?
  - Am I collecting data at the correct points and times?
  - How will I know if my project is on target to be successful?
  - Does your solution proposal need to be adjusted or modified according to your instructions, resources, professional network feedback, or peer reviews?
3. Write SMART goals for your research in the space provided on the *Project 3.2.3 Checksheet*.
4. Use your goals to devise an evaluation plan following the points provided on the checksheet.
5. Trade your plan with another group to review and provide feedback. Use *Project 3.2.3 Evaluation Rubric* while reviewing evaluation plans.
6. After feedback and approval has been received, make necessary adjustments to your instructions.
7. Print three copies of your plan and save in your electronic storage. Submit one copy to your teacher and place the remaining copies in your and your partner's portfolios.

## Conclusion

1. How are goals and evaluation plans related?  
*Goals keep a researcher on task and are evaluated throughout the project.*
8. How does evaluation help researchers?  
*Evaluation ensures that the study is affective and relevant.*
9. What items are evaluated during research and development?  
*Procedure, process, and product are all evaluated.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Project 3.2.3 Checksheet

**Table 1. SMART Goals**

<b>S M A R T</b>	1. The study will be affective and more than 90% of surveys will be returned.
	10. The project will be completed within the time frame allotted in the course.
	11. The results will be informative and the individuals involved will be educated. The results are to be organized in a chart and graph display.

Criteria	Comments	Completion Target Date	Date completed, Initials
How will evaluations be performed? What tools will be used?	Surveys will be given to collect data and evaluated by audience.		
Who will evaluate and ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality?</li> <li>• Detail?</li> <li>• Safety?</li> <li>• Data?</li> </ul>	Classmates and instructors will evaluate the effectiveness of the project.		
When will evaluations take place? Where will these checkpoints be located in the step-by-step instructions?	Evaluations take place throughout the study and at completion.		
How will be evaluations be collected and recorded?	Evaluations are done at checkpoints as to keep the researcher on task.		
Why did your group decide to evaluate the item(s) you chose?	GMO's are a growing concern and people should be educated about them.		
Share your evaluation plan with another group for peer review and feedback.			
Make adjustments according to feedback.			
Submit your evaluation plan to your teacher for approval.			
Make any final adjustments to the evaluation plan. Add evaluative processes to your step-by-step instructions.			