

Technical Evidence Review Workbook

A decision-oriented workflow for screening, extracting and synthesizing scientific evidence.

What this tool is for

Use this workbook for focused technical reviews where the output must support a real decision rather than merely summarize literature.

Workbook structure

- Protocol: define the decision question, population/system, intervention, comparator, outcomes and search boundaries.
- Screening: record candidate sources and apply inclusion/exclusion decisions consistently.
- Extraction: capture comparable technical information, outcomes, statistical support, limitations, relevance and study quality.
- Synthesis: convert the evidence into a bottom-line conclusion, explicit uncertainties and a recommended next step.

Decision question first

A strong review starts with a specific decision question. For example: 'Does technology X provide sufficiently consistent control of pest Y in protected tomato systems to justify a commercial validation trial?' This is more useful than a broad topic such as 'Review technology X.'

Evidence confidence

Score directness, consistency, study quality, precision and applicability from 1 to 5. Use the average as a structured summary, then explain the rationale in prose. The numerical confidence score should never replace the documented reasoning.

Practical synthesis

Separate what the evidence supports from what it does not support. Highlight conflicting findings and whether they can be explained by crop, pest stage, formulation, dose, environment or study design. End with an actionable next step.

Dimension	High confidence	Warning signs
Directness	Same crop/pest/system and relevant intervention	Surrogate species or distant production system
Consistency	Similar direction across credible studies	Large unexplained disagreement
Quality	Appropriate design, replication and reporting	Weak controls, unclear methods or selective reporting
Applicability	Operationally relevant conditions	Conditions unlike intended use

Use note: This toolkit supports structured professional judgment. It does not replace pesticide labels, local regulations, regulatory approvals, safety requirements, or project-specific expert review.

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