

14 September 2017

Application Number A1138
Proposal for Food derived from Provitamin A Rice Line GR2E

We write in support of the draft variation to Schedule 26 that includes a reference to food derived from provitamin A rice line GR2E, which appeared for public comment on the FSANZ website on 3 August 2017.

In many countries, Vitamin A deficiency (VAD) remains a serious cause of mortality and morbidity, including blindness, for young children, despite current interventions and improving living standards. The deficiency is a nutritionally acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and the most significant cause of under 5 years child mortality as well as the most important cause of childhood blindness. VAD afflicts about 19 million pregnant women and 190 million pre-school age children, mostly in Southeast Asia and Africa.

Provitamin A GR2E Rice, also known as Golden Rice, has the proven capacity to provide an additional intervention to combat vitamin A deficiency, with minimal cultural change. Every grain of Golden Rice is labelled with its colour, instantly 'readable' by any level of literacy in any language.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Rhonda Hall.

Rhonda Hall
Territory Seed Regulatory Lead, Australasia
on behalf of Syngenta Australia