

From: David-Bertioli [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 13 September 2017 4:42 AM
To: submissions
Subject: Golden Rice – Application A1138

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Dear Food Standards Australia New Zealand,

With this email I would like to support the release of Golden Rice. My support is based on Golden Rice having the potential to help improve nutrition and improve people's lives, whilst, at the same time having no plausible risks to human or animal health or the environment.

I understand that FSANZ's assessment determined there were no health and safety issues relating to this rice, and this position is supported by many National Academies of Science and Medicine all over the world. As outlined in a letter signed by more than 100 Nobel Laureates

Golden Rice "has the potential to reduce or eliminate much of the death and disease caused by a vitamin A deficiency (VAD), which has the greatest impact on the poorest people in Africa and Southeast Asia"

and

"Scientific and regulatory agencies around the world have repeatedly and consistently found crops and foods improved through biotechnology to be as safe as, if not safer than those derived from any other method of production. There has never been a single confirmed case of a negative health outcome for humans or animals from their consumption."

In this situation the "Precautionary Principle" is simply not justifiable because imagined risks would be given priority over real potential for life-changing benefit. It seems to me that any society that applies the Precautionary Principle in these circumstances will be fossilized and unable to use any form of technology to help better its people's lives or our environment.

Arguments against Golden Rice are based on logical fallacies, extremist ideologies, or misunderstandings. It is repugnant to see the well-nourished try to deny the possibility of real benefit to those less fortunate than themselves. As has been outlined by Sir Richard Roberts (1993 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine), there is a moral imperative for Golden Rice to be used. The use of Golden Rice does not, and should not, preclude the use of other measures to reduce vitamin A sufficiency; in the face of human misery who could oppose such things and live with themselves?

With many thanks for your consideration,

yours faithfully,

David Bertioli

Visiting Scientist University of Georgia, USA Professor University of Brasilia, Brazil