

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

Slow Food in Australia objects to the approval by FZANS of the application from IRRI (Philippines) for the approval for the importation of GR2E Golden Rice into the Australian Market.

As Australian laws determine the growing of Genetically Modified crops, we feel that this is a sinister way to allow the importation of genetically modified rice into the Australian market. Due to the lack of proper labelling laws for GM processed foods, consumers in Australia would be completely unaware of the inclusion of flour, bran or husks that are part of manufactured foods from processed golden rice from overseas. Further, it is possible that this product could end up in animal feed and enter the human food chain with no consumer awareness.

We reject IRRI's application for the increase in production of Golden rice as a way of addressing malnutrition, especially with the addition of the ProvitaminA. A recent proof-of-concept experiment reports expressing three micronutrients in a rice plant, with more iron, zinc and beta-carotene in the endosperm of the grain than conventional varieties but, again, this would not help rice eaters to access their rights to a suite of fresh foods for good health.

Rice and grain farmers in the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and others already grow traditional rice varieties that are adapted to their regions, are nutritionally diverse and fulfil the needs for food security and human health.

Slow Food Australia reject the need for the approval of this application.

Amorelle Dempster.,

Australian Councillor, Slow Food International

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