Global regulatory updates

Leading regulatory agencies worldwide concur that Golden Rice is as safe and nutritious as conventional rice with the added benefit of increased beta-carotene content in the rice grain.

“No potential public health and safety concerns have been identified in the assessment of GR2E. On the basis of the data provided in the present Application, and other available information, food derived from GR2E is considered to be as safe for human consumption as food derived from conventional rice varieties.”


“The changes made in this rice variety did not pose a greater risk to human health than rice varieties currently available on the Canadian market. In addition, Health Canada also concluded that GR2E would have no impact on allergies, and that there were no differences in the nutritional value of GR2E compared to other traditional rice varieties available for consumption except for increased levels of provitamin A.”

- Health Canada. Food and Nutrition -Genetically Modified (GM) Foods and Other Novel Foods -Approved Products, 16 March 2018

In official correspondence dated 24 May 2018, the United States Food and Drug Administration concurred with IRRI’s assessment regarding the safety and nutrition of Golden Rice.

Regulatory application in the Philippines and next steps

IRRI and the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) are committed to carry out the completion of Golden Rice development and satisfy all regulatory requirements under the Joint Department Circular No. 1, series of 2016 to have well-documented, science-based evidence on the efficacy and safety of Golden Rice.

- Proposal for “Direct use in food and feed, or for processing,” jointly filed by PhilRice and IRRI (1 March 2017)
- Proposal for “Field trial to generate data for environmental biosafety risk assessment of beta-carotene enriched Golden Rice Event GR2E in the Philippines” filed by PhilRice (28 February 2017)

After Golden Rice receives all the required approvals for food, feed, and cultivation and is found to be efficacious, a sustainable delivery program will ensure that Golden Rice is acceptable and accessible to those most in need.

Golden Rice is a new type of rice that contains beta-carotene, a source of vitamin A. IRRI and its partners are developing Golden Rice as a complementary, food-based solution to existing interventions that address vitamin A deficiency.
The Road to Golden Rice

It is IRRI’s ethical responsibility, as the developers of Golden Rice, to assure the public that it is as safe to eat as conventional rice, but with the added nutritional benefit of beta-carotene.