

## **True Rice Solutions A Civil Society Declaration**

The genetic engineering (GE) Industry is promoting their products as solutions to global problems such as hunger and malnutrition more aggressively than ever before. The latest of these marketing efforts include new -propaganda on Golden Rice; a GE rice they claim will help people overcome vitamin A deficiency.

In reality, this techno-fix is far from able to address a serious problem that affects millions of people worldwide. What is worse, these efforts to market yet another GE myth serve only to distract public attention away from all real, sustainable solutions that exist.

We, the organisations signing this declaration, call on the public and governments not to accept these GE Industry seeds of uncertainty and false hope, but to engage with proven and effective solutions to poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

### **We, the undersigned, are concerned that:**

- These developments of the GE Industry would further place at risk, the health, environment and livelihoods of people worldwide.
- The growing influence of transnational corporations, such as Monsanto, Bayer and Syngenta, on international agricultural production, trade and policies serves to undermine local food security and sovereignty as well as human and environmental health.
- The outrageous actions of these companies to falsely market their GE seeds as miracle cures to hunger, serve to divert much-needed attention from real, responsible solutions that exist in traditional farming and established community practices.
- These GE Industry sales tactics serve only to perpetuate the current lack of political will that is needed to prioritise and alleviate -hunger and malnutrition.

### **We believe that:**

- Hunger and malnutrition are the result of social and political forces and too complex to solve with miracle cures like Golden Rice, especially when such -alleged miracle crops are clearly profit-driven.
- People around the world deserve easy access to safe, nutritious, adequate and locally produced food, and the perpetuity of these rights has to be based in the establishment of food sovereignty.
- GE crops cannot be produced or controlled in a manner that guarantees the protection of the environment or consumers from harm. As the GE Industry promotes Golden Rice as a staple food crop for millions of people, the risks that GE crops pose agricultural biodiversity and community health remain unaddressed.

### **Therefore, we call for:**

- Political initiatives that seek sustainable and responsible solutions to hunger and malnutrition, developed in collaboration with local- farming communities.
- The stringent application of the precautionary principle with GE crops, especially in countries that are important centres of biodiversity and countries where resources or infrastructure unavailable to trace and monitor the contamination of GE crops.
- The International community to help overcome hunger and malnutrition by assisting and empowering farmers and farm workers to develop food sovereignty and food security through responsible policies, practices and the fostering of biodiversity.

Greenpeace International

Other sign-ons...