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立法會
食物安全及環境衛生事務委員會
主席李華明議員

李議員：

亨氏嬰兒米粉含有未通過安全評估基因改造成分的補充資料

政府於昨天提交予 貴會的討論文件中指出，就亨氏嬰兒米粉事件，「直至目前為止，並沒有證據顯示有關公司採用未通過安全評估的基因改造原料。」本會欲就此 向貴會進一步提供補充資料。

本會於 4 月 27 日來函時提供的獨立實驗室測試報告副本中顯示，德國基因時代公司(GeneScan Analytics GmbH)在香港和北京出售的亨氏嬰兒米粉樣本出檢出 BT 63-Rice 成分。BT 63-Rice 是綠色和平 2005 年於武漢和廣州發現非法流出市場的基因改造稻米品種，至今尚未得國家農業部頒發農業轉基因生物安全證書，情況等同於未獲內地政府批准推出市場。湖北省農業廳亦於去年 8 月表示已處罰三家非法推出有關基因改造稻米種子的種子公司。

隨附基因時代公司於去年 8 月公布研發有關測試的新聞稿，和路透社於去年 11 月兩篇有關國家農業部未批准任何一種基因改造稻米推出市場的報道，以供參考。

馮家強

綠色和平食物安全項目主任
馮家強 謹啓
2006 年 5 月 4 日

附件

Detection of genetically modified insect resistant rice originating from China.

GeneScan 10.8.05

Recent findings suggest that in China genetically modified (GM) insect resistant rice is being grown by farmers despite a lack of official approval.

Said rice variety is genetically modified to convey insect resistance by insertion of a *Bacillus thuringiensis* insecticidal toxin gene. It was initially found in the Hubei province but also in wholesale in Guangzhou. As the GM rice is not approved by the Chinese government, it is not marketable neither in China nor in foreign countries.

Since information regarding Chinese GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) field trials and petitions for approval of GMOs in China is difficult to access, detection of such GMOs remains particularly challenging. Nevertheless Eurofins|GeneScan succeeded to develop and establish a reliable and specific test which enables our laboratories to identify this Chinese GMO rice variety in a reliable and unambiguous manner.

For further information please contact us at

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China committee not recommending GMO rice

By Nao Nakanishi / Reuters, 28 November, 2005

HONG KONG - A Chinese government committee has failed to reach a consensus on the safety of genetically modified rice, putting off the world's first large-scale production of the transgenic grain for human consumption.

Committee members told Reuters on Monday the biosafety committee was asking for more data to prove the safety of genetically modified (GMO) rice before recommending that Beijing approve its use.

"There has been no safety agreement for commercial release," said Lu Baorong of Shanghai Fudan University, who is one of 74 members of the committee, which comes under the ministry of agriculture.

"Next year, if they provide sufficient safety information, we will assess again," said Lu, also a deputy director at the Institute of Biodiversity Science.

An official from the agriculture ministry's GMO office declined to give details of the three-day meeting that ended on Friday, saying that it was collecting expert views on GMO rice.

Activists and scientists have said China, the world's top rice consumer and producer, is reining in plans to introduce GMO rice as concerns mount over safety.

The government has added more food and environment safety experts to the new committee, which they said had made it more difficult to reach a consensus on GMO rice.

Beijing was caught off guard in April when environment group Greenpeace said unapproved GMO rice was on sale in markets in the central province of Hubei, one of China's major rice producers. Greenpeace also reported sales in the southern province of Guangdong in June.

Early this year China, already the world's largest grower of insect resistant GMO cotton, looked set to approve commercialization of a GMO rice known as Xa21 that includes a gene from an African wild rice.

Yet Beijing has not given the green light to the disease resistant Xa21 rice.

China has been conducting field trials on four varieties of GMO rice, including Bt rice, which has a gene that makes it toxic to pests, the insect resistant CpTI and Bt/CpTI rice.

"We are just waiting," said Jia Shirong, a professor from the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing, whose team had applied for the commercial release of Xa21 rice after more than eight years of study and field trials.

"We have submitted additional data... Whether it will be approved for commercialization depends on the government. I don't know when it will happen," the professor told Reuters.

China slows GMO rice plan as concerns mount

23 November 2005

HONG KONG: China is applying the brakes to its plan to produce the world's first genetically modified rice for human consumption as concerns mount over safety, especially with reports that illegal transgenic rice is already being sold in some provinces.

Scientists and activists say that China's biosafety committee is unlikely to reach a consensus at a meeting this week on commercialisation of genetically modified, or GMO, rice for the world's biggest producer and consumer of the grain.

The government has added more food and environment safety experts to the committee, which is to examine and make recommendation to Beijing on four varieties of insect or disease resistant GMO rice varieties in the pipeline.

"I don't think they'll come to a consensus. There will be different opinions," Angus Lam, a campaigner from Greenpeace in China, told Reuters. "There has been some setback for GMO rice. It's not moving as fast as we expected."

Early this year China, already the leading producer of GMO cotton, looked set to approve commercialisation of a GMO rice, which would lead to the release of the world's first major transgenic crop for direct human consumption.

Yet so far, Beijing has not given the green light to the disease resistant Xa21 rice, recommended by the committee last December. Its added gene is derived from a wild rice, which some said should help convince sceptics of its safety.

"Last year the committee said yes to the Xa21 GM rice, but it was not approved by the government," said Lu Baorong, professor at Fudan University in Shanghai, one of the 74 members of the new committee, who was also a member of the previous committee.

"The safety requirement is getting tougher and tougher because of the concerns...Because rice is for food, the government really wants to make sure that they make no mistake," said the deputy director for Institute of Biodiversity Science.

Other rice varieties, which are at the advanced stage of field study, include the insect resistant rice that contains a toxic bacterial gene, the insect resistant CpTI rice with a gene from cowpea and the Bt/CpTI rice that contains both genes.

The scientists and activists said Beijing was caught off guard in April when Greenpeace announced that the unapproved GMO rice was on sale in the markets in the central province of Hubei, one of China's major rice producers.

Greenpeace also found illegal sale of the rice in the southern province of Guangdong in June, which it said showed the transgenic rice was spreading across China and could enter markets overseas.

Some of China's top trading partners, including the European Union, Japan and South Korea, expressed concern about the reports and they asked Beijing for clarification. At home, it led Guangdong to suspend rice purchases from Hubei.

"Our view is still the technology offers great potential," said Ren Wang, a Chinese scientist at International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines.

"However, these countries really need to put in place a biosafety regulatory scheme that ensures proper use of the technology. No transgenic rice should be allowed into commercial production before approval."

Now Japan tests rice and rice products from China to prevent transgenic rice from entering the country as consumers are not convinced of its safety.

Though China no longer belongs to the world's top five rice exporters, it sells rice and rice products, including organic rice, to Japan, South Korea and Africa.

Ironically, China just ratified a United Nation's protocol pledging more transparency and control over trade in GMO products.

"Domestic trade is also an issue," said Wang of the international rice institute.

"There are different views towards transgenic rice and different controlling mechanisms in different provinces."

Sze Pangcheung from Greenpeace, agreed: "If you know you have a regulatory gap and you do have market concerns...you should do something before you make the decision for commercialisation. Because once you make that, there's no way to turn back," he said.