

Bangladesh GMO Golden Rice approval was expected in November, but regulatory hurdles remain

Soon. That has long been scientists' answer when asked about the approval of [Golden Rice](#), a genetically modified (GM) crop that could help prevent childhood blindness and deaths in the developing world.

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The Golden Rice under review in Bangladesh was created at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños, Philippines. Researchers bred the beta-carotene genes into a rice variety named dhan 29 In tests of dhan 29 Golden Rice at multiple locations, researchers at the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) in Gazipur found no new farming challenges and no significant differences in quality—except for the presence of vitamin A.

BRRI submitted data to the Bangladeshi Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change in November 2017. The Biosafety Core Committee, a group of eight officials and scientists, has since been reviewing environmental risks, such as the plant's potential to become a weed, as well as food safety. The review is nearing completion; on 28 October, the Dhaka Tribune reported that a decision would be made by 15 November.

That date has come and gone; the holdup appears to be due to the death of a committee member. But a source familiar with the committee's deliberations says some members remain skeptical of Golden Rice

Read full, original article: [Bangladesh could be the first to cultivate Golden Rice, genetically altered to fight blindness](#)