

## Will approval of vitamin A-enhanced Golden Rice in the Philippines open floodgates for other GM biofortified crops and foods?

After decades in development, the Philippines became the first country on July 21st of this year to formally [approve the commercial propagation](#) of [genetically enhanced] golden rice.

Follow the latest news and policy debates on sustainable agriculture, biomedicine, and other 'disruptive' innovations. Subscribe to our newsletter.

[SIGN UP](#)

When it comes to solving malnutrition in developing nations, it seems clear that biofortification efforts like golden rice can help reduce the health issues that come from lack of micronutrients. The effort required is also relatively low.

With Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and now [the US having declared](#) golden rice safe for consumption, it seems that at least this biofortified food source may herald the beginning of the end of malnutrition in developing countries.

Even so, unhealthy diets are a global issue, according to the [2017 Global Burden of Disease](#) (GDB) study, despite many of the people affected having ready access to the ingredients for such a healthy diet. A major issue in developed nations was for example the significant intake of sugar-sweetened beverages, along with the elevated intake of processed meat, sodium, and red meat.

It's perhaps ironic that solving particular sources of malnutrition in developing nations is as straightforward as changing to a crop like golden rice or other biofortified foods, while in richer countries the problem is behavioral and much less obviously solved.

[Read the original post](#)