

Gene-edited fungus-resistant rice variety slated for field trials, first genetically-engineered crop trial in Italy nearly 20 years

[F]or the first time in almost 20 years, a new entry appeared in the public [database](#) that lists proposals to test genetically modified plants in outdoor field trials in Italy. The request, from Vittoria Brambilla's University of Milan team, focuses on a rice edited for resistance to a fungal disease. The Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) will decide whether to permit the trial after a month-long [public consultation](#).

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Italy's temporary authorisation regime will last until the end of 2024 and is designed to bridge the gap until an anticipated revision of the EU regulatory framework on genetically modified plants. After a favourable vote by the environment committee on 24 January, the European Commission's [proposal on New Genomic Techniques \(NGTs\)](#) is now expected to go to a parliamentary vote later this year, before negotiation with member countries. It aims to make possible the study and commercial growth of specific plants, provided they are equivalent to what could be achieved through conventional breeding. According to the draft regulation, Brambilla's gene-edited rice would meet the criteria for the NGT-1 category, a classification subject to a lower regulatory threshold compared to GMOs, in terms of monitoring and labeling.

[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here](#)