

## Information about Golden Rice

**(1) Where does the term Golden Rice come from?**

The term “Golden Rice” comes from its color. Instead of being white, the grains of rice are yellow because they produce beta-carotene (also known as pro-vitamin A).

**(1) How is Golden Rice produced?**

Golden Rice has been genetically engineered to contain the genes that produce pro-vitamin A. Our bodies convert pro-vitamin A to other forms of vitamin A such as retinal, an essential component in vision.

**(2) How do we normally acquire pro-vitamin A in our diets?**

Pro-vitamin A is normally found in high quantities in yellow, orange and red vegetables, such as carrots.

**(3) Why produce Golden Rice?**

Certain populations are deficient in vitamin A because their diet lacks fresh fruits, vegetables, or other sources of vitamin A, such as eggs and liver. *According to the World Health Organization, between 1995 and 2005 there were an estimated 190 million children and 19 million pregnant women, in 122 countries affected by Vitamin A deficiency (Wikipedia). As a consequence, people suffer from problems such as night blindness or more severe forms of blindness. Blindness is most prevalent in children.*

**(4) What are some of the controversies surrounding Golden Rice (and other GM plants)?**

There is a concern that Golden Rice will easily cross with wild rice and the genes will be released into the environment. There are also other concerns, such as the fear of consuming genetically engineered foods and the stigma of big agricultural companies controlling the growth and distribution of seeds to the farmers.