

Benedict Haerlin on the Golden Rice

"In February 2001 at the BioVision Conference in Lyon , France , Benedict Haerlin, genetic engineering coordinator of Greenpeace, also backed down from the stand against GM crops. He admitted that Greenpeace would not oppose field trials of Golden Rice being developed to combat blindness in the Third World."

(Daily Telegraph, London , 10 February 2001)

But a few days later, on February 19, 2001, in a press release Benedict Haerlin has changed his mind again, streamlined to the Greenpeace politics:

<http://www.gene.ch/gentech/2001/Feb/msg00081.html>

"Clearly the industry promoting a crop such as golden rice with claims that it could save millions of lives ('Greenpeace promises not to halt trials of GM rice', 10 February) attempts to bring a moral dimension into the debate. What was made clear by me at the press conference in Lyon, but sadly not widely reported, was that there is no evidence that this invention can produce any beneficial effects. The average person would have to **consume a massive 9kg of cooked rice** per day to prevent symptoms of vitamin deficiency, a figure confirmed by the inventor of the product. The acknowledgement that we have no plans to disrupt field trials of golden rice is in no way a U-turn in our policy, but simply practical recognition of the resources we have available for our work in the Philippines. **Golden rice has not been ruled out as a target for direct action in the future.**

BENEDIKT HAERLIN Greenpeace International Genetic Engineering Campaign
Coordinator Berlin

The propaganda hoax of the 9kg rice necessary for daily consumption to avoid vitamin A-deficiency remained for years on the Greenpeace website.

The original message from the internet:

Benedikt Haerlin on Golden Rice
<http://www.gene.ch/gentech/2001/Feb/msg00081.html>
GENTECH archive

Benedikt Haerlin on Golden Rice

To: gentech@gen.free.de
Subject: **Benedikt Haerlin on Golden Rice**

From: geno@zap.a2000.nl

Date: Tue, 20 Feb 2001 10:32:36 +0100

Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII

In-reply-to: <3A920990.566D6553@icsenglish.com>

Priority: normal

Resent-From: gentech@gen.free.de

On 19 Feb 2001, at 22:07, ngin wrote:

Norfolk Genetic Information Network (ngin),

<http://members.tripod.com/~ngin>

"We already know today that most of the problems that are to be addressed via Golden Rice and other GMOs can be resolved in matter of

days, with the right political will." Hans Herren --- In case anyone was in doubt: ... The London Independent February 17, 2001, Page 2

Letter to the Editor by Benedikt Haerlin

Sir: Greenpeace is opposed to the intentional release of genetically modified organisms; that is the basis for all our campaigning in all areas of genetic engineering.

Clearly the industry promoting a crop such as golden rice with claims

that it could save millions of lives ('Greenpeace promises not to halt trials of GM rice', 10 February) attempts to bring a moral dimension into the debate. What was made clear by me at the press conference in

Lyon, but sadly not widely reported, was that there is no evidence that this invention can produce any beneficial effects. The average person would have to consume a massive 9kg of cooked rice per day to

prevent symptoms of vitamin deficiency, a figure confirmed by the inventor of the product.

The acknowledgement that we have no plans to disrupt field trials of golden rice is in no way a U-turn in our policy, but simply practical recognition of the resources we have available for our work in the Philippines. Golden rice has not been ruled out as a target for direct action in the future.

BENEDIKT HAERLIN

Greenpeace International Genetic Engineering Campaign Coordinator
Berlin