



251 Sir Frederick Banting Driveway  
Tunney's Pasture,  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

April 9, 2018

Dear Ms. Sharratt,

Thank you for your correspondence of March 20, 2018 regarding Health Canada's authorisation of Golden Rice. A copy of your correspondence was recently forwarded to the Food Directorate for direct reply.

The purpose of the food safety assessment is to ensure that products such as Golden Rice are safe for consumption if or when they become present in the Canadian food supply. Health Canada is required by law (i.e., the *Food and Drug Regulations*) to assess all novel food applications when a notification is filed with the Department.

The Department's top priority when performing these mandatory assessments is the health and safety of Canadians.

The assessment of Golden Rice determined the safety of this rice variety relative to its conventional counterparts; it did not evaluate the efficacy of Golden Rice to treat vitamin A deficiency in affected populations. Intrinsic food supplementation (i.e., biofortification) is one possible approach to address specific nutritional deficiencies that exist in certain populations. This is a subject of discussion by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) of which Health Canada is a regular participant.

Matters related to the economic, social and environmental impacts of genetically modified products in foreign countries fall outside the authority of Health Canada.

Thank you for writing.

I hope that my comments are helpful in addressing your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Karen McIntyre  
Director General, Food Directorate