



Philippine Association of Nutrition, Inc.

Supports Research on Golden Rice

Vitamin A deficiency (VAD) in the country continues to be a public health problem affecting millions of our young children despite the significant reduction of the prevalence based on the 2008 National Nutrition Survey. Poor Vitamin A status in the body weakens the immune system, which increases the risk of death from common childhood illnesses or infections among young children.

The Philippine Association of Nutrition (PAN), Inc., an association of nutrition experts, scientist, academicians and stakeholders from different disciplines supports the on-going research of Golden Rice. PAN's mission is to reduce, if not eliminate, malnutrition by promoting proper nutrition knowledge and practice and implementing research projects to support food and nutrition programs.

The PAN sincerely hope that there are no further disruptions to the completion of this important research, such as that caused by the recent militant attack on Golden Rice research fields in Bicol. The research will provide the answers on the safety, efficacy of Golden Rice. The PAN recognizes that the collaborative efforts within the on-going research are monitored by all stakeholders to assure that it follows the international and national standards considering safety to our environment and the population. Moreover, the PAN supports the quest to identify additional potential interventions that can be included in the mix of interventions that will contribute to the reduction of vitamin A deficiency and micronutrient deficiency in general. Hence, the completion of the research on Golden Rice is crucial.