

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ONGOING CONDUCT AND COMPLETION OF THE FIELD TRIAL
OF GOLDEN RICE BY THE PHILIPPINE RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

WHEREAS, Vitamin A Deficiency (VAD) is prevalent among young children and women and is one of the main causes not only of blindness but also malnutrition and mortality in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Vitamin A is an essential nutrient needed for the body's visual system, growth and development, and maintenance of a healthy immune system; such that every human requires Vitamin A for his well-being;

WHEREAS, Golden Rice is a new type of rice being developed through modern biotechnology that contains beta-carotene (a Vitamin A precursor) in the grain; and studies have shown that consuming about a cup of Golden Rice could supply half the total daily need for Vitamin A of an adult;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) is the lead agency of government developing Golden Rice; and that after due consideration of agro-climactic, scientific and favorable social factors, PhilRice has selected the Municipalities of Pili and Tigaon in Camarines Sur, Science City of Munoz in Nueva Ecija, Batac City in Ilocos Sur, and the Municipality of San Mateo in Isabela as sites for the field trials of Golden Rice;

WHEREAS, the *sanggunians* (legislative councils) of the respective local government units have favorably endorsed the conduct of field trials of Golden Rice under their jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the first-season field trials of Golden Rice have already been satisfactorily completed and the second-season field trials are currently on-going to monitor Golden Rice under strict conditions and to collect data on its agronomic performance and data and material for its food, feed and environmental safety assessment;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Farmers Advisory Board (PFAB) acts as an advisory body of the National Food Authority (NFA) at the national level and to other government agencies concerned with matters affecting grains and grains-related industries;

WHEREAS, among the important functions of PFAB are to: (a) participate and represent farmers on issues involving and affecting farmers in the grains and grains related industries, and (b) assist in the dissemination of information in the conduct of advocacy activities for DA/NFA programs intended to benefit the farmers;

NOW, THEREFORE and in consideration of the above, the Philippine Farmers Advisory Board hereby RESOLVES to support the ongoing conduct and completion of the field trials of Golden Rice in the country, while encouraging PhilRice to continue with its conduct of information-

education activities to farmer-stakeholders and the general public on Golden Rice and the on-going field trials;

FURTHER RESOLVES, to furnish copies of this set of resolutions to the office of His Excellency President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III, the office of the Secretary of Agriculture Proceso J. Alcala, other concerned government agencies including, but not limited to, the Department of Health, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and Department of Interior and Local Government.

APPROVED, this 25th day of November 2012 at Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Attested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Edwin Paraluman
Chairman; PFAB