

In a 25 May 2024 article\* concerning the Appeal Court decision of 17 April Wilhelmina Pelegrina, head of Greenpeace Philippines was reported as saying in the previous week:

*“There are specific problems with Golden Rice Farmers who brought this case with us – along with local scientists – currently grow different varieties of rice, including high-value seeds they have worked with for generations and have control over. They’re rightly concerned that if their organic or heirloom varieties get mixed up with patented, genetically engineered rice, that could sabotage their certifications, reducing their market appeal and ultimately threatening their livelihoods.”*

Gurdev Khush\*\* was asked for his reaction to Greenpeace’s statement:

*“The population of the Philippines was 30 million during the 1960s, and farmers used to grow low-yielding heirloom rice varieties. Now, the population of the Philippines is 120 million, and farmers have switched to growing high-yielding rice varieties, which produce 3-4 times more rice.*

*Since farmers no longer plant heirloom varieties, the Philippine Department of Agriculture does not have any program for certification of heirloom varieties.*

*There are no organic rice varieties either.*

*Any variety, whether heirloom or high-yielding, if grown without fertilizer and pesticides, produces organic rice.*

*Therefore, there is no danger of contamination.*

*Moreover, it should be emphasized there is no patent on golden rice, and farmers can grow golden rice without paying extra fees.”*

\*<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/may/25/greenpeace-blocks-planting-of-lifesaving-golden-rice-philippines>

\*\*<https://khushfoundation.org/khush/about-g-s-khush/>

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