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VEPACHEDU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Andhra Journal of Industrial News

IP and Industry News

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Golden Rice

The cost to concoct a product like Golden Rice is enormous. Scientists got funding for Golden Rice from the Rockefeller Foundation from 1984 to cover lab expenses, legal fees, teaching assistants, salaries, long patent processes, etc. for more than 30 years. Researchers from USDA, Chinese institutions, and NIH, have determined that the β -carotene in *Golden Rice* was as effective as pure β -carotene in oil and better than that in spinach at providing vitamin A to children.

Golden Rice grains are easily recognizable by their yellow to orange color of carrots. Orange carrots are the product of a mutation selected by a Dutch horticulturist hundreds of years ago. A bowl of 100 to 150 g cooked *Golden Rice* (50 g dry weight) can provide 60% of the Chinese Recommended Nutrient Intake of vitamin A for 6-8-year-old children, per data based on a clinical trial, published by the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. <http://www.goldenrice.org/>

Golden Rice is unlike any of the genetically engineered crops widely used today. Most of the GMOs are designed to either withstand herbicides that kill weeds or resist insect attacks, with benefits for farmers and thereby benefitting consumers. However, the worry with herbicide resistant varieties is the possible

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contamination of the product with the herbicides that may be unhealthy to humans and may pollute the environment. The real problem with such GMOs is herbicides, which is not the case in Golden Rice, because it is not a herbicide resistant variety but a carotene rich variety. It is stupid to oppose Golden Rice. Activists like Vandana Shiva, an Indian environmentalist, called it a “Trojan horse” whose purpose was to gain public support for all manner of genetically modified crops that would benefit multinational corporations, allegedly at the expense of poor farmers and consumers. Lack of knowledge and fear are at the root of this hatred. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/25/sunday-review/golden-rice-lifesaver.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>. While some oppose it just to oppose, or allegedly because they think it is a waste of money in R&D. When you have carrot, why invent a new variety of rice that can replace carrot by paying salaries to thousands of scientists in several countries? <http://www.forbes.com/sites/bethhoffman/2013/08/26/why-genetically-modifying-food-is-a-bad-idea/>.

USPTO Upgrades Database

The USPTO has upgraded the USPTO Full Text and Image Database. It now uses PDF images instead of TIFF images which provides several new benefits including the ability to print full documents. Patent images may be viewed, printed and saved using a standard PDF-equipped browser. A separate TIFF plug-in is no longer required. In addition to the standard page-by-page viewing, users may now also click on a “Full Document” button to retrieve all the patent images at once. <http://patft.uspto.gov/help/notices.htm>

GAO Report

From 2000 to 2010, the number of patent infringement lawsuits in the federal courts fluctuated slightly, and from 2010 to 2011, the number of such lawsuits increased by about a third. Some stakeholders GAO interviewed said that the increase in 2011 was most likely influenced by the anticipation of changes in the 2011 Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA), which made several significant changes to the U.S. patent system, including limiting the number of defendants in a lawsuit, causing some plaintiffs that would have previously filed a single lawsuit with multiple defendants to break the lawsuit into multiple lawsuits. In addition, GAO’s detailed analysis of a representative sample of 500 lawsuits from 2007 to 2011 shows that the number of overall defendants in patent infringement lawsuits increased by about 129 percent over this period. These data also show that companies that make products brought most of the lawsuits and that

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non-practicing entities (NPE) brought about a fifth of all lawsuits. GAO's analysis of these data also found that lawsuits involving software-related patents accounted for about 89 percent of the increase in defendants over this period. <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/657103.pdf>

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Om! Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritamgamaya, Om Shantih, Shantih, Shantih!

(Aum! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to immortality, and peace!)

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