

By now you have been given many letters as to why GMOs and in particular the GM rice (LLRICE601) should not be approved. There are many reasons which some are scientifically based. I am not a scientist so my perspective is a bit different.

I traveled around the world as a child, through my parent's work and tasted all the different delicious (some times strange and not so delicious as a child!) global foods. It is very clear in my mind the distant tastes and smells of those memorable meals. I am now saddened to think that potentially the herbs, vegetables, fruit, spices and even meats if not genetically modified now will be eventually created and approved and put to market.

I am saddened also by what I heard the USDA tell me when I sent them my letter of opposition to the approval of the rice. When I read through many of the letters, like my own, written from all over the world, I first felt hope. When I asked the gentleman over the phone if there was a good chance that the rice would not be approved because of the overwhelming consumer letters sent to the USDA website, opposing the rice, he told me "We don't care about consumer comments. What we are looking for (in the letters) is a scientific base that the rice (LLRICE601) would be a plant pest problem." I had him repeat his statement.

As you read this letter, I hope that you can feel my hurt about this issue. I hope you can feel my grief about the loosing of pure and clean food but I also hope that you can feel my joy for returning to those days when corn was corn and rice was rice.

We need to re-examine what food means to us.

I also hope that you can feel my love for food as I am writing this as a mother. My legacy of trying to keep pure food for all our children, I hope will be part of yours as well.

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