



Editorial

Establishment of “GM Rice Safety Award” by Biosafety Society of Iran

Few months ago, a scientific meta-analysis report entitled “Assessment of Safety and Nutritional Health of Genetically Modified (GM) Rice” has been published by authorities of an Iranian Research Center and distributed in the country. The authors acclaimed that in all credible international scientific databases, including ISI Web of Science, PubMed, and ISC, there was not any published article indicating at least one adverse or toxic effect resulted from consumption of GM rice by animal models. The authors noted that up to July 2016, they found 43 articles regarding the safety assessment of GM rice in animals published in international peer-review journals. The laboratory animals, on which the studies had been carried out, were included rat, mice, monkey, pig, poultry, and frog.

After publishing this report in Iran, some diverse comments and debates were stated in Iranian scientific community. Although most Iranian researchers approved this meta-analysis, but few doubted and rejected the scientific value and accuracy of the report. Therefore, some controversies were raised.

According to the announcement of the Chief of Biosafety Society of Iran, an award entitled “GM Rice Safety Award” has been established to help resolving this controversy. The mentioned award consists of a prize of 100.000.000 Rials (almost equals 2.500 US Dollars) and a certificate. It will be given to a person who finds at least one international peer-reviewed article with English full-text indicating any adverse or toxic effects in animal models fed by GM rice.