GM Rice From China – They Don't Want It, So We're Getting It?

Genetically modified rice developed in China has passed safety inspections by the U.S. FDA, the first step for the rice to be exported to the U.S. The good news is that neither China nor the U.S. has approved the genetically modified rice for mass cultivation. The FDA's letter says that the agency has reviewed the data submitted and has no further questions at this time.

> *[The letter] also reminds the developer that it is responsible for ensuring the safety of any food it puts on the market – thus absolving the FDA of all responsibility if anything should go wrong!" – GM Watch*

Related: *The Difference Between Heirlooms, Hybrids, and GMOs*

The insect-resistant rice called "Huahui 1" passed FDA safety and nutrition inspections. The rice had previously passed safety inspections by the EPA regarding pesticide residue levels.

> *Having passed safety inspections by the FDA and EPA, Huahui 1 and its products are able to be exported to the US for consumption. It suggests safety evaluations by Chinese testing institutes of Huahui 1 have been fully recognized by institutes in the US." – ChinaDaily*

Related: *Scientists Against GMOs, Hear From Those Who Have Done the Research*

The species is said to be able to resist destruction caused by insects such as larva, and can "greatly reduce the use of pesticides during production." Huahui 1 was successfully bred

by a university in China in 1998 and was awarded with a biosafety certificate by China's Ministry of Agriculture in 2009, following safety evaluations that lasted for almost 10 years, according to the university.

Related: *Understanding and Detoxifying Genetically Modified Foods*

GM foods including this rice breed is not likely to win approval in China for large-scale production any time soon; the Chinese population has no interest in GMO foods. Researchers in the university are looking to the US for commercial use. China Daily also states,

> *China has the world's most strict safety evaluation system for GM products, and all GM products that have passed inspections by the authorities in China are safe, according to the Ministry of Agriculture."*

Related: *How to Avoid GMO Apples*