

Editor, South China Morning Post

I refer to Simon Wang's comment ("Campaigns opposing genetically modified food are misguided", South China Morning Post - SCMP, October 15, 2016)

The GM food industry claims Greenpeace's campaign against golden rice places at risk 250 million people in the developing world suffering from disease caused by vitamin A deficiency. Similar arguments are made by the GM industry for improving nutrient compositions in corn, rice, and potatoes. Moreover, the GM food industry claims crops can not only be grown faster and with larger yields, thereby alleviating food shortages in the developing world.

In support of the GM food industry, a letter authored by Roberts and Sharp signed by over 100 Nobel Laureates asked Greenpeace to stop their campaign against golden rice, stating in a stark manner:

"How many poor people in the world must die before we consider  
this action by Greenpeace a "crime against humanity" ?

It is unlikely the Laureates did not know their signature to the letter would support the GM food industry argument against Greenpeace, thereby raising the question as to whether the Laureates based on their scientific expertise knew the letter was false and therefore could only have signed the letter for personal reward. After all, Nobel Prizes are not always awarded for scientific achievement, but rather are political.

But is there a scientific argument that the Laureates knew or should have known that GM food may damage human health? If so, the Laureates lied by signing the letter known to be false, an unpardonable act as the Nobel Laureates hold the highest esteem in science.

The scientific argument relating GM foods and human health is the GM food industry includes NPs in their formulations to enhance crop performance, the ingested NPs in the gut conserving heat by producing low-level UV radiation that damages the DNA. NPs stand for nanoparticles and UV for ultraviolet radiation. UV is produced as the NPs absorb heat from the gut instead of increasing in temperature. This follows from the Planck law of QM requirement that denies the atoms in the NPs the heat capacity to increase in temperature. QM stands for quantum mechanics. For example, in Monsanto's Roundup, carbon nanotubes are used to enhance the plant's absorption of the weed-killer glyphosate that subsequently enters the corn or soybean crop, the residue of which remains to produce UV radiation in the human gut.

Certainly, the Nobel Laureates knew or should have known experiments have shown for decades that NPs damage the DNA of all living cells. But if the immune system can repair the DNA damage, there is no problem. If not, as some people lack the immunity, the scrambled genes may lead to cancer and birth defects

Greenpeace is most certainly not guilty of a crime against humanity. To the contrary, it is the GM food industry that is guilty of a crime against humanity that by including NPs in their formulations place 250 million people in the developing world at risk in damaging their DNA and causing cancer and birth defects. Hence, the Nobel Laureates by signing the letter are complicit in the crime of the GM food industry against humanity, but so also is the SCMP for allowing Simon Wang to misguide the public on the safety of GM foods.

Thomas Prevenslik