



ADD
MAGAZINE



READING MY MAGAZINES

TO REGISTER

Save the World? Not if Greenpeace has its way.



(<https://www.ewmagazine.nl/auteur/simon-rozendaal/>)

SIMON ROZENDAAL

([HTTPS://WWW.EWMAGAZINE.NL/AUTEUR/SIMON-ROZENDAAL/](https://www.ewmagazine.nl/auteur/simon-rozendaal/))

May 11, 2024 | Reading time: 4 minutes



Greenpeace protest against golden rice. Photo: Jay Directo/AFP Photo

Golden rice can save hundreds of thousands of lives. It is safe, but Greenpeace has been working against it for thirty years because it is genetically manipulated. Principles are more important than human lives for this thoroughly sick club, writes **Simon Rozendaal**.

The champagne has been uncorked at Greenpeace. **The court in the Philippines ruled in favor of the environmental organization in the golden rice case.** The environmental organization has been fighting this genetically modified rice for decades and it now seems that there is finally a winner.

It also proves how thoroughly sick Greenpeace is. This type of rice has been developed to combat vitamin A deficiencies. Particularly in poor countries, 50,000 to 250,000 children become blind every year, and according to the World Health Organization (WHO), half of them die within a year.

This vitamin deficiency occurs because in many poor countries (especially in Asia) white rice is the basis of every meal. And so in the 1990s, Swiss professor of plant genetics Ingo Potrykus and his German

colleague Peter Beyer came up with a rice variant with a built-in gene from a daffodil (later replaced by a maize gene) and from a bacterium, which gives white rice beta-carotene, a precursor of vitamin A, would make.

I have spoken to Potrykus many times. He is a committed scientist who wants to use his knowledge to solve a major humanitarian problem. He has no dollar signs in his eyes, he wants to help humanity and that is partly why the American weekly *Time Magazine* has already put him on the cover.

ABSURD ARGUMENT

However, Greenpeace has been ruthlessly opposing golden rice since day one. The organization takes the position that genetic modification is 'unnatural'.



(<https://www.ewmagazine.nl/kennis/opinie/2023/04/wat-bezielt-greenpeace-om-gouden-rijst-te-dwarsbomen-1038563/>)

BRAM HAHN: WHAT DRIVES GREENPEACE TO THWART GOLDEN RICE?

(<https://www.ewmagazine.nl/kennis/opinie/2023/04/wat-bezielt-greenpeace-om-gouden-rijst-te-dwarsbomen-1038563/>)

In the 1990s, members hung posters at bus shelters with texts such as: '*Your lettuce stays so fresh because we put rat genes into it. Enjoy your meal.*'

The concept of 'unnatural' is an absurd argument of course (lightning rods and seat belts are also unnatural), but hey, Greenpeace is powerful and many – including judges – are following the club.

The media ditto. *Every misstep by Shell is magnified.* *Follow the Money* has been following Shell for many years and has placed several journalists on it. This website is proud of that and regularly asks for

extra money. 'Your contribution ensures that we can continue to control power and provide important information.'

GREENPEACE USED TO BE RIGHT

When was the last time you read an in-depth and critical article about Greenpeace – at least as powerful as Shell – in *Follow the Money*, *NRC*, *de Volkskrant*, *De Groene Amsterdammer*, *Vrij Nederland* or *Trouw*?

Greenpeace, founded in Canada in 1971, deserves praise for its efforts to oppose nuclear testing, whale hunting and the clubbing of seal pups.

Greenpeace was right and has contributed to the fact that, especially in the richer, Western countries, much more attention is paid to nature and the environment than at the time. Kudos for that.



[\(HTTPS://WWW.EWMAGAZINE.NL/KENNIS/ACHTERGROND/2021/03/PATRICK-MOORE-TE-WEINIG-CO2-DAT-IS-PAS-SLECHT-231915W/\)](https://www.ewmagazine.nl/kennis/achtergrond/2021/03/patrick-moore-te-weinig-co2-dat-is-pas-slecht-231915w/)

READ THE INTERVIEW WITH GREENPEACE FOUNDER PATRICK MOORE: 'TOO LITTLE CO2 – THAT'S BAD'
[\(HTTPS://WWW.EWMAGAZINE.NL/KENNIS/ACHTERGROND/2021/03/PATRICK-MOORE-TE-WEINIG-CO2-DAT-IS-PAS-SLECHT-231915W/\)](https://www.ewmagazine.nl/kennis/achtergrond/2021/03/patrick-moore-te-weinig-co2-dat-is-pas-slecht-231915w/)

But along the way this club took a wrong turn. Founder Patrick Moore places this in his book *Confessions of a Greenpeace Dropout* around 1982.

Moore, a Canadian ecologist with a PhD and for a long time the only natural scientist in the organization, noted that at that time his co-founders were no longer guided by rational arguments and only took actions – for example against chlorine – to get attention.

'Then I dropped out. I know that chlorine is one of the 98 elements in the periodic table and necessary for life on Earth.'

GREENPEACE DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR IT

British author and environmental activist Mark Lynas also turned away from the organization after the 'victory' in the Philippines. While he previously did not want to go so far as to accuse Greenpeace of inhumanity, that line has now been crossed, he wrote in the magazine *The Spectator*. According to him, this club makes the entire environmental movement suspect. 'Greenpeace, j'accuse.'



BECOME A SUBSCRIBER AND READ MORE IMMEDIATELY

From just €15 per month you can read all editions and articles of **EW** unlimitedly. [View our subscriptions](#).
Are you already a subscriber, but don't have an account yet? Then create it [here](#). Additional explanation can be found [here](https://www.ewmagazine.nl/service/veelgestelde-vragen/). (<https://www.ewmagazine.nl/service/veelgestelde-vragen/>)

Yes, I will become a subscriber

(<https://www.ewmagazine.nl/ew-abonnement/>)

Are you already a subscriber and do you already have an account?

Then log in here (https://www.ewmagazine.nl/uncategorized/opinie/2024/05/wat-is-greenpeace-toch-een-inhumane-er-doortrapte-club-73420w?_dologin=start&rmg_redirectTo=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ewmagazine.nl%2Funcategorized%2Fopinie%2F2024%2F05%2Fis-greenpeace-toch-een-inhumane-en-doortrapte-club-73420w)

Share this article:



Translated to English from the Dutch original:

<https://www.ewmagazine.nl/uncategorized/opinie/2024/05/wat-is-greenpeace-toch-een-inhumane-en-doortrapte-club-73420w/>