

Biofortification of Rice

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Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is the primary source of food for billions of people throughout the world, yet it contains insufficient levels of the key micronutrients iron, zinc and vitamin A to meet the daily dietary requirements. Biofortification of staple food crops has thus been considered a sustainable strategy to overcome the problem of micronutrient deficiencies prevalent in rice. Scientific evidence shows that food fortification is technically feasible without compromising agronomic productivity. Identification of germplasm with high grain iron and zinc and understanding the genetic basis of their accumulation are the prerequisites for manipulation of the micronutrients. Several biofortified rice varieties with high zinc in polished grains have been released under All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project (AICRIP).