Supplementary data:

Figure S1: Sequence of coat protein (*CP*) (In Red) and Helper component proteinase (*Hc-Pro*) (In Blue) containing the conserved motifs of both genes fused together. Multiple unique restriction sites were added in the start and end of fused sequence. Respective sequence was synthesized from GeneArt™ Gene Synethesis for further cloning into Hairpin vector.

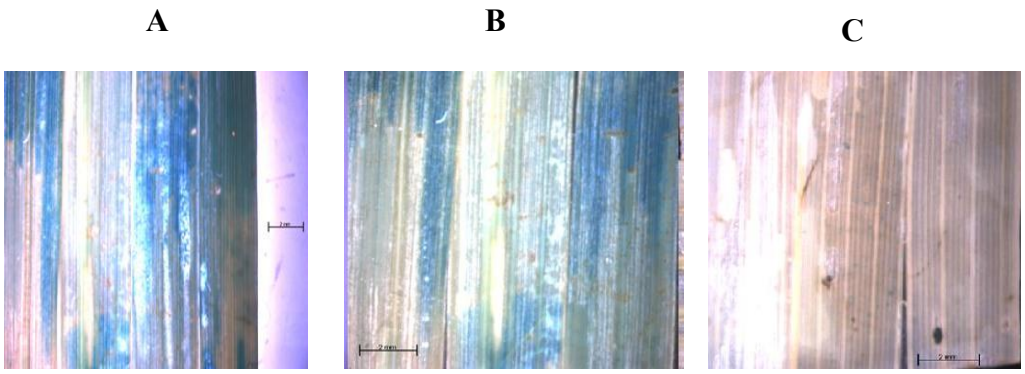

Figure S2: GUS expression assay in the Ubi-hpCP:Hc-Pro transgenic rice leaves. In the representative images, leaves of the rice plants transformed with the empty vector control **(A, B)** and those transformed with Ubi-hpCP:Hc-Pro (line #3) **(C)** were bombarded with 35S-GUS:CP: Hc-Pro fusion construct, and stained with X-Gluc. Prominent GUS expression (blue spots) was detected in the empty vector control leaves but GUS expression was hardly discernable in the leaves derived from rice plants transformed with Ubi-hpCP:Hc-Pro, indicating that GUS silencing was induced by the Ubi-hpCP:Hc-Pro transgene. Scale bar = 2 mm. The experiment was repeated for three times.