

Rice Food Safety & Other Facts



Newsletter Nr. 43 June 2015

FOOD SAFETY

Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	notification type	notified by	subject
22/04/2015	border rejection	ITALY	unauthorised substance carbendazim (0.24 mg/kg - ppm) in rice from India
23/04/2015	border rejection	PORTUGAL	triazophos (0.04 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati rice from India
24/04/2015	border rejection	ITALY	unauthorised genetically modified (CRY1Ab/Ac; T-nos) rice spaghetti from China
15/05/2015	border rejection	ITALY	unauthorised substance carbendazim (0.06 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati rice from India
20/05/2015	information for follow-up	AUSTRIA	methamidophos (0.022 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati rice from India, via Germany
28/05/2015	alert	FRANCE	undeclared gluten (30-98 mg/kg - ppm) in gluten-free rice and buckwheat crispbreads from the Czech Republic
16/06/2015	border rejection	FINLAND	aflatoxins (B1 = 251; Tot. = 284 μg/kg - ppb) in rice from Thailand

Source: //ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/rasff portal database en.htm

The 2014 has been a year of great commitment for the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry to protect "made in Italy" agricultural products and foodstuffs. If in the past the seriousness and intensity of the controls on this sector had characterized the domestic level, in 2014 the Ministry was able to successfully **defend the Italian productions abroad and on the web**, too, getting prestigious awards in the EU. The brilliant goals at the international level are the result of the solidity of the daily work of the Ministry officers: more than 36,000 inspection visits, nearly 10,000 laboratory tests, more than 26,000 workers and about 54,500 products tested, 359 offence notices, 4,276 administrative disputes and 581 seizures, for a total of about 42.8 million euro. These figures confirm the Italian agribusiness control body as one of the most relevant in Europe.

Source: www.politicheagricole.it

GMO & BIOTECH

At the end of April the EU Commission adopted **10 new authorisations for Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) for food/feed use**, 7 renewals of existing authorisations and also the authorisation for the import of 2 GMO cut flowers (not for food or feed). These GMOs had gone through a full authorisation procedure, including a favourable scientific assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The authorisation decisions do not cover cultivation. The GM food and feed authorisations will be added to the existing list of 58 GMOs authorised in the EU for food and feed uses (covering maize, cotton, soybean, oilseed rape, sugar beet). The list of authorised GM plants and the precise scope of their authorisation is available in the EU register of GM food and feed, which can be found at the link below.

Source: //ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/gm_register/index_en.cfm

OTHER NEWS

The European Commission launched an **online consultation on the role of research in global food and nutrition security**. The aim of the consultation is to gather the views of stakeholders, citizens and the scientific community on the role that research has to play in tackling the challenges



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associated with ensuring food and nutrition security. The questions are based on a discussion paper that analyses research and innovation challenges, looks at areas of research where the EU can add most value and discusses the necessary changes in the structures within which research has traditionally been conducted. The consultation will remain open for contributions until the $1^{\rm st}$ September 2015.

Source: //europa.eu/expo2015/node/286

LAWS, STANDARDS & AGREEMENTS

- COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2015/595 of 15 April 2015 concerning a coordinated multiannual control program of the Union for 2016, 2017 and 2018 to ensure compliance with maximum residue levels of pesticides and to assess the **consumer exposure to pesticide residues** in and on food of plant and animal origin. Thirty to forty foodstuffs, among that rice, constitute the major components of the diet in the Union. Since pesticide uses show significant changes over a period of three years, pesticides are monitored in those foodstuffs over a series of three-year cycles to allow consumer exposure and the application of Union legislation to be assessed.

Source: //eur-lex.europa.eu

- At the end of May the EU Commission published two reports on mandatory food origin labelling, as requested by the Council and European Parliament in the Food Information for Consumers Regulation (1169/2011). The 1st report, managed by the Commission's DG AGRI, looks at the feasibility of different options for mandatory origin labelling for **dairy products and for minor meats**, while the 2nd - managed by DG SANTE - explores the need for consumers to be informed on the origin of **unprocessed foods (included rice), single ingredient products and ingredients that represent more than 50% of a food.** Considering consumer attitudes towards additional information and the costs and benefits of labelling rules, including the impact on the internal market and on international trade, both reports concluded that voluntary origin labelling, combined with existing mandatory origin labelling regimes for specific foods or categories of food, is the most suitable way forward.

Source://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/newsroom/205 en.htm

EVENTS & MEETINGS

2nd International Conference on Systems of Organic Rice Production. 1-4 September 2015 – Pavia, Italy. The conference is intended for anyone who has an involvement with rice: producers, researchers, students and teachers, but also for all organizations within this field, for the associations of the various sectors - from commerce to consumption, for territorial entities and for local authorities. The main objective of the conference is to stimulate exchange of information and knowledge between researchers, producers and numerous components within the world of organic rice culture.

Source: www.orpconference.eu/en