

Newsletter Nr. 47 February 2016

FOOD SAFETY

Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	notification type	notified by	subject
18/01/2016	alert	ITALY	glass fragments in Carnaroli rice from Italy
01/02/2016	information for follow up	NETHERLANDS	unpolished basmati rice from Pakistan infested with insects (Sitophilus granarius)

Source: //ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/rasff_portal_database_en.htm

- In the website www.enterisi.it (area operatori) the **2015 list** is published of the notifications transmitted through the network RASFF, concerning rice and rice products. Herewith attached there are some graphs summarizing the same data. In comparison with the previous year, the total number of notifications is lower (32 vs 37). The alert notifications were only 6 while border rejection notifications were 20. It is worth notice that 16 notifications concerned rice or basmati rice with pesticides residues or aflatoxins, imported from India.

Source: www.enterisi.it

GMO & BIOTECH

Farmers have always selected more productive and resistant crops and the current agriculture is the sibling of this millenary work. The **genome editing** takes up exactly this process, making it faster, causing small targeted mutations on the genes of cultivated plants. The process is similar to mutagenesis: it produces a DNA damage - a cut - and cellular mechanisms make a few little mistakes and introduce mutations while repairing the damage. The DNA damage is not caused by chemical or physical agents, but by specific proteins that cut in the targeted sites, acting as 'molecular scissors'. A Korean research team, working on different species including rice, has recently shown that it is possible to use these molecular scissors without inserting any foreign gene in the plant. The plants obtained carry the desired mutation, but are not genetically modified and are indistinguishable from plants that have naturally undergone the same mutation.

Source: www.scientificast.it

ORGANIC FOOD, PDO, PGI

- Last January the conference "The research for organic and biodynamic farming: an overview " was held in Rome organized by CREA (Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria). The conference analyzed the reference scenario, which can have a significant impact on the Italian research for organic farming: the scenario includes the Action Plan for the organic sector launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, the discussion promoted by ISOFAR (International Society of Organic Agriculture Research) on research for organic farming 3.0, the implementation of regional rural development plans as well as actions to support innovation and sustainability made by the National rural Network. During the Conference it has been shown that the organic sector can count on a lively network of knowledge and know-how and a taste for innovation, which can strongly support research. The reports presented at the conference are available on the SINAB website.

Source: www.sinab.it



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OTHER NEWS

The Italian Ministry of agriculture announces that 21 million euros have been allocated to finance an important public project of research concerning the use of sustainable biotechnology, as genome editing and cisgenesis. The three-year plan concerns laboratory studies for the implementation of targeted breeding without affecting the traditional characteristics of the Italian food system, improving its performance for example increasing disease resistance. For most crops years of studies in the laboratory will be necessary before performing experimental trials in the field.

Source: www.politicheagricole.it

LAWS, STANDARDS & AGREEMENTS

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2345 amending Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries. The list is updated of control bodies and control authorities competent to carry out controls and issue certificates in third countries whose systems of production and control measures for the organic production of agricultural products are recognised as equivalent to those laid down inside the EU.

Source: //eur-lex.europa.eu

EVENTS & MEETINGS

The changing role of regulation in the bio-based economy - 5th Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics (AIEAA) - June 16-17, 2016 - Bologna, Italy.

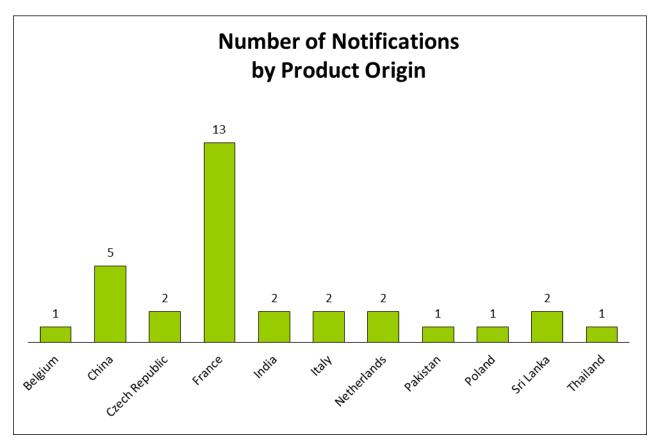
Regulatory areas in the bio-based economy are risk, health, environment, competition, intellectual property rights, which all have deep implications for trade issues, global value chains and for the provision of public goods. In the EU, regulations concerning food retailing, food processing, farming activities, tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade as well as financial markets have deeply affected the bio-based sectors. The starting point of these regulations is guaranteeing food security and food safety to final consumers and a sustainable management of natural resources such as land, water and the rural environment. The Conference aims at providing a scientific contribution to these issues by expanding the knowledge base on the fundamentals of better regulation, and by promoting a critical debate on the underlying theoretical and methodological issues and policy implications.

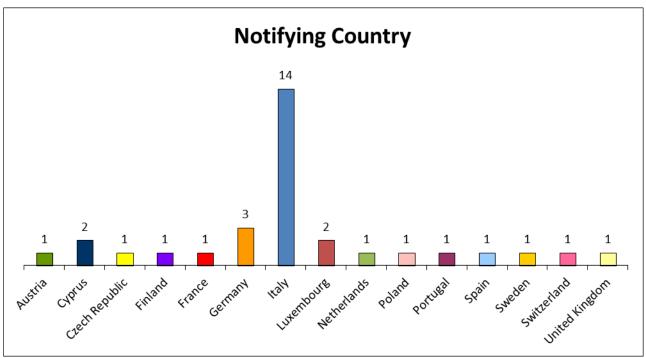
Source: www.aieaa.org



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RASFF notifications, concerning rice and rice products. Year 2015







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