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## Rice Food Safety & Other Facts



Newsletter  
 Nr. 33  
 January  
 2013

### FOOD SAFETY

#### Rapid Alert System Notifications for Food

date	Notification type	notified by	subject
18/12/2012	border rejection	FINLAND	unauthorised novel food ingredient Stevia rebaudiana and undeclared soya in rice protein from the United States
20/12/2012	border rejection	POLAND	white broken rice from Guyana infested with larvae of insects (Silvanidae, Psocoptera and Sitophilus oryzae)
10/01/2013	border rejection	ITALY	carbendazim (0.057 mg/kg - ppm) in long basmati rice from India
23/01/2013	border rejection	NETHERLANDS	unauthorised genetically modified (CryIAb) rice cakes from China

Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/rasff\\_portal\\_database\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/rasff_portal_database_en.htm)

- In the website [www.enterisi.it](http://www.enterisi.it) (*area operatori*) it is published the 2012 list 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 increased (63 instead of 54) but the alert notifications were only 8 while border rejection notifications were 36. It is worth notice that 31 notifications concerned rice or rice preparations imported from China.

Source: [www.enterisi.it](http://www.enterisi.it)

### GMO & BIOTECH

- In the last issue of Rice Today, the IRRI magazine dedicated to rice research, the **state of play on GM rice** is updated. As of December 2012, commercialized GM rice had not yet become a reality — which means, farmers aren't growing it and consumers can't eat it yet. The GM Crop Database of the Center for Environmental Risk Assessment shows that two GM rice varieties (LLRice60 and LLRice62, both with herbicide resistance) were approved in the United States in 2000. Subsequent approval of these and other types of herbicide-resistant GM rice occurred across Canada, Australia, Mexico, and Colombia. However, none of these approvals resulted in commercialization. In 2009, China granted biosafety approval to GM rice with pest resistance, but no commercial rollout has taken place. Nevertheless, research on GM rice continues to advance in both the public and private sector around the world: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Iran, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, Spain and the United States have all been involved with GM rice. Bangladesh and South Korea are also engaged in research on GM rice. Researchers are working on GM rice with: higher yield; increased resistance to pests, diseases, and herbicide; better tolerance of drought and salinity; improved nutritional value and health benefits; higher nitrogen-use efficiency.

Source: [www.irri.org](http://www.irri.org)

### ORGANIC FOOD

- A **public consultation for the review of the EU policy on organic agriculture** was launched by the EU Commission few days ago. All citizens, organizations and public authorities who are concerned by a review of the European policy on organic agriculture are welcome to contribute to this consultation, in the period 15<sup>th</sup> January/10<sup>th</sup> April. The consultation key issues are: simplifying the legal framework, co-existence of GM crops with organic farming, better control systems and trade arrangements for organic products, impact of the new labelling rules. In order to participate in this consultation, the questionnaire at the address below has to be filled.

Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/organic/2013\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/organic/2013_en.htm)



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### SCIENCE & RESEARCH

- A group of researchers of the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences has identified three **rice mutants with grains containing less than 0.05 mg cadmium (Cd)** per kg compared with a mean of 1.73 mg per kg in the parent cultivar. The scientists produced the mutants by carbon ion-beam irradiation and also identified the responsible gene for reduced Cd uptake. Sequence analysis revealed that these mutants have different mutations of the same gene. Moreover physiological studies in hydroponic culture demonstrated that decreased Cd uptake by roots leads to low levels of Cd in the shoot and grain of these mutants. When grown in Cd-contaminated paddy fields, the mutants have nearly undetectable Cd in their grains and exhibit no agriculturally or economically adverse traits. Because mutants produced by ion-beam radiation are not transgenic plants, they are likely to be accepted by consumers and thus represent a practical choice for rice production worldwide.

Source: <http://www.pnas.org/content/109/47/19166.abstract>

### LAWS, STANDARDS & AGREEMENTS

- **Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs.** Regulations (EC) No 509/2006 and (EC) No 510/2006 are repealed. The new regulation aims to clarify and simplify some rules and to streamline the procedures of quality scheme. A second tier of quality systems, based on quality terms which add value (such as "mountain product", "product of island farming") and which are to be applied voluntarily are introduced.

Source: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

### OTHER NEWS

- **Trends in global rice consumption** show the flattening in per capita consumption (65 kg/year) in the recent years from the declining trend in the '90s. In Asia one would expect diversification away from rice to more high value products in the diet as income rises, but each country seem to be unique in the way it diversifies its consumption pattern. In many cases the diversification rate will be influenced by the extent of government interventions in price control and subsidized food grain distribution. Outside Asia, the current upward trend will continue in the future in sub-Saharan Africa, due to growing preference for rice among urban consumers with rising income. Similarly rice consumption continues to grow steadily in both USA and EU as consumers diversify from protein to more fiber-based diets and also because of rising Asian immigrants. Considering an additional 2 billion mouths to be fed around mid-century, rice total global consumption will probably continue to rise if diversification in Asia will be slow and not widespread.

Source: [www.irri.org](http://www.irri.org)

- The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) has edited a book on temperate rice research. Titled **Advances in Temperate Rice Research**, the book contains collaborative researches which are related to increasing production in temperate and high altitude regions for rice improvement. The book also includes coordinated research strategy through the Temperate Rice Research Consortium jointly with the membership of 20 countries where temperate rice is produced, marketed, and consumed. The e-copy of the book can be freely downloaded at the address below.

Source: [http://books.irri.org/9789712202896\\_content.pdf](http://books.irri.org/9789712202896_content.pdf)



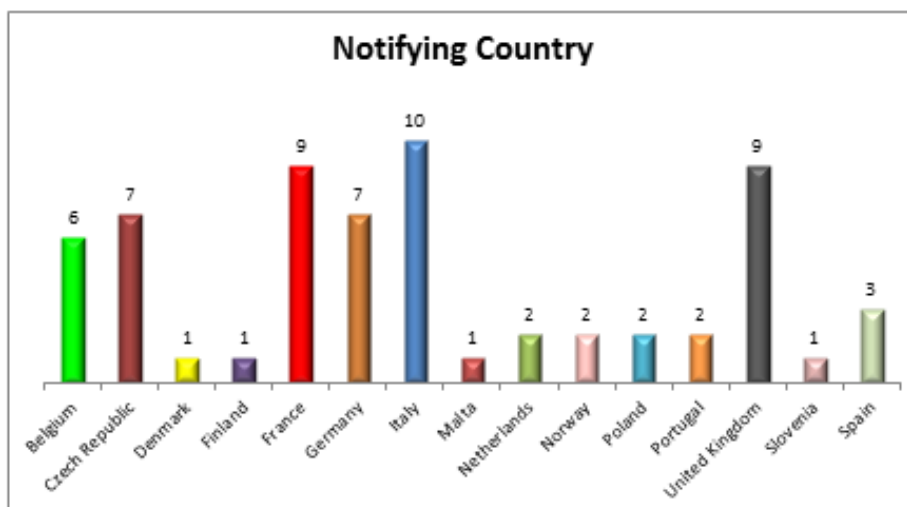
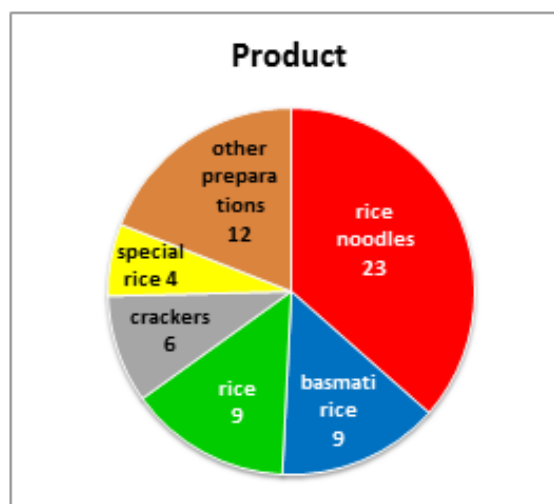
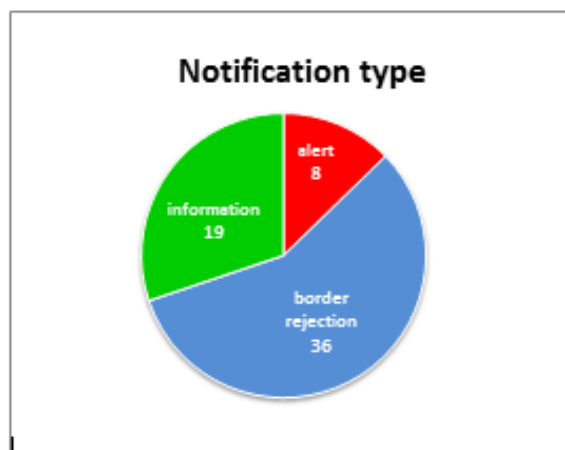
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### RASFF notifications, concerning rice and rice products. Year 2012





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